



Christ Presbyterian Church

SERVICE OF WORSHIP 20 SEPTEMBER 2020

REFLECTION

From your heroes you pick up mannerisms and phrases and tones of voice and facial expressions and habits and demeanors and convictions and beliefs. The more admirable the hero is and the more intense your admiration is, the more profound will be your transformation. In the case of Jesus, he is infinitely admirable, and our admiration rises to the most absolute worship. Therefore, when we behold him as we should, the change is profound.

John Piper, *God Is the Gospel: Meditations on God's Love as the Gift of Himself*

CALL TO WORSHIP – PSALM 43:3-5

Minister: Send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling!

ALL: Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy, and I will praise you with the lyre, O God, my God.

Minister: Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me?

ALL: Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.

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.

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my father,
There is no shadow of turning with thee:
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

"Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!"

Morning by morning new mercies I see:

All I have needed thy hand hath provided—

"Great is thy faithfulness," Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. *(Refrain)*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside. *(Refrain)*

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923; Music: William M. Runyan, 1923; © 1951 Hope Publishing Company

SCRIPTURE READING – LUKE 10:38-42

³⁸As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. ³⁹She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" ⁴¹"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴²but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

CONFESSION OF SIN

Minster: Lord Jesus, our lives are cluttered with too many things and too much to do.

ALL: We are driven by our desire to succeed and often lose our way.

Minster: Forgive us for seeking ultimate satisfaction in anything but You.

ALL: Let us find the one thing we truly need — to sit at Your feet. Amen.

PRIVATE CONFESSION

WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT – ROMANS 5:8-11

Minister: But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

ALL: For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

BEGONE, UNBELIEF

Begone, unbelief, my Savior is near,
And for my relief will surely appear;
By prayer let me wrestle, and He will perform;
With Christ in the vessel, I smile at the storm.

Though dark be my way, since He is my Guide,
'Tis mine to obey, 'tis His to provide;
Though cisterns be broken, and creatures all fail,
The word He has spoken shall surely prevail.

Chorus:

*Begone, unbelief! My Savior is near.
And for my relief will surely appear.*

His love in time past forbids me to think
He'll leave me at last in trouble to sink;
Each time He has helped me lies clearly in view,
Designed to assure me He'll pilot me through. *(Chorus)*

Since all that I meet shall work for my good,
The bitter is sweet, the medicine food;
Though painful at present, 'twill cease before long,
And then, O how pleasant, the conqueror's song! *(Chorus)*

Lyrics: John Newton, ca. 1800 and David L. Ward; Music: David L. Ward; © 2007 ThousandTongues.org

SCRIPTURE READING – DANIEL 6

¹It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom 120 satraps, to be throughout the whole kingdom; ²and over them three presidents, of whom Daniel was one, to whom these satraps should give account, so that the king might suffer no loss. ³Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other presidents and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him. And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom.

⁴Then the presidents and the satraps sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel with regard to the kingdom, but they could find no ground for complaint or any fault, because he was faithful, and no error or fault was found in him. ⁵Then these men said, "We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God."

⁶Then these presidents and satraps came by agreement to the king and said to him, "O King Darius, live forever! ⁷All the presidents of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an injunction, that whoever makes petition to any god or man for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. ⁸Now, O king, establish the injunction and sign the document, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked." ⁹Therefore King Darius signed the document and injunction.

¹⁰When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously.

¹⁶Then the king commanded, and Daniel was brought and cast into the den of lions. The king declared to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you!" ¹⁷And a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel.

¹⁸Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no diversions were brought to him, and sleep fled from him.

¹⁹Then, at break of day, the king arose and went in haste to the den of lions. ²⁰As he came near to the den where Daniel was, he cried out in a tone of anguish. The king declared to Daniel, "O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?" ²¹Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live forever! ²²My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm." ²³Then the king was exceedingly glad, and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

SERMON – THE LION’S DEN

Outline:

1. Excellence in the public square
2. Antagonism in the public square
3. Vindication in the same

Figure A.

"Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

Jeremiah 29:4-7

Figure B.

I cannot doubt that a glorious discovery in natural knowledge, and the wisdom and power of God in the creation, is awaiting our age, and that we may not only hope to see it, but even be honored to help in obtaining the victory over present ignorance and future knowledge.

Michael Faraday (1791-1867)

Figure C.

Almighty God, Who has created man in your own image, and made him a living soul that he might seek after you, and have dominion over your creatures, teach us to study the works of your hands, that we may subdue the earth to our use, and strengthen the reason of your service; and so to receive your blessed Word that we may believe on Him who you have sent to give us the knowledge of salvation and the remission of our sins. All which we ask in the name of the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

James Clark Maxwell (1831-1879)

Figure D.

"If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

John 15:18-19

Figure E.

[In the university] champion tolerance, except for conservatives and evangelical Christians. We want to be inclusive of people who don't look like us — so long as they think like us.

Nicholas Kristof, "The Dangers of Echo Chambers on Campus"
NY Times, December 10, 2016

CHRIST OUR HOPE IN LIFE AND DEATH

What is our hope in life and death?
Christ alone; Christ alone.
What is our only confidence?
That our souls to Him belong.
Who holds our days within His hand;
What comes apart from His command;
And what will keep us to the end?
The love of Christ in which we stand.

Chorus:

*O, sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal.
O, sing hallelujah! Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.*

What truth can calm the troubled soul?
God is good; God is good.
Where is His grace and goodness known?
In our great Redeemer's blood.
Who holds our faith when fears arise;
Who stands above the stormy trial;
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh?
Unto the shore, the rock of Christ. *(Chorus)*

Unto the grave what shall we sing?
Christ He lives; Christ He lives.
And what reward will heaven bring?
Everlasting life with Him.
There we will rise to meet the Lord;
Then sin and death will be destroyed;
And we will feast in endless joy
When Christ is ours forevermore. *(Chorus)*

Lyrics and Music: Jordan Kauflin, Keith Getty, Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, Matthew Merker; © 2020 Getty Hymns and Songs

BENEDICTION