

Sunday Morning Worship

Sunday, August 15, 2021

10:30am

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

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

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship** (responsive)

Maintain justice, and do what is right.

God our Savior is coming soon.

Wisdom has prepared a feast for us;

Let us eat and drink of God's gifts.

The word of the Lord is like fire,

Like a hammer that smashes a stone.

***Opening Prayer** (unison)

Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and sent the Spirit of your son into our hearts. Give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that all people may know the glorious liberty of the children of God; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Confession

Let us confess our sins to the all-wise God who is gracious and merciful, and keeps covenant with us.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

All-knowing God, we are your children, but we have turned away from your wisdom and walked in our own ways. We have lived carelessly and squandered time. We have been foolish and failed to understand your will. We have been drunk with the wine of this world and debauched in our own desires. Purge us from evil and fill us with your Spirit. Clear our minds from clutter that we may discern what is right and walk in your ways. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

The Lord is gracious and merciful! God shows great and steadfast love to us through Jesus Christ, our bread of life. By his flesh and blood, our sins are forgiven and we have eternal life.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Exchange words of peace and reconciliation with one another.

Prayer of Illumination (unison)

Great God of steadfast love, we study your works and delight in your ways. Illumine our understanding by your Holy Spirit, that we may reverence your name, grow in your wisdom, and discern between good and evil. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Lamentations 1:1, 2:1-8

How lonely sits the city that once was full of people! How like a widow she has become, she that was great among the nations! She that was a princess among the provinces has become a vassal.

How the Lord in his anger has humiliated daughter Zion! He has thrown down from heaven to earth the splendor of Israel; he has not remembered his footstool in the day of his anger.

The Lord has destroyed without mercy all the dwellings of Jacob; in his wrath he has broken down the strongholds of daughter Judah; he has brought down to the ground in dishonor the kingdom and its rulers.

He has cut down in fierce anger all the might of Israel; he has withdrawn his right hand from them in the face of the enemy; he has burned like a flaming fire in Jacob, consuming all around.

He has bent his bow like an enemy, with his right hand set like a foe; he has killed all in whom we took pride in the tent of daughter Zion; he has poured out his fury like fire.

The Lord has become like an enemy; he has destroyed Israel. He has destroyed all its palaces, laid in ruins its strongholds, and multiplied in daughter Judah mourning and lamentation.

He has broken down his booth like a garden, he has destroyed his tabernacle; the Lord has abolished in Zion festival and sabbath, and in his fierce indignation has spurned king and priest.

The Lord has scorned his altar, disowned his sanctuary; he has delivered into the hand of the enemy the walls of her palaces; a clamor was raised in the house of the Lord as on a day of festival.

The Lord determined to lay in ruins the wall of daughter Zion; he stretched the line; he did not withhold his hand from destroying; he caused rampart and wall to lament; they languish together.

Sermon

“Crying in the Rain”

Pastor Christina

First in a series, “Lamentations”

Prayers of Intercession

You have redeemed your people. **Holy and awesome is your name.**

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.

Morning Offering

***Prayer of Dedication (unison)**

God of grace, it is our delight and our devotion to give these gifts to you. All we are and all we have are yours alone. Accept this joyful offering as a token of our abiding love: use it to bring peace, justice and comfort to all the world, Amen.

***Affirmation of Faith (unison)**

from A Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.

Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

***Benediction and Sending**

Prayers for at Home This Week

Morning Household Prayer

I praise you, Lord, and give thanks for the gift of this new day. Fill me with your Holy Spirit. Let your songs fill my heart. Give me a wise and discerning mind to walk in your way, making the most of the time as I go out among your people. Amen.

Evening Household Prayer

Gracious and merciful God, I have gone out and come in today seeking to do your will, yet there is so much that I do not understand or discern. I commit to you my questions, concerns, and anxieties. Grant me peaceful sleep as I rest in your wisdom and steadfast love. Amen.