

May 2, 2021 11:15 a.m.

Gathering Song *Worship Band*

Announcements *Rev. Jason Christ, Associate Pastor*

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

Preparing for Worship *(Stand)*

Leader Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

People **Give to the Lord all glory and strength, give Him the honor due His name. Alleluia!**

Leader Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

People **O come, let us worship Him. Alleluia!**

Leader Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; *Psalm 1:1*

People **But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on His law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.** *Psalm 1:2-3*

Leader The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; *Psalm 1:4-5*

People **For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.** *Psalm 1:6*

Confession and Absolution

Leader As we meditate on God's Law, we see two foundational commands that summarize the whole thing: Love God, and love others. We are to love the LORD with our whole being—everything we are—and love others as God has loved us. It really is that simple. And yet so hard. At every turn we seem to stumble and fall. So let us confess our failings and sin to God now.

People **Loving God, we have not loved You with our whole heart. Instead, we have loved other gods: work, media, money, self, and so many more. Neither have we loved our neighbors as we should. Forgive our sin, and change our hearts. Show us how to love You and others as You desire.** *(silence for personal confession)*

Leader We find in Jesus the perfect example of how to love God and love others. He loved His Father, so He submitted to the Father's will and became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. He loved us with His whole body, enduring the lashes and thorns and crucifixion for our sake. His ultimate sacrifice of love on the cross has freed us from sin and death, replacing it with life. Rejoice, our sins are forgiven, and now we are free to love God and others.

Opening Song

Love The Lord

Verse 1

Love the Lord your God with all your heart
With all your soul with all your mind
And with all your strength *Repeat*

Chorus 1

With all your heart with all your soul
With all your mind with all your strength
Love the Lord your God with all your heart
With all your soul with all your mind
And with all your strength

Verse 2

I will serve the Lord
With all my heart with all my soul
With all my mind and with all my strength *Repeat*

Chorus 2

With all my heart with all my soul
With all my mind with all my strength
I will serve the Lord with all my heart
With all my soul with all my mind
And with all my strength

Learning From the Word *(Sit)*

Reader God speaks to us through the New Testament: Acts 8:26–40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Bridge

I will love You (I will love You)
I will praise You (I will praise You)
I will serve You (I will serve You)
I will trust You Lord (I will trust You)

Chorus 3

With all my heart with all my soul
With all my mind with all my strength *Repeat*

I will love You Lord with all my heart
With all my soul with all my mind
And with all my strength *Repeat*

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Reader God speaks to us through the New Testament: 1 John 4:1–16

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

Reader God speaks to us through the Gospel: John 15:1–8

[Jesus said:] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”

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

Message *Go and Bear Fruit* *Rev. Jason Christ, Associate Pastor*

The Nicene Creed *(Stand)*

People I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Offering

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

Boldly I Approach

Verse 1

By grace alone somehow I stand
Where even angels fear to tread
Invited by redeeming love
Before the throne of God above
He pulls me close with nail-scarred hands
Into His everlasting arms

Verse 2

When condemnation grips my heart
And Satan tempts me to despair
I hear the voice that scatters fear
The Great I Am the Lord is here
O praise the One who fights for me
And shields my soul eternally

Chorus

Boldly I approach Your throne
Blameless now I'm running home
By Your blood I come welcomed as Your own
Into the arms of majesty

Verse 3

Behold the bright and risen Son
More beauty than this world has known
I'm face to face with Love Himself
His perfect spotless righteousness
A thousand years a thousand tongues
Are not enough to sing His praise

Bridge

This is the art of celebration
Knowing we're free from condemnation
O praise the One praise the One
Who made an end to all my sin

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Prayers of God's People

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.

Preparation for Lord's Supper

Leader The Lord be with you

People And also with you.

Leader Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Leader Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

People It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Leader On the night when He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, He gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take; eat; this is My Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you; this is My blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People And also with you. *(Sit)*

We welcome to the Lord's Table baptized believers who confess their sins, affirm their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and who accept that Christ's body and blood are truly present in Holy Communion, given for the forgiveness of sins.

The Invitation and Home Distribution

Songs During Lord's Supper

Lord I Need You

Verse 1

Lord I come I confess
Bowing here I find my rest
And without You I fall apart
You're the one that guides my heart

Chorus

Lord I need You oh I need You
Ev'ry hour I need You
My one defense my righteousness
Oh God how I need You

Verse 2

Where sin runs deep Your grace is more
Where grace is found is where You are
And where You are Lord I am free
Holiness is Christ in me

Bridge

So teach my song to rise to You
When temptation comes my way
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You
Jesus You're my hope and stay

Tag

You're my one defense, my righteousness
Oh God how I need You
My one defense, my righteousness
Oh God how I need You

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And I Love You

Verse 1

You reached out Your hand
And called us to listen
You stretched out Your arms
And showed us what love was

Chorus

You are the Way, the Truth and the Life
You are the final sacrifice
You are the Lord my God most high
And I love You, O Lord.

Verse 2

I reach out my hand
Please teach me to listen
I stretch out my arms
Fill me with Your vision *Chorus*
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Closing Song

Graves Into Gardens

Verse 1

I searched the world but it couldn't fill me
Man's empty praise and treasures that fade
Are never enough
Then You came along and put me back together
And every desire is now satisfied here in Your love

Chorus

Oh there's nothing better than You
There's nothing better than You
Lord there's nothing
Nothing is better than You

Verse 2

I'm not afraid to show You my weakness
My failures and flaws
Lord You've seen them all
And You still call me friend
'Cause the God of the mountain
Is the God of the valley
And there's not a place
Your mercy and grace won't find me again

Blessing and Sending Music *Worship Band*

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

Altar Flowers presented to the Glory of God in memory of Rich Lenihan

By Cheryl Lenihan.

Come Unto Me

Chorus

Come unto Me all you who are weary
Come unto Me all you who need rest
Take up My yoke and learn all about Me
And I will give you rest

Verse

Why do you linger
Why do you wait
You carry on without Me
I've always been here
But still you hesitate
I have much in store for you
If only you would

Tag

O and I will give you rest
Yes and I will give you rest

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Bridge

You turn mourning to dancing
You give beauty for ashes
You turn shame into glory
You're the only one who can

Bridge

You turn graves into gardens
You turn bones into armies
You turn seas into highways
You're the only one who can

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