

Sunday Morning Worship

June 20, 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)

Through our baptism, we are dead to sin.

Now we are alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Let the redeemed of the Lord rejoice;

for the steadfast love of God, give thanks!

As a deer longs for flowing streams,

so my soul thirsts for the living God.

***Opening Prayer** (unison)

Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labor and not to ask for any reward, save that of knowing that we do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

***Hymn** *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,

In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,

Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,

Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,

Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;

Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above

Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

*Thou reignest in glory, Thou rulest in light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!*

Invitation to Confession

We strive to be strong and self-sufficient, but in truth we are in constant need of grace. In penitence and faith, let us confess our weakness to God and to one another.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Most merciful God, forgive us. We imagine that we can live without you, when you give us your very breath. We seek control over others rather than strive to live in unity. We allow fear to overtake us, even though our lives are in your hands. Draw us back into your steadfast love and shape us into the likeness of your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Siblings in Christ, the good news is this: grace is poured out like water; mercy flows like a never-ending stream, bathing us in goodness and love. Live, then, as those who have received new life, rejoicing in your baptism. Through Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Prayer of Illumination (unison)

God of eternity, by the power of your Spirit, speak your Word to us this day, that hearing, we may know your truth and live ever more faithfully for you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Ezra 5:17-6:12

And now, if it seems good to the king, have a search made in the royal archives there in Babylon, to see whether a decree was issued by King Cyrus for the rebuilding of this house of God in Jerusalem. Let the king send us his pleasure in this matter.”

Then King Darius made a decree, and they searched the archives where the documents were stored in Babylon. But it was in Ecbatana, the capital in the province of Media, that a scroll was found on which this was written: “A record. In the first year of his reign, King Cyrus issued a decree: Concerning the house of God at Jerusalem, let the house be rebuilt, the place where sacrifices are offered and burnt offerings are brought; its height shall be sixty cubits and its width sixty cubits, with three courses of hewn stones and one course of timber; let the cost be paid from the royal treasury. Moreover, let the gold and silver vessels of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took out of the temple in Jerusalem and brought to Babylon, be restored and brought back to the temple in Jerusalem, each to its place; you shall put them in the house of God.”

“Now you, Tattenai, governor of the province Beyond the River, Shetharbozenai, and you, their associates, the envoys in the province Beyond the River, keep away; let the work on this house of God alone; let the governor of the Jews and the elders of the Jews rebuild this house of God on its site. Moreover I make a decree regarding what you shall do for these elders of the Jews for the rebuilding of this house of God: the cost is to be paid to these people, in full and without delay, from the royal revenue, the tribute of the province Beyond the River. Whatever is needed—young bulls, rams, or sheep for burnt offerings to the God of heaven, wheat, salt, wine, or oil, as the priests in Jerusalem require—let that be given to them day by day without fail, so that they may offer pleasing sacrifices to the God of heaven, and pray for the life of the king and his children. Furthermore I decree that if anyone alters this edict, a beam shall be pulled out of the house of the perpetrator, who then shall be impaled on it. The house shall be made a dunghill. May the God who has established his name there overthrow any king or people that shall put forth a hand to alter this, or to destroy this house of God in Jerusalem. I, Darius, make a decree; let it be done with all diligence.”

Sermon

“Multiplication Tables”
Fourth in a series, “Reclaim: Ezra”

Pastor Christina

Prayers of Intercession

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.

*Litany for Father's Day

Our relationships with our fathers are complicated.
**For some of us, our father's love is like God's love—
too deep, too long, too wide, too strong to measure.**
Some of our dads are here; some were never here.
**For some of us, God's love fills in the empty spaces
our fathers left behind.**

All of us are shaped
by the relationship or lack of relationship with our fathers.
**On this day when we remember
what it means to have a father or be a father,
we recognize the importance of fathers in our communities.
We pledge as a congregation to love and nurture
the fathers and the fatherless among us, so that all will manifest
the love of God in everything they do. Amen**

*Hymn

This is My Father's World

***This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas--His hand the wonders wrought.***

*This is my Father's world: the birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world: He shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass, He speaks to me everywhere.*

*This is my Father's world: O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet.
This is my Father's world: why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is King: let the heavens ring! God reigns; let earth be glad!*

***Benediction and Sending**



Prayers for at Home This Week

Morning Household Prayer

Whether I wake to birdsong or sirens or the deep silence before dawn, I awake to your presence, most gracious God. Enable me to trust completely in you as I meet the challenges of this new day. Make me watchful for your grace at work; may all I do be a testament to your glory. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Evening Household Prayer

As I give myself over to sleep, dear Lord, I thank you for the gift of rest. Let me relinquish the cares of the day. Forgive the ways I have failed you. Restore me to you and renew my faithfulness, that I may awake to serve you more, for Jesus' sake. Amen.