

Call to Worship

Read Revelation 15:3-4

“Great and amazing are your deeds,
O Lord God the Almighty!
Just and true are your ways,
O King of the nations!
Who will not fear, O Lord,
and glorify your name?
For you alone are holy.
All nations will come
and worship you,
for your righteous acts have been revealed.”

Prayer of Adoration

O God, you summon the day to dawn, you teach the morning to waken the earth. For you the valleys shall sing for joy, the trees of the field shall clap their hands. O God, you summon the day to dawn, you teach the morning to waken the earth. For you the valleys shall sing for joy, the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

[from *The Worship Sourcebook*]

Ordinary Time Call and Response

Leader

O magnify the Lord with me!

Congregation

Let us exalt his name together!

[from Psalm 34:3]

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Verse 1

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near
Praise him in glad adoration

Verse 2

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wonderfully reigneth
Shelters thee under his wings, and so gently sustaineth
Hast thou not seen how thy desires have been
Granted in what he ordaineth

Verse 3

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee

Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
If with his love he befriend thee

Refrain

Praise to the Lord, O let all that's in me adore him
Praise to the Lord, O let all that's in me adore him
Praise to the Lord, O let all that's in me adore him

Verse 4

Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore him
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him
Let the amen sound from him people again
Let the amen sound from him people again
Gladly in awe to adore him

Refrain (x2)

Confession & Assurance of Pardon

Exhortation

2 Corinthians 10:3-6

For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.

Confession

In prayer, confess your sin aloud together and personally in silence.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader

We have confessed our sins. Now, hear the good news! When we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Therefore, to all who humbly seek the mercy of God, your Heavenly Father declares, in Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven.

Together

Thanks be to God!

"Gladly Would I Leave Behind Me"

Verse 1

Gladly would I leave behind me
All the pleasure I have known
To pursue surpassing treasures
At the throne of God the Son
Worthy of unending worship
Love and loveliness is he
By his precious death were millions
From the jaws of death set free

Verse 2

Gladly would I give to Jesus
All affection, everything
For the washing of his mercy
Makes my ransomed heart to sing
Holy, holy is the chorus
Rising up from those who see
Christ exalted, bright and burning
Full of power and purity

Chorus

Where else can I go?
Jesus, you're the one that I was made to know
What else can I do?
Jesus, you're my all, I gladly run to you

Verse 3

Gladly would I flee temptations
For their troubles fill my life
Turn and seek my God and Savior
For his goodness satisfies
Earthly pleasures all are passing
Thieves break in and rust destroys
But in God are awesome splendor
Love and everlasting joys

Chorus

Ending

Gladly would I give to Jesus
All affection, everything
For the washing of his mercy
Makes my ransomed heart to sing

Read *The Apostles' Creed*

We believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord: who was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hades. The third day he arose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, whence he shall come to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Consecration

Prayers of Praise and Petition

Spend time in prayer together.

- Praise God for his sovereignty and meticulous control over all things.
- Praise God for Jesus's power over death and sin, and the new and everlasting life we have received as his people.
- Praise God for the commissioning of Westview Church, the newest daughter church of Cities Church, who officially covenanted together as a church on July 8th.
- Ask God to heal our city of all injustice and prejudice, and to end the destruction of life in all forms.
- Ask God to stop the spread of the coronavirus. Pray that he would grant wisdom to those responsible for making decisions about how to protect human life, especially the most vulnerable among us.
- Ask God, by his Holy Spirit, to give us insight on how we can best love our neighbors and seek the good of our communities.
- Pray for our church and other local churches throughout the city and the world.
- Pray for our missionaries:
 - Samuel and Sarah Chestnutt who are serving in Ireland
 - Steve and Lindsey Discher who are ministering to students in the Philippines
 - Matthew & Kailie who are ministering to those in the Middle East
 - Dieudonné & Dominique Tamfu who are church planting and founding a seminary in Cameroon
 - Ryan & Kassie Cossette and their ministry in Costa Rica
 - Sam Griffin and his ministry with Training Leaders International
 - The Andres and their ministry to the local Somali community
 - The Harmony Community Group and their outreach to the local Chinese community
 - Together for Good and their ministry to protect children from abuse and dangerous situations
 - John McCauley & Joelle Parfrey and their on-campus ministry "Students for Life"
 - Caitlin Boon & Rachel Beise and their ministries with Athletes in Action
 - Ellie Felber and her ministry to local youth with Timberbay

Teaching Text

Read Psalm 37

Fret not yourself because of evildoers;
be not envious of wrongdoers!
For they will soon fade like the grass
and wither like the green herb.

Trust in the LORD, and do good;
dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.
Delight yourself in the LORD,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the LORD;
trust in him, and he will act.
He will bring forth your righteousness as the light,
and your justice as the noonday.

Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him;
fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way,
over the man who carries out evil devices!

Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath!
Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil.
For the evildoers shall be cut off,
but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land.

In just a little while, the wicked will be no more;
though you look carefully at his place, he will not be there.
But the meek shall inherit the land
and delight themselves in abundant peace.

The wicked plots against the righteous
and gnashes his teeth at him,
but the Lord laughs at the wicked,
for he sees that his day is coming.

The wicked draw the sword and bend their bows
to bring down the poor and needy,
to slay those whose way is upright;
their sword shall enter their own heart,
and their bows shall be broken.

Better is the little that the righteous has
than the abundance of many wicked.
For the arms of the wicked shall be broken,
but the LORD upholds the righteous.

The LORD knows the days of the blameless,
and their heritage will remain forever;
they are not put to shame in evil times;
in the days of famine they have abundance.

But the wicked will perish;
the enemies of the LORD are like the glory of the pastures;
they vanish—like smoke they vanish away.

The wicked borrows but does not pay back,
but the righteous is generous and gives;
for those blessed by the LORD shall inherit the land,
but those cursed by him shall be cut off.

The steps of a man are established by the LORD,
when he delights in his way;
though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong,
for the LORD upholds his hand.

I have been young, and now am old,
yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken
or his children begging for bread.
He is ever lending generously,
and his children become a blessing.

Turn away from evil and do good;
so shall you dwell forever.
For the LORD loves justice;
he will not forsake his saints.
They are preserved forever,
but the children of the wicked shall be cut off.
The righteous shall inherit the land
and dwell upon it forever.

The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom,
and his tongue speaks justice.
The law of his God is in his heart;
his steps do not slip.

The wicked watches for the righteous
and seeks to put him to death.
The LORD will not abandon him to his power
or let him be condemned when he is brought to trial.

Wait for the LORD and keep his way,
and he will exalt you to inherit the land;
you will look on when the wicked are cut off.

I have seen a wicked, ruthless man,
spreading himself like a green laurel tree.
But he passed away, and behold, he was no more;
though I sought him, he could not be found.

Mark the blameless and behold the upright,
for there is a future for the man of peace.
But transgressors shall be altogether destroyed;
the future of the wicked shall be cut off.

The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD;
he is their stronghold in the time of trouble.
The LORD helps them and delivers them;
he delivers them from the wicked and saves them,
because they take refuge in him.

Teaching

Psalm 37

Communion

[If not partaking in the Lord's Table, reflect and pray in response to Pastor Jonathan's exposition of Psalm 37.]

"Take Heart"

Verse 1

There is a light, it burns brighter than the sun
He steals the night and casts no shadow
There is hope should oceans rise and mountains fall
He never fails

Chorus

So take heart
Let his love lead us through the night
Hold on to hope
And take courage again

Verse 2

In death by love, the fallen world was overcome
He wears the scars of our freedom
In his name all our fears are stripped away
He never fails

Chorus (x2)

Bridge

All our troubles and all our tears
God, our hope, he has overcome
All our failure and all our fear
God, our love, he has overcome
All our heartache and all our pain
God, our healer, he has overcome
All our burdens and all our shame
God, our freedom, he has overcome

All our troubles and all our tears
God, our hope, he has overcome
All our failure and all our fear
God, our love, he has overcome
God, our justice; God, our grace
God, our freedom, he has overcome
God, our refuge; God, our strength
God is with us, he has overcome

Commission

“Now to Him (Jude 24)”

Refrain

Now to him who is able
To keep you from falling
To him who will keep you to the end

To him be the glory, the honor, and power
Forever and ever, amen
(x2)
Forever and ever, amen

Commissioning

Remember the mission that Jesus has given us, his church:

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:18-20).

Go in peace.