

# ***CRESTVIEW WORSHIP NOTES***

**Sunday May 20, 2018 9:30am**

## **MORNING WORSHIP**

**PREPARATION MUSIC** The Chancel Choir welcomes us to worship by singing a traditional favorite "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross". This hymn is a deeply moving and personal express of gratitude for the amazing love that Jesus showed through his death on the cross. The hymn ends "Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all". And, today we celebrate Jesus sending his Holy Spirit to help us live this life of commitment.

*When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died, my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my God! All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood. See from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down! Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown? Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small; love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Fifty days after Jesus' resurrection, the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples on the day of Pentecost. Pentecost was an established Jewish festival also known as the Feast of Weeks, which drew people from many nations, back to Jerusalem. Pentecost symbolizes a new beginning. It celebrates the unleashing of the Holy Spirit on the world and the empowering of the church to reach the world with the gospel. In celebrating, we express our gratitude for the faithfulness of Jesus in fulfilling his promise to send "another counselor" (John 14:16). We celebrate the work of the Spirit in renewing all of creation; we profess our confidence and security in knowing the Spirit's power is available for its mission; we grow in awareness of the immensity of our calling to reach the world with the gospel.

Leader: Holy Spirit, Creator, in the beginning you moved over the waters. From your breath all creation drew life. Without you life turns to dust.

**People: Come, Holy Spirit!**

Leader: Holy Spirit, Counselor, by your inspiration the prophets spoke and acted in faith. You clothed them in power to be bearers of your Word.

**People: Come, Holy Spirit!**

Leader: Holy Spirit of power, you came as fire to Jesus' disciples; you gave them voice before the rulers of this world.

**People: Come, Holy Spirit!**

Leader: Holy Spirit, sanctifier, you created us children of God; you make us the living temple of your presence; you intercede within us with sighs too deep for words.

**People: Come, Holy Spirit!**

Leader: Holy Spirit, giver of life, you guide and make holy the church you create; you give gifts---the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and fortitude, the spirit of knowledge and piety, the spirit of the fear of the Lord that the whole creation may become what you want it to be.

**People: Come, Holy Spirit! Loosen our tongues to show your praise, for only in your Spirit can we voice your words of peace and acclaim Jesus as Lord!**

**SONG** Verse 2 of our opening hymn reminds us of Acts 2:2 when the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost: *Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.* This hymn of praise also reminds of Psalm 145:10,11—*All thy works shall praise thee, O Lord; and thy saints shall bless thee. They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power.*

**Vs1**

**All creatures of our God and King,  
Lift up your voice and with us sing,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Thou burning sun with golden beam,  
Thou silver moon with softer gleam!**

***Refrain:***

**O praise Him! O praise Him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Vs2**

**Thou rushing wind that art so strong,  
Ye clouds that sail in heav'n along,**

**O praise Him! Alleluia!  
Thou rising moon, in praise rejoice,  
Ye lights of evening, find a voice! (refrain)**

**Vs4**

**All ye who are of tender heart,  
Forgiving others, take your part,  
Sing his praises! Alleluia!  
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,  
Praise God and on Him cast your care! (refrain)**

**Vs5**

**Let all things their Creator bless,  
And worship Him in humbleness,  
O praise Him! Alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
And praise the Spirit, Three in One! (refrain)**

**CONFESSION** *Christians are not perfect. We sin and sometimes we struggle with sin. Let's look at Galatians 5:16–25, which speaks directly to this. "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh." Galatians 5:16. The idea behind the phrase "walk by the Spirit" is that—no matter what's happening—the Christian keeps on walking, step by step by step. Being led by God in these moments looks a lot like how a parent might hold the hand of a small child and walks with the child through a dangerous parking lot, protecting the child, guiding, helping, and keeping the child safe. In verse 16, the Apostle Paul makes an incredibly important statement about how the Christian is equipped by the Spirit to live a life of faithfulness toward God. His proposition is this: when Christians walked by the Spirit, they will not continue to gratify or indulge in sin. Paul gives four ways the Spirit helps us in our fight with sin.*

*1. THE SPIRIT FIGHTS OUR SINFUL DESIRES. "For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law." Galatians 5:17–18. Christians have two natures: a sinful nature received at their physical birth, and new nature received at their spiritual birth. Both natures have desires: one for evil and the other for holiness (this is why they are in conflict with each other). Our flesh desires to sin against God, but our new nature—empowered and directed by the Spirit—desires to be faithful to God. When we follow our deepest desires, we will not do the sin we want to do but rather listen to the Spirit.*

*2. HE MAKES EVIDENT THE WORKS OF THE FLESH. "Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife,*

*jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.” Galatians 5:19–21. It’s not a sin to be tempted—even Jesus was tempted, but he did not sin (Matt. 4:1–10). Yet, the book of James says that, when we are tempted by our sinful desires and give in to them, it leads sin (James 1:14–15). The Spirit names our sin in Scripture and convicts us of it in our hearts so we feel godly grief over our sin, which will lead to repentance.*

*3. HE PRODUCES FRUIT IN US. “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.” Galatians 5:22. Christian character comes from within, by the power of the Spirit. The Spirit seeks to transform us from the inside out by making us more like Jesus (2 Cor. 3:18; Rom. 8:29; 12:1–2). Notice above it says, “the fruit” and not fruits. Although there are nine qualities listed, “fruit” is singular. This means that when the Spirit produces this fruit in us, we see all of these characteristics experienced in our hearts and lived out through our lives as evidence that we are “walking in the Spirit.”*

*4. HE EMPOWERS US TO PUT SIN TO DEATH. “And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.” Galatians 5:24–25. Belonging to Jesus means we are not our own. Our old self is no more—it has been crucified with Christ in order for the desires of our flesh to be brought to nothing, and the result is that we are no longer enslaved to sin but rather alive to God in Christ (Rom. 6:6, 11). Even still, we must fight the desires of the flesh. We can’t do this by tolerating sin, justifying sin, blame shifting sin, or managing sin. We must put sin to death through repentance (Col. 3:5).*

*REPENTANCE AND FAITH. “Repentance is a heartfelt sorrow for sin, a renouncing of it, and a sincere commitment to forsake it and walk in obedience to Christ.” Repentance starts in the mind, goes deep into the heart, and then flows throughout your life. To kill sin, you must first repent of how you think, and then repent in your heart. But repentance is only part of the equation. The Christian life is one of repentance and faith. We repent of our sin, and then, in faith, by the power of the Spirit, we follow Jesus. Let the Spirit will help you in your struggle with sin. You will only find freedom from sin in Jesus. “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.” 1 John 1:8–10*

Leader: Generous God, you send us the Spirit of courage, but we have been afraid. You send us the Spirit of truth, but we cling to our illusions. You send us the Spirit of healing, but we cannot let go of our hurts.

**People: Holy Spirit of forgiveness, come to us again, shake our hearts, set our souls on fire with your love; send us out into the world rejoicing in your power. We hold out to you all our particular burdens of guilt and sin, and we ask for your help to live the way of your love.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *From Ezekiel 36:25-27-- A New Heart and Spirit ...25"Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. 26"Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27"I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.* Here's a prayer: Lord, please give me a new heart and spirit---the heart and Spirit of Jesus, so that I may live a holy life. I pray that the sins of my past will become appalling to me and that I will recoil from ever committing them again. Most of all, I pray, that you will remove any disgrace I have brought upon your name. Forgive me, Lord and make me new. And may your holiness be made known to the world through your great acts of mercy to me. Amen.

Leader: I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees. You will be my people, and I will be your God.

**People: By the power of the Spirit, we are united with Christ and given a new spirit. Let us live in the joy and peace of this assurance.**

**SCRIPTURE-SERMON.** Read Acts 7:54-60. The religious leaders did not understand that Stephen's words were truth, because they were not seeking the truth. They only wanted support for their own views. When Stephen died, he repeated what Jesus had said as he died on the cross (Luke 23:24). The early believers were glad to suffer as Jesus had suffered, because that meant they were counted worthy. Stephen was ready to suffer like Jesus even to the point of asking forgiveness for his murderers. Such a forgiving response comes only from the Holy Spirit. The Spirit can help us respond as Stephen did and love our enemies.

**FINAL SONG** I Peter 5:10 *But God shows undeserved kindness to everyone. That's why he appointed Christ Jesus to choose you to share in his eternal glory. You will suffer for a while, but God will make you complete, steady, strong, and firm.* This closing hymn is a prayer, asking God to "pour his power on us---the church. Let us depart in his power as described in Rom. 15:13 - *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.*

**1**

**God of grace and God of glory,  
on your people pour your power;  
crown your ancient church's story,  
bring its bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the facing of this hour,  
for the facing of this hour.**

**2**

**Lo! the hosts of evil round us  
scorn your Christ, assail his ways!  
Fears and doubts too long have bound us  
free our hearts to work and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the living of these days,  
for the living of these days.**

**4**

**Save us from weak resignation  
to the evils we deplore;  
let the gift of your salvation  
be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
serving you whom we adore,  
serving you whom we adore.**

***SEE YOU SUNDAY IN WORSHIP***