

# *Order of Worship*

January 5th, 2020

“Redemption is meaningless unless there is cause for it in the actual life we live, and for the last few centuries there has been operating in our culture the secular belief that there is no such cause . . . The novelist with Christian concerns will find in modern life distortions which are repugnant to him, and his problem will be to make these appear as distortions to an audience which is used to seeing them as natural; and he may be forced to take ever more violent means to get his vision across to this hostile audience . . . Writers who see by the light of their Christian faith will have, in these times, the sharpest eye for the grotesque, for the perverse, and for the unacceptable.... To the hard of hearing you shout, and for the almost-blind you draw large and startling figures.”

Flannery O'Connor

“If only there were evil people somewhere insidiously committing evil deeds and it were necessary only to separate them from the rest of us and destroy them! But the line dividing good and evil cuts through every human heart. And who is willing to destroy a piece of his own heart?”

Alexander Solzhenitsyn

“The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.”

1 Timothy 1: 15-16

## GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

*This is My Father's World*

Call to Worship

Psalm 72:1-2, 11-14, 17-19

*How Great Thou Art*

*Oh, the Deep Deep Love of Jesus*

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

#### *Living Hope*

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

#### Passing of the Peace of Christ

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

*All: And also with you.*

#### Welcome and Prayers of the People

John Petty

#### Offering and Doxology

*Thy Mercy, My God*

#### Life Together

David Speakman

#### ATTENDING TO GOD’S WORD

##### “Judges: R-rated Redemption”

David Speakman

<sup>1</sup> 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?”

Judges 1:1

<sup>11</sup> And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals. <sup>12</sup> And they abandoned the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt. They went after other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed down to them. And they provoked the LORD to anger. <sup>13</sup> They abandoned the LORD and served the Baals and the Ashtaroth.

Judges 2:11-13

<sup>7</sup> And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD. They forgot the LORD their God and served the Baals and the Asheroth.

Judges 3:7

<sup>6</sup> In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Judges 17:6

<sup>25</sup> In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Judges 21:25

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

**All:** *Thanks be to God!*

### Sermon Notes

*\*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.

*I Surrender All*

**ENGAGING GOD'S WORLD**

*On Jordan's Stormy Banks*

**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