



Christ Presbyterian Church

SERVICE OF WORSHIP 28 JUNE 2020

REFLECTION

The faith that... is able to warm itself at the fire of God's love, instead of having to steal love and self-acceptance from other sources, is actually the root of holiness... It is often said today, in circles which blend popular psychology with Christianity, that we must love ourselves before we can be set free to love others... But no realistic human beings find it easy to love or forgive themselves, and hence their self-acceptance must be grounded in their awareness that God accepts them in Christ. There is a sense in which the strongest self-love that we can have... is merely the mirror image of the lively conviction we have that God loves us.

Richard Lovelace, *The Dynamics of Spiritual Life*

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP – GALATIANS 4

Minister: But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law.

ALL: In order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.

Minister: And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

ALL: We are no longer slaves, but children.

PRAYER OF ADORATION (CONCLUDED BY THE LORD'S PRAYER)

ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

TEN THOUSAND REASONS

Chorus:

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;

Worship His holy name.

Sing like never before, O my soul;

I'll worship Your holy name.

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning,
It's time to sing Your song again.
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,
Let me be singing when the evening comes. *(Chorus)*

You're rich in love, and You're slow to anger.
Your name is great, and Your heart is kind.
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing;
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find. *(Chorus)*

And on that day, when my strength is failing,
The end draws near and my time has come;
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending,
Ten thousand years, and then forevermore. *(Chorus)*

Music and Lyrics: Jonas Myrin and Matt Redman; © 2001 Thankyou Music

WHO YOU SAY I AM

Who am I that the highest King
Would welcome me?
I was lost but He brought me in;
Oh, His love for me;
Oh, His love for me!

Chorus:

Who the Son sets free,
Oh, is free indeed;
I'm a child of God,
Yes, I am.
In my Father's house
There's a place for me;
I'm a child of God,
Yes, I am.

Free at last,
He has ransomed me;
His grace runs deep.
While I was a slave to sin
Jesus died for me;
Yes, He died for me! (*Chorus*)

Bridge:

*I am chosen, not forsaken;
I am who You say I am.
You are for me, not against me;
I am who You say I am.
I am who You say I am. (Chorus)*

Lyrics and Music: Ben Fielding and Reuben Morgan; © 2017 Hillsong Music Publishing

SCRIPTURE READING – 1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-7

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Minister: Heavenly Father, through your Son, you've exhibited that love is patient. Love is kind.

ALL: We confess that we are easily annoyed and often brusque.

Minister: Love is not possessive. Love is not boastful or proud.

ALL: Yet we often strive to be the center of attention.

Minister: Love is courteous. Love is not selfish.

ALL: But we frequently insist on our own needs and rights.

Minister: Love is not irritable or bitter.

ALL: Yet we are slow to forgive.

Minister: Love delights in truth and righteousness.

ALL: But obedience to You is often secondary in our lives.

Minister: Heavenly Father, please forgive our sin and pardon our guilt.

ALL: We ask this confidently because Christ intercedes for us. Amen.

PRIVATE CONFESSION

WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT – EPHESIANS 1:3-7

Leader: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.

ALL: In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.

Leader: Since we have been redeemed in Christ, we now have peace with God and with one another. May the peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

WE WILL FEAST IN THE HOUSE OF ZION

Chorus:

We will feast in the house of Zion;

We will sing with our hearts restored;

"He has done great things," we will say together;

We will feast and weep no more.

We will not be burned by the fire;

He is the Lord our God.

We are not consumed by the flood,

Upheld, protected, gathered up. *(Chorus)*

In the dark of night, before the dawn,

My soul be not afraid;

For the promised morning, oh how long;

Oh, God of Jacob be my strength. *(Chorus)*

Every vow we've broken and betrayed;

You are the faithful one;

And from the garden to the grave;

Bind us together, bring shalom. *(Chorus)*

Lyrics and Music: Joshua Moore and Sandra McCracken; © 2015 Integrity Worship Music, Paper News Publishing, joshmooreownsthismusic

HERE IS LOVE, VAST AS THE OCEAN

Here is love, vast as the ocean,
Lovingkindness as the flood,
When the Prince of Life, our Ransom,
Shed for us His precious blood.
Who His love will not remember?
Who can cease to sing His praise?
He can never be forgotten,
Throughout heaven's eternal days.

On the mount of crucifixion,
Fountains opened deep and wide;
Through the floodgates of God's mercy
Flowed a vast and gracious tide.
Grace and love, like mighty rivers,
Poured incessant from above,
And heaven's peace and perfect justice
Kissed a guilty world in love.

Let me all Thy love accepting,
Love Thee, ever all my days;
Let me seek Thy kingdom only
And my life be to Thy praise;
Thou alone shalt be my glory,
Nothing in the world I see.
Thou hast cleansed and sanctified me,
Thou Thyself hast set me free.

In Thy truth Thou dost direct me
By Thy Spirit through Thy Word;
And Thy grace my need is meeting,
As I trust in Thee, my Lord.
Of Thy fullness Thou art pouring
Thy great love and power on me,
Without measure, full and boundless,
Drawing out my heart to Thee.

Text: William Rees, William Williams, tr. William Edwards; Music: Robert Lowry, 1876; Public Domain

SCRIPTURE READING – JOHN 17:20-26

²⁰"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: ²³I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

²⁴"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

²⁵"Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. ²⁶I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

SERMON – EVEN AS YOU LOVE ME

Outline:

1. The Father's love for His eternally-begotten Son
2. The Father's love for His adopted daughters and sons
3. The long journey to bring this truth home

Figure A.

Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.

Isaiah 42:1-3

Figure B.

I was appointed from eternity, from the beginning, before the world began... when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master workman, and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always...

Proverbs 8:23, 30

Figure C.

And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

Mark 1:11

Figure D.

Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"

Mark 9:7

Figure E.

Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

John 17:24

Figure F.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

Ephesians 1:3-6

Figure G.

"And then Jesus comes, and as we see him crying, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" we realize the answer. Is the covenant between God and his people condition or unconditional? Yes. Yes. Jesus came and fulfilled the conditions so God could love us unconditionally."

Tim Keller, *Preaching*, (New York: Penguin, 2015) p. 72

Figure H.

Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.

Psalms 2:8

Figure I.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 1:3-5

Figure J.

God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

Galatians 4:6

God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Romans 5:5

WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS

What wondrous love is this,
O my soul, O my soul,
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this
That caused the Lord of bliss,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

When I was sinking down,
Sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, sinking down;
When I was sinking down
Beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul!

Chorus:

What wondrous love is this!

What wondrous love is this!

To God and to the Lamb,
I will sing, I will sing,
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb
Who is the great I AM,
While millions join the theme, I will sing,
While millions join the theme, I will sing! (*Chorus*)

And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And when from death I'm free I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free
I'll sing his love for me;
And through eternity, I'll sing on,
And through eternity, I'll sing on! (*Chorus*)

American folk hymn, ca. 1835; Public Domain

BENEDICTION