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## ORDER OF WORSHIP

MAY 26, 2024

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### CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 55:10-12

**Leader:** For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth.

**People:** **It shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.**

**Leader:** For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace.

**People:** **The mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing.**

**Leader:** And all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

### PRAYER OF INVOCATION

### HYMN OF PRAISE

### O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

1. O, for a thousand tongues to sing  
My great Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and King,  
The triumphs of His grace.  
(Repeat Verse 1)

2. My gracious Master and my God,  
Assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth abroad  
The honors of Thy name.

3. "Jesus," the name that charms our fears,  
That bids our sorrows cease;  
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'Tis life and health and peace.

4. He breaks the power of reigning sin,  
He sets the pris'ner free;  
His blood can make the foulest clean,  
His blood availed for me.

5. He speaks and, list'ning to his voice,  
New life the dead receive;  
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice;  
The humble poor believe.

6. Hear Him, ye deaf, His praise, ye dumb,  
Your loosened tongues employ;  
Ye blind, behold your Savior come,  
And leap ye lame for joy!

(Repeat Verse 1)

*Music: Carl Glaser; Lyrics: Charles Wesley;  
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<sup>10</sup> Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, <sup>11</sup> inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. <sup>12</sup> It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

**CONFESSION OF SIN**

Our gracious God, in the fullness of time you sent forth your Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law. But we have shown little interest in your great salvation. We have not searched out, nor carefully inquired, concerning the grace that is ours in Christ Jesus. Instead, we seek satisfaction in lesser things. We pretend food and drink, and what we wear, are matters of importance, rather than the sufferings of Christ and his subsequent glory. Although you manifest your promise of eternal life through the preaching of the gospel, we are more concerned with other events. Save us from our great folly! And in the power of your Spirit, command our attention, and draw us anew to Christ our Savior.

**HYMN OF CONFESSION**

1. I know the Lord is nigh,  
And would but cannot pray,  
For Satan meets me when I try,  
And frights my soul away,  
And frights my soul away.

2. I would but can't repent,  
Though I endeavor oft;  
This stony heart can ne'er relent  
Till Jesus makes it soft,  
Till Jesus makes it soft.

**Chorus**

Help my unbelief.  
Help my unbelief.  
Help my unbelief.  
My help must come from Thee.

**Help My Unbelief**

3. I would but cannot love,  
Though wooed by love divine;  
No arguments have power to move  
A soul as base as mine.  
A soul so base as mine.

4. I would but cannot rest,  
In God's most holy will;  
I know what He appoints is best,  
And murmur at it still.  
I murmur at it still.  
Chorus 2X

*Author: John Newton; Music and chorus: Clint Wells  
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**ASSURANCE OF PARDON****Philippians 1:6**

<sup>6</sup> And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

## HYMN OF ASSURANCE

## Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder

1. Let us love and sing and wonder,  
Let us praise the Savior's name.  
He has hushed the law's loud thunder,  
He has quenched Mount Sinai's flame.  
He has washed us with His blood,  
He has washed us with His blood,  
He has washed us with His blood,  
He has brought us nigh to God.

2. Let us love the Lord who bought us,  
Pitied us when enemies.  
Called us by His grace and taught us,  
Gave us ears and gave us eyes.  
He has washed us with His blood,  
He has washed us with His blood,  
He has washed us with His blood,  
He presents our souls to God.

3. Let us sing though fierce temptation  
Threatens hard to bear us down.  
For the Lord our strong salvation  
Holds in view the conqueror's crown.  
He who washed us with His blood,  
He who washed us with His blood,  
He who washed us with His blood,  
Soon will bring us home to God.

4. Let us wonder grace and justice  
Join and point to mercy's store,  
When through grace in Christ our trust is,  
Justice smiles and asks no more.  
He who washed us with His blood,  
He who washed us with His blood,  
He who washed us with His blood,  
Has secured our way to God.

5. Let us praise and join the chorus  
Of the saints enthroned on high.  
Here they trusted Him before us  
Now their praises fill the sky.  
Thou hast washed us with Thy blood,  
Thou hast washed us with Thy blood,  
Thou hast washed us with Thy blood,  
Thou art worthy, Lamb of God.

*Author: John Newton; Music by Laura Taylor*  
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## PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

### SCRIPTURE READING

### Mark 4:26-32

<sup>26</sup> And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. <sup>27</sup> He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. <sup>28</sup> The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. <sup>29</sup> But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

<sup>30</sup> And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? <sup>31</sup> It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, <sup>32</sup> yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

**SERMON**      **"The Surprising Kingdom of God"**  
                    **- Rev. Don Ward**

## SERMON NOTES

Sunday, May 26, 2024 | Don Ward  
"The Surprising Kingdom of God" | Mark 4:26-32

I. God's kingdom grows mysteriously. Mark 4:26-28

II. God's kingdom grows dramatically. Mark 4:31-32

## COLLECTION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

### OFFERTORY HYMN

### Jesus Shall Reign

1. Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
Does its successive journeys run.  
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore  
'Til suns shall rise and set no more.

2. Blessings abound where'er He reigns;  
The prisoner leaps to lose his chain.  
The weary find eternal rest,  
And all the sons of want are blessed.

#### Chorus

To our king be highest praise  
Rising through eternal days!  
Just and faithful He shall reign,  
Jesus shall reign!

3. People and realms of every tongue  
Dwell on His love with sweetest song.  
And infant voices shall proclaim  
Their early blessings on His name.  
Chorus

4. Let every creature rise and bring  
Blessing and honor to our king.  
Angels descend with songs again,  
And earth repeat the loud amen.  
Chorus x2

*Words: Isaac Watts; Music: John Hatton  
Chorus Words and Music: Keith and Kristyn Getty, Ed Cash  
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## SONG OF RESPONSE

## All Hail the King of Heaven

1. All hail the King of Heaven, Christ the Lord of all,  
Whom thundering angels circle 'round ablaze with awe;  
Let now the Hallelujah, of earth in glad refrain,  
Ascend the throne, To him belongs immortal praise.

### Chorus

All hail the king of heaven,  
Creation join together,  
Let endless praises crown his name  
All hail the king of heaven.

2. All hail the Great Redeemer, who so humbly came  
The lamb of our salvation, O for sinners slain  
Let now a loud Hosanna resound from shore to shore  
You nations say, "His kingdom reigns, forevermore!"  
Chorus

3. Let praise of nations rise now as a symphony  
To sound the endless wonders of his majesty  
Let every heart adore him, the great and small the same  
Through generations ever let his anthem ring!  
Chorus x2

*Matt Boswell, Matt Papa | © 2021 Getty Music Publishing*

## BENEDICTION & DISMISSAL

Minister: Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**People: THANKS BE TO GOD!**

**MERCY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CCLI LICENSE #11042946**

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