



April 21, 2024

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

Call to Worship — Revelation 5

Minister: I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll sealed with seven seals and a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” No one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll. The Lamb went and took the scroll from the hand of him who was seated on the throne. When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. And they sang a new song, saying,

All: Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore thee

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround Thee, earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father Christ our brother- all who live in Thee, are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began;
Father love, is reigning o'er us, brother love binds man to man.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

Text: Henry Jackson van Dyke, 1907, Music: Ludwig Beethoven, 1824

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.

There is a Fountain

There is fountain filled with blood, drawn from Emmanuel's veins;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood, lose all their guilty stains;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood, lose all their guilty stains.

The dying thief rejoiced to see, that fountain in his day;
And there may I, though vile as he, wash all my sins away;
And there may I, though vile as he, wash all my sins away.

Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood, shall never lose its power;
'Til all the ransomed church of God, be saved to sin no more;
'Til all the ransomed church of God, be saved to sin no more.

E'er since, by faith, I saw the stream, Thy flowing wounds supply,
Redeeming love has been my theme, and shall be 'til I die;
Redeeming love has been my theme, and shall be 'til I die.

Text: William Cowper, 1772, Music: Karl Digerness, 1997

Confessional Scripture Reading- Ephesians 2: 11-14

¹¹Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—¹²remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility.

Confession of Sin

Liturgist: God of all nations, we praise you that in Christ the barriers that have separated humanity are torn down. Yet we confess our slowness to open our hearts and minds to people of other nations, tongues, and cultures.

ALL: In our pride, we seek to associate with people who can enhance our social standing and ignore those who might lower it. We do not honor the image of God in our brothers and sisters who are different from us.

Liturgist: Merciful Father, forgive us our sins of pride, prejudice, and apathy.

ALL: By your Spirit, help us to remember that our sins have been fully paid for by Christ's death and resurrection. Give us the power to love each other well and move us toward the day when we are truly one in Jesus Christ.

Private Confession

Words of Encouragement – Ephesians 2:17-22

Liturgist: And [Christ] came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.

ALL: In Christ we are joined together and grow into a holy temple in the Lord. In him, we also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Come Behold The Wondrous Mystery

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry in the dawning of the King;
He the theme of heaven's praises robed in frail humanity.
In our longing in our darkness, now the light of life has come.
Look to Christ who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry: He the perfect Son of Man;
In His living in His suff'ring, never trace nor stain of sin.
See the true and better Adam come to save the hell-bound man;
Christ the great and sure fulfillment of the law, in Him we stand

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry: Christ the Lord upon the tree;
In the stead of ruined sinners, hangs the Lamb in victory.
See the price of our redemption; see the Father's plan unfold;
Bringing many sons to glory, grace unmeasured love untold.

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry: slain by death the God of life
But no grave could e'er restrain Him; praise the Lord He is alive!
What a foretaste of deliv'rance, how unwavering our hope;
Christ in power resurrected, as we will be when He comes.

Music and Lyrics: Matt Boswell, Matt Papa and Michael Bleecker

Shepherding Prayer

Children's Recessional

Scripture Reading – John 13:34-35

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁴ “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Sermon – The Humility that builds Community

Figure A.

“Social disconnection is associated with reduced productivity in the workplace, worse performance in school, diminished civic engagement, and polarization . . .”

Vivek H. Murthy “We Have Become a Lonely Nation. It’s Time to Fix That.” *New York Times*, April 30, 2023

Figure B.

Mission Statement: Christ has called CPC to be a community that experiences the transforming power of Gospel and loves and serves our neighbors through the power of the Spirit all to the glory of God.

Central Question: What solution does Christ provide to our increasing fragmentation and isolation?

1. He challenges the ideals of our culture
2. He provides the humility which builds community

Figure C.

John 15:9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you.

John 17:24 Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

Figure D.

“The Father loved the Son before the creation of the world, and the reason the Father sends him is so that the Father’s love for him might be in others also. That is why the Son goes out from the Father, in both creation and salvation: that the love of the Father for the Son might be shared.”

Michael Reeves, *Delighting in the Trinity* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2012), p. 44

Figure E.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son. . .

Ephesians 5:25 Christ loved the church and gave himself up for he. . .

Galatians 2:20 The life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Figure F.

“homo incurvatus in se” – man is curved in on himself

Augustine of Hippo (AD 354 – 430)

Figure G.

Well, now, we have come to the centre. According to Christian teachers, the essential vice, the utmost evil, is Pride. Unchastity, anger, greed, drunkenness, and all that, are mere fleabites in comparison . . .

C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (New York: Touchstone, 1996), Chapter 8, "The Great Sin"

Figure H.

Genesis 3:7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

Figure I.

“It may be that Christians, notwithstanding corporate worship, common prayer, and all their fellowship in service, may still be left to their loneliness. The final break-through to fellowship does not occur, because, though they have fellowship with one another as believers and as devout people, they do not have fellowship as the undevout, as sinners. The pious fellowship permits no one to be a sinner. So everybody must conceal his sin from himself and from the fellowship. We dare not be sinners. Many Christians are unthinkably horrified when a real sinner is suddenly discovered among the righteous. So we remain alone with our sin, living in lies and hypocrisy. The fact is that we are sinners!”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945), *Life Together*

Figure J.

“The sin of self-protection occurs when our desire not to be hurt overrides a commitment to lovingly involve ourselves with others. When that demand for self-protection interferes with our willingness to move towards others with their well-being in view, then the law of love is violated.”

Larry Crabb, *Inside Out* (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1988) p. 117

Figure K.

“Those who love their dream of a Christian community more than they love the Christian community itself become destroyers of that Christian community . . . They enter the community of Christians with their demands set up by their own law, and judge one another and God accordingly.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945), *Life Together*

The Lord’s Table

Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone,
Chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the Church in one;
Holy Zion's help forever, and her confidence alone;
And her confidence alone.

To this temple, where we call thee, come, O Lord of hosts, today:
With thy wonted loving-kindness, hear thy people as they pray;
And thy fullest benediction, shed within its walls always;
Shed within its walls always.

Chorus:

To you, O Lord, our lives we bring: stir in us an awakening.
A city on a hill for Thee, let this church be your hands and feet.
O, let us be Your hands and feet

Here vouchsafe to all thy servants, what they ask of thee to gain,
What they gain from thee forever, with the blessed to retain,
And hereafter in thy glory, evermore with thee to reign;
Evermore with thee to reign.

Laud and honor to the Father, laud and honor to the Son,
Laud and honor to the Spirit, ever three and ever one,
One in might, and one in glory, while unending ages run;
while unending ages run. (*Chorus*)

Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone,
Chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the Church in one.

Text: 7th cent. Latin Hymn, tr. J.M Neale, 1861, Chorus and Music: Shannan Miller, 2019

Benediction

Announcements

- Congregational Prayer, Sundays, 7:30 am, Online via Zoom
 - Meeting ID: 898 5473 8150, Passcode 123456
- Youth Group will meet this evening from 5-7:30 pm at the Roberts' home.
- Men's Ministry Gathering on Wednesday, April 24th, 7:30-9:30 PM at the Yoon's Residence
- CPC Backyard Cookout on Saturday, April 27th, 12:00-3:00 PM at the Hein's Residence. Please RSVP on the Evite that was sent out.
- Community Groups schedule:
 - Clarksburg/Gaithersburg – April 21 Weaver Home
 - Gaithersburg/Olney – May 21: Silva Home
 - Germantown – May 15: Crosley Home
- 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