

Sunday, March 14, 2021 11:15 a.m.

Gathering Song

Announcements *Rev. Jason Christ, Associate Pastor*

Welcome *Rev. Dr. Charles E. Whited, Jr., Lead Pastor*

Preparing for Worship *(Stand)*

Leader In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People **Amen.**

Leader Make us to know Your ways, O Lord;

People **Teach us Your paths.** *Psalm 25:4*

Leader As we lead and as we learn,

People **Teach us Your paths.** *Psalm 25:4b*

Leader As we speak and as we listen,

People **Teach us Your paths.** *Psalm 25:4b*

Leader As we give and as we receive,

People **Teach us Your paths.** *Psalm 25:4b*

Leader In all we think, do, and say,

People **Teach us Your paths.** *Psalm 25:4b*

Leader Your Word is a lamp to our feet. *Psalm 119:10a*

People **Teach us Your paths.** *Psalm 25:4b*

Confession and Absolution

Leader God has shown us His path in His Word. He has marked the trail with signposts, but we forged our own trail. He put warning signs before us, but we ignored the danger. We have become entangled in thorny brush with scratches on our soul too numerous to count because of our misadventures. But even now, God is calling us back to His path. He promises healing for all our wounds, restoring our soul to an unblemished beauty. So let us listen to His call and return to Him.

People **Father God, we confess that we have strayed from Your path. We are sorry for leaving the safety of Your way. We are hurting and in need of Your grace today. For the sake of Jesus, our Savior, forgive us and make us beautiful again this day.** *(silence for personal reflection)*

Leader Jesus walked the painful path to Calvary so that we could return to God's path. He bore the scrapes and scratches we deserved, suffering on the cross in our place. The cross now stands as a signpost pointing through the empty tomb to our risen Savior Jesus. By His stripes we are healed, and all our sins are forgiven!

People **Amen.**

Opening Songs

I Will Call Upon the Lord

Verse

I will call upon the Lord
Who is worthy to be praised
So shall I be saved from my enemy

Verse

I will call upon the Lord (echo)
Who is worthy to be praised (echo)
So shall I be saved from my enemy (echo)

Chorus

The Lord liveth
And blessed be my Rock
And let the God of my salvation
Be exalted *Verse, Chorus*

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Blessed Assurance

Verse 1

Blessed assurance Jesus is mine
O what a foretaste of glory divine
Heir of salvation purchase of God
Born of His Spirit washed in His blood

Chorus

This is my story this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long

Verse 2

Perfect submission perfect delight
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy whispers of love

Verse 3

Perfect submission all is at rest
I in my Savior am happy and blest
Watching and waiting looking above
Filled with His goodness lost in His love

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Scripture Readings *(Sit)*

Reader God speaks to us through the Old Testament: Numbers 21:4–9

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. And the people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.” Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.” So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

Reader God speaks to us through the New Testament: Ephesians 2:1–10
And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Reader God speaks to us through the Gospel: John 3:14–21
[Jesus said:] “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.” “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been carried out in God.”

Children’s Message *Sue Steege, Director of Transformation Ministries*

Message *Snake on a Stick* *Rev. Dr. Charles E. Whited, Jr., Lead Pastor*

The Apostles’ Creed *(Stand)*

People I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering

Give at FTGives.com or text "Give" to 716-710-8800.

Your Great Name

Verse 1

Lost are saved, find their way, at the sound of Your great name
All condemned, feel no shame, at the sound of Your great name
Every fear, has no place, at the sound of Your great name
The enemy, he has to leave, at the sound of Your great name

Chorus 1

Jesus, worthy is the lamb that was slain for us, son of God and man
You are high and lifted up, and all the world will praise Your great name

Verse 2

All the weak, find their strength, at the sound of Your great name
Hungry souls, receive grace, at the sound of Your great name
The fatherless, they find their rest, at the sound of Your great name
Sick are healed, and the dead are raised, at the sound of Your great name

Chorus 1

Jesus, worthy is the lamb that was slain for us, son of god and man
You are high and lifted up, and all the world will praise Your great name
Oh, Your great name

Bridge

Redeemer, my healer, Lord almighty
Defender, my Savior, You are my king (repeat)

Chorus 2

Jesus, oh Jesus
You are high and lifted up and all the world will praise

Chorus 1

Jesus, worthy is the lamb that was slain for us, son of god and man
You are high and lifted up, and all the world will praise Your great name

Coda

Your great name
Your great name

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Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

People Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on Earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and forever. Amen.

Closing Song

Living Hope

Verse 1

How great the chasm that lay between us
How high the mountain I could not climb
In desperation I turned to heaven
And spoke Your name into the night
Then through the darkness Your loving-kindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul
The work is finished the end is written
Jesus Christ my living hope

Verse 2

Who could imagine so great a mercy
What heart could fathom such boundless grace
The God of ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame
The cross has spoken I am forgiven
The King of kings calls me His own
Beautiful Savior I'm Yours forever
Jesus Christ my living hope

Chorus

Hallelujah praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ my living hope

Verse 3

Then came the morning that sealed the promise
Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence the Roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me *Repeat*
Jesus Yours is the victory whoa

Ending

Jesus Christ my living hope
Oh God You are my living hope

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Blessing

Sending Music

Unless noted otherwise, scripture passage came from the English Standard Version.

*Altar Flowers presented to the Glory of God in memory of Benjamin Milak
By Mary Ann Milak-Young and David Young.*