



FAITHFUL CHARACTER IN CRISIS
COUNT IT ALL JOY
JAMES 1:1-12



TRINITY
Presbyterian Church

ORDER OF WORSHIP | Sunday, September 13, 2020

Listening devices are available for the hearing impaired.

Please speak with a greeter or visit the sound booth upstairs for a listening device.

SONG OF GATHERING & PREPARATION

The people of God always sang as they ascended the hill in Jerusalem up to the temple to worship (see Psalms 120-134). We, as well, prepare our hearts, minds, and bodies for worship by singing about the God we serve.

Rest

CALL TO WORSHIP | Jeremiah 9:23-24 (ESV)

We read God's Word, the Bible, together. It reveals to us who God is and what He expects of us.

Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD."

PRAYER OF ADORATION & CONFESSION

We pray together praising God for who He really is (Adoration) and admitting our inability to live up to what He expects of us (Confession).

ASSURANCE OF PARDON | Psalm 37:1-5 (ESV)

We read God's Word together and are reminded that mercy and grace are freely given to all who have faith in Jesus Christ.

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.

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

We respond to the good news of God's mercy and grace for us in Jesus by giving generously to the work of His church and the kingdom of God.

Christ Our Hope In Life And Death

PRAISE & CELEBRATION

Our response to God's free grace is celebratory worship. We express our praise to God for who He is and what He has done for us.

When My Heart Is Torn Asunder

Almighty God

KIDS' WORSHIP DISMISSAL **First Service Only*

Infants - Kindergarten are dismissed. Please see your child's check-in name tag for class assignment.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & INTERCESSION

We express in prayer our gratitude to God for what He has done and ask Him to continue to act for our good and the good of others in our community and world.

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD | **Tim Rice, Lead Pastor & Director of Church Planting**

A small portion of God's Word is explained to us and applied to our lives and circumstances.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

As an expression of our faith in Jesus Christ in solidarity with his people, we declare the substance of what we believe.

The Apostles' Creed: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The ritual meal of Communion is a sign and seal of the grace we have in Jesus. That is, it symbolizes the work Christ did for our salvation (sign) and communicates the grace and mercy we have been given (seal) as a result of His death and resurrection.

SONG OF RESPONSE

We respond to the good news of God's mercy and grace by singing again of His goodness and greatness.

All The Poor And Powerless

BENEDICTION

Because the hand of God's wrath was raised against Jesus, we now receive the hand of God's blessing as we are sent out to live our lives to the glory of God.

May the LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the LORD turn His face toward you and give you His peace,
both now and forevermore. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE & SERMON OUTLINE

Proclamation of God's Word

Text: James 1:1-12 (ESV)

Title: Faithful Character In Crisis: Count It All Joy

Teacher: Tim Rice

¹ James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings. ² Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. ⁹ Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, ¹⁰ and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. ¹¹ For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits. ¹² Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

Intro: How do you typically think about hardship?

WISDOM FROM ABOVE

Why do we need wisdom or God's perspective?

PROFOUND, ENDURING TENSIONS

How are God's ways (*His Kingdom*) at odds with the ways of the world?

GOD'S REDEEMING PATTERN

But why do we believe that we can live in joy?

YOU CAN PRAY WITH US ...

1. Worship the LORD for His holy perspective – that He sees and knows what no one else possibly can! Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for His surpassing perspective *and* for how He shares that with us.
2. How have you lived in tension with God's perspective and good design? Confess your pride and unbelief to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and persuade you of His steadfast, eternal promises vs. the temporary lies of this world.
3. Give thanks to Jesus for His work to redeem us *through* suffering, loss and even death. Thank Him for offering His crown of life to us, by His Grace and by His eternal promises.
4. Who do you know that seems to be unable to count any joy in their trials or hardships? Pray for them, asking the Lord to open their eyes to what is fleeting vs. what is eternal, to give them His hope.
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to bear in you His fruit of love and joy, *especially* in trials or hardships. Pray for His wisdom to help you live faithfully and in keeping with His perspective rather than in doubt or self-pity.

