

WORSHIP NOTES

Sunday February 18, 2018 9:30am

CHOIR ANTHEM

Read Revelation 1:1-18. *(a prayer)* Lord Jesus, you are the faithful witness---our witness to God and God's witness to us. As Son of God and Son of Man you have redeemed us from our sins and reconciled us with the Father so that we can come before him in peace and confidence. As sovereign Lord, you have made us kings and priests to serve with you. As Alpha and Omega, you have begun a good work of salvation in our hearts, and you will complete it. As the Living One who had died and returned to life, you continue to dwell in our midst as our Sustainer, our Protector and our Friend.

And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior's blood? Died he for me, who caused his pain? For me, who him to death pursued? Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, should die for me? Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, should die for me? He left his Father's throne above, so free, so infinite his grace! Emptied himself of all but love, and bled for Adam's helpless race. 'Tis mercy all, immense and free, for, O my God, it found out me. Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, should die for me? No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in him, is mine! Alive in him, my living head, and clothed in righteousness divine; bold I approach the eternal throne and claim the crown, through Christ my own. Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, should die for me? That thou, my God, should die for me?

CALL TO WORSHIP

Read Romans 8:12-17. We are no longer cringing and fearful slaves, instead, we are the Master's children. What a privilege! Because we are God's children, we share in great treasures. God has already given us his best gifts, his Son, forgiveness, and eternal life, and he encourages us to ask him for whatever we need.

Leader: How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!

People: Lord, we praise you and thank you for your mercy and love. We were once your enemy, now we are your heirs. You saved us from the slavery of sin and gave us new lives in Christ.

Leader: We pray: Father, lead us by your Spirit and teach us to live lives that you are proud of.

People: Give us faith to surrender to you and to pray as Jesus prayed, %ABBA Fatherõ not what I will, but what you will!+

HYMN

Read I John 4:9õ God showed his love among us. He sent his one and only son. Love explains 1) why God creates- because he loves, he creates people to love. 2) why God cares---because he loves them, he cares for sinful people. 3) why we are free to

choose---he wants a loving response from us. 4) why Christ died---his love for us caused him to seek a solution to the problem of sin. 5) why we receive eternal life---his love expresses itself to us forever.

1

**Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heav'n, to earth come down,
fix in us Thy humble dwelling; all Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love Thou art;
visit us with Thy salvation; enter ev'ry trembling heart.**

2

**Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit; let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.**

3

**Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all Thy life receive;
suddenly return and never, nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
pray and praise Thee without ceasing, glory in Thy perfect love.**

4

**Finish then Thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see Thy great salvation perfectly restored in Thee.
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before Thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

CONFESSION:

Read Matthew 22: 37-40. (*a prayer*) God, I am thankful that your greatest desire for us is intimacy with yourself. Teach me to love you sincerely, wholeheartedly and intimately. As one of your chose people, holy and dearly loved, clothe me with compassions, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Teach me to bear with others and to forgive whatever grievances I may have against them. Help me to forgive others as you have forgiven me. Over all these virtues, clothe me with love, for love is the fulfillment of the law.

Leader: Everlasting God, fountain of all life and the true home of every heart: our hearts are restless until they rest in you. We confess that our hearts have been enslaved by selfish passion and base desire. We have sought after many things and have neglected the one thing needful.

People: We have not loved you with our whole hearts; help us to turn to you and find forgiveness. Lead us home, that we may again find in you our life and joy and peace.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Read Isaiah 43:1-12 (*a prayer*) O Lord, my Creator, my Redeemer, my Comforter and Friend, you do love me. You called me by name and saved me. To think that my name is in your mind and on your lips---it is mercy too deep to fathom. You have proclaimed from the heavens that I am yours, and that you are not ashamed to be mine. You are my Rock, the anchor of my life. You never, ever, abandon me. I will cling to you when the floods rise and the fires rage. I will proclaim to the whole world that you are the only, the everlasting, the irresistible God who has redeemed me with your own life.

Leader: Those who love me, I will deliver, says the Lord; I will protect those who know my name. When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them and show them my salvation.

People: We receive the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

SCRIPTURE/SERMON

Read: I John 3. Verse 1 tells us who we are---members of God's family. Verse 2 tells us who we are becoming---reflections of God. The rest of the chapter tells us what we take with us as we grow to resemble God: 1) victory over sin 2) love for the brothers and sisters 3) confidence before God. As believers, our self-worth is based on the fact that God loves us and calls us his children. We are his children now, not just sometime in the distant future. Knowing that we are his children encourages us to live as Jesus did.

OFFERING MUSIC

Read Hebrews 10:22,23 (MSG) *So let's do it (draw near to God)---full of belief, confident that we're presentable inside and out. Let's keep a firm grip on the promises that keep us going. He always keeps his word. St. Augustine wrote: Beware of despairing about yourself. You are commanded to put your trust in God, and not in yourself. Assurance is founded upon the promises of a faithful God and his inspired Word. It depends not on the amount of our faith but on the object of our faith---Christ Himself.*

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood. This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long; this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long. Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest, watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love. This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long; this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

CLOSING HYMN

Read Galatians 6. (*a prayer*) All praise and glory are yours, O Lord. Salvation comes from your hand alone. I cannot boast about any sacrifice or suffering of my own---I can only boast in the nails in your hands and feet, the thorns on your brow, the wooded cross on which you died. I cannot boast about any spiritual gift of competency, for everything is a gift from you. My righteousness is not my own---it comes from my faith in you. And I cannot even boast in my faith, for faith itself is a gift of your grace. You, O Lord, are the Giver of every good and perfect gift. May I live my life as a new creation, fully devoted to your service.

Vs1

**Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need,
Who upon the cross, forsaken, worked your mercy's perfect deed:
We, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart,
Consecrating to your purpose every gift which you impart.**

Vs4

**Called by worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go,
To the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show;
Hope and health, good will and comfort, counsel, aid and peace we give,
That your servants, Lord, in freedom may your mercy know and live.**