

Order of Worship

January 19th, 2020

“The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all fiction; jealous and proud of it; a petty, unjust, unforgiving control-freak; a vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser; a misogynistic, homophobic, racist, infanticidal, genocidal, filicidal, pestilential, megalomaniacal, sadomasochistic, capriciously malevolent bully.”

Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion*

“If I profess with the loudest voice and clearest exposition every portion of the truth of God, except precisely that point which the world and the devil are at that moment attacking, then I am not confessing Christ, however boldly I may be professing him. Where the battle rages, there the loyalty of the soldier is proved; and to be steady on all the battlefield besides is mere flight and disgrace if he flinches at that point.”

Martin Luther

“You don’t always have to chop with the sword of truth. You can point with it, too.”

Anne Lamott

“... always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.”

1 Peter 3:15

GATHERING IN GOD’S PRESENCE

Come, People of the Risen King

Call to Worship

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Your Great Name

Call to Confession

Confession of Sin

God of grace, God of joy, God of life,
we come to you as a people hungry for good news.
We have been so dead to miracles
that we often have missed the Savior’s gracious advent.
We have preoccupied ourselves with pleasures
and have overlooked the joy you offer us.
We have been so concerned with making a living
that we have missed the life you set among us.
Forgive us, gracious God.
Open our eyes and our hearts to receive your gift;
open our lips and hands to share it with all humanity
in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ,
who emptied himself of power

in order to heal our sin –sick world. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

“Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity
and passing over the transgression
of the remnant of your possession?
He does not retain his anger forever,
because he delights in showing mercy.
He will again have compassion upon us;
he will tread our iniquities under foot.
You will cast all our sins
into the depths of the sea.
You will show faithfulness to Jacob
and unswerving loyalty to Abraham,
as you have sworn to our ancestors
from the days of old.”

Micah 7: 18-20

I Will Sing of My Redeemer

Passing of the Peace of Christ

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: *And also with you.*

Children ages 3-2nd grade are dismissed to their worship class.

Welcome and Prayers of the People

Rachel Roth Aldhizer

Offering and Doxology

His Mercy is More

Life Together

David Speakman

ATTENDING TO GOD’S WORD

“Conquering in Jesus' Name?”

David Speakman

¹ After the death of Joshua, the people of Israel inquired of the LORD, “Who shall go up first for us against the Canaanites, to fight against them?” ² The LORD said, “Judah shall go up; behold, I have given the land into his hand.” ³ And Judah said to Simeon his brother, “Come up with me into the territory allotted to me, that we may fight against the Canaanites. And I likewise will go with you into the territory allotted to you.” So Simeon went with him. ⁴ Then Judah went up and the LORD gave the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their hand, and they defeated 10,000 of them at Bezek. ⁵ They found Adoni-bezek at Bezek and fought against him and defeated the Canaanites and the Perizzites. ⁶ Adoni-bezek fled, but they pursued him and caught him and cut off his thumbs and his big toes. ⁷ And Adoni-bezek said, “Seventy kings with their thumbs and their big toes cut off used to pick up scraps under my table. As I have done, so God has repaid me.” And they brought him to Jerusalem, and he died there.

Judges 1:1-7

²² The house of Joseph also went up against Bethel, and the LORD was with them. ²³ And the house of Joseph scouted out Bethel. (Now the name of the city was formerly Luz.) ²⁴ And the spies saw a man coming out of the city, and they said to him, "Please show us the way into the city, and we will deal kindly with you." ²⁵ And he showed them the way into the city. And they struck the city with the edge of the sword, but they let the man and all his family go. ²⁶ And the man went to the land of the Hittites and built a city and called its name Luz. That is its name to this day.

Judges 1:22-26

³³ Naphtali did not drive out the inhabitants of Beth-shemesh, or the inhabitants of Beth-anath, so they lived among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land. Nevertheless, the inhabitants of Beth-shemesh and of Beth-anath became subject to forced labor for them.

Judges 1:33

¹ Now the angel of the LORD went up from Gilgal to Bochim. And he said, "I brought you up from Egypt and brought you into the land that I swore to give to your fathers. I said, 'I will never break my covenant with you,' ² and you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall break down their altars.' But you have not obeyed my voice. What is this you have done? ³ So now I say, I will not drive them out before you, but they shall become thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare to you." ⁴ As soon as the angel of the LORD spoke these words to all the people of Israel, the people lifted up their voices and wept. ⁵ And they called the name of that place Bochim. And they sacrificed there to the LORD.

Judges 2:1-5

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.

My Worth is Not in What I Own

ENGAGING GOD'S WORLD

Everlasting God

Benediction

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit, you may abound in hope!”

Romans 15:13