

Order of Worship

December 29th, 2019

“I cannot believe that the men who occupy the pulpits of this land, assuming that they are men of ordinary intelligence and common sense and that they have, as they ought to have as leaders, some little knowledge, at least, of the Word of God, are without some convictions on the subject (of race prejudice), that they do not know that it is wrong, contrary to every principle of Christianity.”

Francis J. Grimke

“Everything we do should hasten the day when ‘the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.’”

Dr. Carl Ellis

“In the stillness of the quiet, if we listen, we can hear the whisper of the heart giving strength to weakness, courage to fear, hope to despair.”

Howard Thurman

“The humblest peasant is as free in the sight of God as the proudest monarch that ever swayed a scepter. Liberty is a spirit sent from God and like its great Author is no respecter of persons.”

Henry Highland Garnet

GATHERING IN GOD’S PRESENCE

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Call to Worship

Psalm 46:8-11

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Hail to the Lord’s Anointed

Call to Confession

Confession of Sin

Almighty God, God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came to us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted the good news to be all that good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord. Draw us into the grace of your love that we may know and enjoy the one for whom we have waited, Jesus Christ - our Redeemer, our King, our friend.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

“When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy . . . so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. To all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”

Titus 3: 4-7 and John 1: 12

Great Are You Lord

Children ages 3-5 years are dismissed to their worship class.

Welcome and Prayers of the People

Larry McGee

Offering and Doxology

10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord, O My Soul)

Passing of the Peace of Christ

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Life Together

David Speakman

ATTENDING TO GOD’S WORD

“The Witch at Endor”

Jonah Hooper

³ Now Samuel had died, and all Israel had mourned for him and buried him in Ramah, his own city. And Saul had put the mediums and the necromancers out of the land. ⁴ The Philistines assembled and came and encamped at Shunem. And Saul gathered all Israel, and they encamped at Gilboa. ⁵ When Saul saw the army of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart trembled greatly. ⁶ And when Saul inquired of the LORD, the LORD did not answer him, either by dreams, or by Urim, or by prophets. ⁷ Then Saul said to his servants, “Seek out for me a woman who is a medium, that I may go to her and inquire of her.” And his servants said to him, “Behold, there is a medium at En-dor.”

⁸ So Saul disguised himself and put on other garments and went, he and two men with him. And they came to the woman by night. And he said, “Divine for me by a spirit and bring up for me whomever I shall name to you.” ⁹ The woman said to him, “Surely you know what Saul has done, how he has cut off the mediums and the necromancers from the land. Why then are you laying a trap for my life to bring about my death?” ¹⁰ But Saul swore to her by the LORD, “As the LORD lives, no punishment shall come upon you for this thing.” ¹¹ Then the woman said, “Whom shall I bring up for you?” He said, “Bring up Samuel for me.” ¹² When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice. And the woman said to Saul, “Why have you deceived me? You are Saul.” ¹³ The king said to her, “Do not be afraid. What do you see?” And the woman said to Saul, “I see a god coming up out of the earth.” ¹⁴ He said to her, “What is his appearance?” And she said, “An old man is coming up, and he is wrapped in a robe.” And Saul knew that it was Samuel, and he bowed with his face to the ground and paid homage.

¹⁵ Then Samuel said to Saul, “Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?” Saul answered, “I am in great distress, for the Philistines are warring against me, and God has turned away from me and answers

me no more, either by prophets or by dreams. Therefore I have summoned you to tell me what I shall do.”¹⁶ And Samuel said, “Why then do you ask me, since the LORD has turned from you and become your enemy?”¹⁷ The LORD has done to you as he spoke by me, for the LORD has torn the kingdom out of your hand and given it to your neighbor, David.¹⁸ Because you did not obey the voice of the LORD and did not carry out his fierce wrath against Amalek, therefore the LORD has done this thing to you this day.¹⁹ Moreover, the LORD will give Israel also with you into the hand of the Philistines, and tomorrow you and your sons shall be with me. The LORD will give the army of Israel also into the hand of the Philistines.”

²⁰ Then Saul fell at once full length on the ground, filled with fear because of the words of Samuel. And there was no strength in him, for he had eaten nothing all day and all night.

1 Samuel 28:3-20

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

Children return to join their families

FEASTING AT THE LORD’S TABLE

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Leader: Therefore let us proclaim the mystery of the faith.

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Lord’s Supper Instructions

- The Lord’s Supper is open to anyone who is trusting in Jesus’ death and resurrection alone for his or her redemption.
- People come forward from the back rows first to receive the elements.
- White grape juice in cups and gluten-free crackers are available at the left and right stations.
- At the middle station, you may receive from the common loaf and cup. We follow the practice of intinction where you dip the bread in the wine.
- If you need prayer, there is a group (including elders) available to pray for anyone in need of prayer in the kitchen. There is also a group of women in the room next to the Connections kiosk who can pray for women. The Lord’s Supper is available in both prayer rooms.
- Young children who have made a profession of faith may partake in the Lord’s Supper when they have met with and been approved by the Session.

Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the author and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

Prayer for Those Searching for the Truth

Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing,

and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

We Will Feast in the House of Zion

ENGAGING GOD'S WORLD

All Glory Be to Christ

Benediction

“The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord makes his face shine upon you and be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.”

Numbers 6:24-26