

Sunday Morning Worship

Sunday, June 6, 2021

10:30am

***Bold text** indicates where the congregation joins in unison.*

** indicates where the congregation may stand as they are able.*

***Call to Worship** (responsive)

The Lord desires mercy, not sacrifice.

Jesus calls not the righteous, but sinners.

People of God, hope in the Lord,

For with the Lord there is steadfast love.

A great prophet has risen among us!

God has looked with favor upon us.

***Opening Prayer** (unison)

O God, you have assured the human family of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Savior. Deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in him, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

***Hymn**

To God be the Glory

To God be the glory, great things He hath done,

So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,

Who yielded His life our redemption to win,

And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear His voice;

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice;

Oh, come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,

And give Him the glory; great things He hath done.

*Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment, from Jesus, a pardon receives. (refrain)*

*Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport when Jesus we see. (refrain)*

Invitation to Confession

Let us confess our sins, for God has already forgiven us and is calling us to return to the Lord.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Gracious God, have mercy on us, for we have failed to be faithful to you, though you have been faithful to us. You show us your wisdom, but we prefer our own way. Our broken relationships with you and one another have created poverty in us and our neighbors. In your mercy, reconcile us to you and one another for the work of justice, peace, and love, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Siblings in Christ, do not lose heart. When we call, God hears us; when we confess, God forgives us. We believe, and so we proclaim: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Prayer of Illumination (unison)

Holy God, let your Spirit now move in us, to turn us away from the temporary and move us to your eternal love made visible in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Scripture Reading Ezra 1:1-4; 5:6-12; 7:11-26

In the first year of King Cyrus of Persia, in order that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the Lord stirred up the spirit of King Cyrus of Persia so that he sent a herald throughout all his kingdom, and also in a written edict declared: “Thus says King Cyrus of Persia: The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem in Judah. Any of those among you who are of his people—may their God be with them!—are now permitted to go up to Jerusalem in Judah, and rebuild the house of the Lord, the God of Israel—he is the God who is in Jerusalem; and let all survivors, in whatever place they reside, be assisted by the people of their place with silver and gold, with goods and with animals, besides freewill offerings for the house of God in Jerusalem.”

The copy of the letter that Tattenai the governor of the province Beyond the River and Shethar-bozenai and his associates the envoys who were in the province Beyond the River sent to King Darius; they sent him a report, in which was written as follows: “To Darius the king, all peace! May it be known to the king that we went to the province of Judah, to the house of the great God. It is being built of hewn stone, and timber is laid in the walls; this work is being done diligently and prospers in their hands. Then we spoke to those elders and asked them, ‘Who gave you a decree to build this house and to finish this structure?’ We also asked them their names, for your information, so that we might write down the names of the men at their head. This was their reply to us: ‘We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth, and we are rebuilding the house that was built many years ago, which a great king of Israel built and finished. But because our ancestors had angered the God of heaven, he gave them into the hand of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, the Chaldean, who destroyed this house and carried away the people to Babylonia.

This is a copy of the letter that King Artaxerxes gave to the priest Ezra, the scribe, a scholar of the text of the commandments of the Lord and his statutes for Israel: "Artaxerxes, king of kings, to the priest Ezra, the scribe of the law of the God of heaven: Peace. And now I decree that any of the people of Israel or their priests or Levites in my kingdom who freely offers to go to Jerusalem may go with you. For you are sent by the king and his seven counselors to make inquiries about Judah and Jerusalem according to the law of your God, which is in your hand, and also to convey the silver and gold that the king and his counselors have freely offered to the God of Israel, whose dwelling is in Jerusalem, with all the silver and gold that you shall find in the whole province of Babylonia, and with the freewill offerings of the people and the priests, given willingly for the house of their God in Jerusalem. With this money, then, you shall with all diligence buy bulls, rams, and lambs, and their grain offerings and their drink offerings, and you shall offer them on the altar of the house of your God in Jerusalem. Whatever seems good to you and your colleagues to do with the rest of the silver and gold, you may do, according to the will of your God. The vessels that have been given you for the service of the house of your God, you shall deliver before the God of Jerusalem. And whatever else is required for the house of your God, which you are responsible for providing, you may provide out of the king's treasury. "I, King Artaxerxes, decree to all the treasurers in the province Beyond the River: Whatever the priest Ezra, the scribe of the law of the God of heaven, requires of you, let it be done with all diligence, up to one hundred talents of silver, one hundred cors of wheat, one hundred baths of wine, one hundred baths of oil, and unlimited salt. Whatever is commanded by the God of heaven, let it be done with zeal for the house of the God of heaven, or wrath will come upon the realm of the king and his heirs. We also notify you that it shall not be lawful to impose tribute, custom, or toll on any of the priests, the Levites, the singers, the doorkeepers, the temple servants, or other servants of this house of God. "And you, Ezra, according to the God-given wisdom you possess, appoint magistrates and judges who may judge all the people in the province Beyond the River who know the laws of your God; and you shall teach those who do not know them. All who will not obey the law of your God and the law of the king, let judgment be strictly executed on them, whether for death or for banishment or for confiscation of their goods or for imprisonment."

Sermon

“...and in the Supporting Role”
Second in a series, “Reclaim: Ezra”

Pastor Christina

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy ...

... in the holy church, now and forever. Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and glory forever. Amen.

Breaking the Bread and Sharing the Cup

Prayer After Communion (unison)

Living Christ, as you open the scriptures to us you make yourself known in the breaking of the bread. Let us now go forth from this place, fed at your table and filled by the Spirit, to walk with you all the days of our lives, and to proclaim the glory of your resurrection to all the world. Amen.

***Hymn**

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

*Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.*

*Before the hills in order stood, or earth received its frame,
From everlasting Thou art God, to endless years the same.*

*Time, like an ever rolling stream, soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.*

*Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while life shall last, and our eternal home.*

***Benediction and Sending**

Prayers for at Home This Week

Morning Household Prayer

God of the morning, awaken us to know that to be resurrected with Jesus means to die with Christ first. May we recognize you in every moment so that whatever we do, we do for your glory, through Jesus Christ, our way, truth, and life. Amen.

Evening Household Prayer

God, all through this day you have watched over me on the streets of my busy schedule, nourished me with blessing that I cannot count. And still your faithfulness does not sleep or slumber, but continues even when the sun goes down. What a blessing to dwell in your presence! In your presence, I lay down today's burden and take rest. In your presence, may I rise to hear your voice. Amen.