



March 24, 2024

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## Welcome

Welcome to this service of worship. We invite you to slow down, quiet your heart, and to listen to the prelude as it directs your thoughts to God.

## Prelude:

### Ride On, Ride On In Majesty

Ride on, ride on in majesty! Hear all the tribes hosanna cry!  
O Savior meek, pursue your road, with palms and scattered garments strow'd.

Ride on, ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die.  
O Christ, your triumphs now begin, o'er captive death and conquered sin.

#### *Chorus:*

Ride on to die; ride on to die; then take, O Christ, your power and reign.

Ride on, ride on, in majesty! The hosts of angels in the sky  
Look down with sad and wondering eyes, to see th'approaching Sacrifice.

Ride on, ride on, in majesty! Your last and fiercest strife is nigh.  
The Father on his sapphire throne, awaits his own anointed Son.

#### *(Chorus)*

Ride on, ride on, in majesty! In lowly pomp, ride on to die.  
Bow your meek head to mortal pain, then take, O Christ, your power and reign.

#### *(Chorus)*

## Call to Worship — Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:22, 26

Leader: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!

*All: Behold, your King comes to you; triumphant and victorious is He. Humble and riding on a donkey; on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*

Leader: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

*All: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! Hosanna in the highest!*

## Hosanna (Praise Is Rising)

Praise is rising, eyes are turning to You; we turn to You.  
Hope is stirring, hearts are yearning for You; we long for You!

*Chorus:*

'Cause when we see You we find strength to face the day.  
In Your presence all our fears are washed away, washed away.  
Hosanna! Hosanna! You are the God who saves us; worthy of all our praises! Hosanna!  
Hosanna! Come have Your way among us; we welcome You here, Lord Jesus.

Hear the sound of hearts returning to You; we turn to You. In Your Kingdom broken lives  
are made new; you make us new.

(Chorus)

## Prayer of Adoration

### 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.*

## My Song is Love Unknown

My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me;  
Love to the loveless shown, that they might lovely be.  
O who am I, that for my sake, my Lord should take frail flesh and die?

He came from His blest throne, salvation to bestow;  
But man made strange, and none the longed-for Christ would know.  
But oh, my Friend, my Friend indeed, who at my need His life did spend!

Sometimes they strew His way, and His sweet praises sing;  
Resounding all the way, hosannas to their King.  
Then "Crucify!" is all their breath, and for His death they thirst and cry.

They rise, and needs will have my dear Lord made away;  
A murderer they save, the Prince of Life they slay.  
Yet cheerful He to suffering goes, that He His foes from thence might free.

Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine;  
Never was love, dear King, never was grief like Thine.  
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could gladly spend.

## Confessional Scripture Reading – Isaiah 59:1-2

<sup>1</sup> Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save,  
or his ear dull, that it cannot hear;  
<sup>2</sup> but your iniquities have made a separation  
between you and your God,  
and your sins have hidden his face from you  
so that he does not hear.

## Word of Encouragement – Psalm 103:10-13

<sup>10</sup> He does not deal with us according to our sins,  
nor repay us according to our iniquities.  
<sup>11</sup> For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;  
<sup>12</sup> as far as the east is from the west,  
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

## Jerusalem

See Him in Jerusalem, walking where the crowds are.  
Once these streets had sung to Him; now they cry for murder.  
Such a frail and lonely Man, holding up the heavy cross.  
See Him walking in Jerusalem; on the road to save us.

See Him there upon the hill; hear the scorn and laughter.  
Silent as a lamb He waits, praying to the Father.  
See the King who made the sun and the moon and shining stars.  
Let the soldiers hold and nail Him down; so that He could save them.

See Him there upon the cross, now no longer breathing.  
Dust that formed the watching crowds, takes the blood of Jesus.  
Feel the earth is shaking now; see the veil is split in two.  
And He stood before the wrath of God, shielding sinners with His blood.

See the empty tomb today; death could not contain Him.  
Once the Servant of the world, now in vict'ry reigning.  
Lift your voices to the One, who is seated on the throne.  
See Him in the New Jerusalem; praise the One who saved us.

## Shepherding Prayer

## Children's Recessional

## Scripture Reading – Joshua 2:1-21

And Joshua the son of Nun sent two men secretly from Shittim as spies, saying, “Go, view the land, especially Jericho.” And they went and came into the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab and lodged there. <sup>2</sup> And it was told to the king of Jericho, “Behold, men of Israel have come here tonight to search out the land.” <sup>3</sup> Then the king of Jericho sent to Rahab, saying, “Bring out the men who have come to you, who entered your house, for they have come to search out all the land.” <sup>4</sup> But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. And she said, “True, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from. <sup>5</sup> And when the gate was about to be closed at dark, the men went out. I do not know where the men went. Pursue them quickly, for you will overtake them.” <sup>6</sup> But she had brought them up to the roof and hid them with the stalks of flax that she had laid in order on the roof. <sup>7</sup> So the men pursued after them on the way to the Jordan as far as the fords. And the gate was shut as soon as the pursuers had gone out.

<sup>8</sup> Before the men lay down, she came up to them on the roof <sup>9</sup> and said to the men, “I know that the Lord has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you. <sup>10</sup> For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction. <sup>11</sup> And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the Lord your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath. <sup>12</sup> Now then, please swear to me by the Lord that, as I have dealt kindly with you, you also will deal kindly with my father's house, and give me a sure sign <sup>13</sup> that you will save alive my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and deliver our lives from death.” <sup>14</sup> And the men said to her, “Our life for yours even to death! If you do not tell this business of ours, then when the Lord gives us the land we will deal kindly and faithfully with you.”

<sup>15</sup> Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was built into the city wall, so that she lived in the wall. <sup>16</sup> And she said to them, “Go into the hills, or the pursuers will encounter you, and hide there three days until the pursuers have returned. Then afterward you may go your way.” <sup>17</sup> The men said to her, “We will be guiltless with respect to this oath of yours that you have made us swear. <sup>18</sup> Behold, when we come into the land, you shall tie this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and you shall gather into your house your father and mother, your brothers, and all your father's household. <sup>19</sup> Then if anyone goes out of the doors of your house into the street, his blood shall be on his own head, and we shall be guiltless. But if a hand is laid on anyone who is with you in the house, his blood shall be on our head.

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<sup>20</sup> But if you tell this business of ours, then we shall be guiltless with respect to your oath that you have made us swear.” <sup>21</sup> And she said, “According to your words, so be it.” Then she sent them away, and they departed. And she tied the scarlet cord in the window.

## Sermon – Examples from Spies and a Prostitute

### Figure A

There are no tragic moral choices, no insoluble ethical dilemmas, though there are certainly many situations in which Christians have been perplexed about what to do... But if there were any chance to mislead the SS officers, as Rahab misled the officers of her own people, I think the Christian should have availed himself of that strategy. (John M. Frame, *The Doctrine of the Christian Life*; P&R Publishing; Phillipsburg; 2008; 839-40)

### Figure B

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. (Mat. 1:1, 5-6)

### Figure C

By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. <sup>31</sup> By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies. (Heb. 11:30-31)

### Figure D

And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? <sup>26</sup> For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead. (Jam. 2:25-26)

## Is He Worthy

Do you feel the world is broken? **We do.** Do you feel the shadows deepen? **We do.** But do you know that all the dark won't stop the light from getting through? **We do.** Do you wish that you could see it all made new? **We do.**

Is all creation groaning? **It is.** Is a new creation coming? **It is.** Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst? **It is.** Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? **It is.**

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole? Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll? The Lion of Judah, who conquered the grave. He is David's Root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave. Is He worthy? Is He worthy – Of all blessing and honor and glory? Is He worthy of this? **He is.**

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Does the Father truly love us? **He does.** Does the Spirit move among us? **He does.** And does Jesus our Messiah hold forever those He loves? **He does.** Does our God intend to dwell again with us? **He does.**

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole? Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll? The Lion of Judah, who conquered the grave; He is David's Root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave. From ev'ry people and tribe, every nation and tongue, He has made us a kingdom and priests to God, to reign with the Son.

Is He worthy? Is He worthy - Of all blessing and honor and glory?

Is He worthy? Is He worthy? Is He worthy of this? **He is!**

## Benediction

## Announcements

- Community Groups schedule:
  - Clarksburg/Gaithersburg – April 7: Routenberg's Home
  - Gaithersburg/Olney – TBD
  - Germantown – April 10: Hein's Home
- There will be no youth group for the weekends that overlap spring break which are 3/24 and 3/31. We'll resume youth group at the Roberts' home on 4/7.
- Easter Egg Hunt, Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, After the worship service
- Please consider serving as an usher or set-up team member in April
- UpCounty HUB Service Project, Tuesday, May 14, 1-4pm. This is the day of the Maryland primary election. MCPS is closed. Students are encouraged to invite friends and gain SSL hours.

## Greeting One Another