



November 12, 2023

Welcome

Welcome to this service of worship. We invite you to slow down, quiet your heart, and to direct your thoughts to the living God.

Prelude: Christ the True and Better

Christ, the true and better Adam, Son of God and Son of man,
Who, when tempted in the garden, never yielded, never sinned.
He, who makes the many righteous, brings us back to life again;
Dying, He reversed the curse, then rising, crushed the serpent's head.

Christ, the true and better Isaac, humble son of sacrifice,
Who would climb the fearful mountain, there to offer up his life.
Laid with faith upon the altar; Father's joy and only son.
There salvation was provided, oh, what full and boundless love.

Christ, the true and better Moses, called to lead a people home;
Standing bold to earthly powers, God's great glory to be known.
With his arms stretched wide to heaven; See the waters part in two;
See the veil is torn forever, cleansed with blood we pass now through.

Christ, the true and better David, lowly shepherd, mighty king;
He the champion in the battle; where, o death, is now thy sting?
In our place He bled and conquered; crown Him Lord of majesty!
His shall be the throne forever; we shall e'er His people be.

Amen! Amen! From beginning to end, Christ the story, His the glory, Alleluia! Amen!

Call to Worship – Psalm 113:1-6

Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord!

All: Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and forevermore! From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised!

Leader: The Lord is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens!

All: Who is like the Lord our God, who is seated on high, who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?

Hymn: Praise, My Soul, The King of Heaven

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; to His feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, who like me His praise should sing?
Praise Him, praise Him, praise Him, praise Him, praise the everlasting King.

Praise Him for His grace and favor, to our fathers in distress.
Praise Him still the same forever, slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Praise Him, praise Him, praise Him, praise Him, glorious in His faithfulness.

Fatherlike He tends and spares us; well our feeble frame He Knows.
In His hands He gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes.
Praise Him, praise Him, praise Him, praise Him, widely as His mercy goes.

Angels help us to adore Him; ye behold Him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before Him, dwellers all in time and space.
Praise Him, praise Him, praise Him, praise Him, praise with us the God of grace.

Lyrics: Henry Lyte, 1834; Music: Christopher Miner

Prayer of Adoration and Silent Praise

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.

Song of Confession: Nothing but the Blood

What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Chorus

O precious is the flow, that makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know; nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Nothing can for sin atone: nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Naught of good that I have done: nothing but the blood of Jesus. (*Chorus*)

Bridge

Glory, Glory, this I sing; all my praise for this I bring. (repeat)

This is all my hope and peace: nothing but the blood of Jesus.
This is all my righteousness: nothing but the blood of Jesus. (*Chorus*)

Confession of Sin

All: Merciful God, we confess that we have often been blind to your work outside the walls of our local church, our denomination or our tradition. We have assumed that our group alone follows you faithfully. We have looked with skepticism on other Christians who love and serve you. Forgive us for our spiritual pride. Forgive us for believing we have an exclusive hold on your truth and blessing.

Humble us to see you work through many people, churches, and ministries. Expand our hearts to rejoice whenever your Gospel advances, even if we played no role. Make us quick to confess our sins yet slow to accuse others. Forgive us we pray for our many sins and the pride that is so often at the root of them. Amen.

Silent Confession

Word of Encouragement – Hebrews 10:12,14

Leader: But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

All: Thanks be to God!

Hymn: Oh, How Good It Is

Oh, how good it is, when the family of God,
Dwells together in spirit, in faith and unity;
Where the bonds of peace, of acceptance and love
Are the fruit of His presence, here among us.

Chorus

So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord; and with one heart we'll live out His word,
Till the whole earth sees, the Redeemer has come,
For He dwells in the presence of His people.

Oh, how good it is, on this journey we share
To rejoice with the happy, and weep with those who mourn;
For the weak find strength, the afflicted find grace,
When we offer the blessing, of belonging. *(Chorus)*

Oh, how good it is, to embrace His command
To prefer one another, forgive as He forgives;
When we live as one, we all share in the love
Of the Son with the Father, and the Spirit. *(Chorus)*

Children's Recessional

Sermon – Communal Spiritual Pride

Scripture Reading – Mark 9:38-41

³⁸ John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." ³⁹ But Jesus said, "Do not stop him, for no one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. ⁴⁰ For the one who is not against us is for us. ⁴¹ For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will by no means lose his reward.

Figure A.

Luke 10:1 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go.

Figure B.

"Even today that spirit of narrow exclusivism is at times mistaken for loyalty to one's church or denomination. We hear people say, "Our denomination is the purest manifestation of the body of Christ on earth."

William Hendriksen

Figure C.

Numbers 11:29 But Moses said to Joshua, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD's people were prophets, that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!"

Figure D.

John 3:29b-30 John replied, "This joy of mine is now complete. He must increase, but I must decrease."

Figure E.

"Self-righteousness can feed upon doctrines, as well as upon works; and a man may have the heart of a Pharisee, while his head is stored with orthodox notions of the unworthiness of the creature and the riches of free grace."

John Newton, "Letter XIX: On Controversy," *The Works of John Newton, Volume 1* (Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth, 2015), 1: 272-273.

Figure F.

“The condemnation was Thine, that the justification might be mine; the agony Thine, that the victory might be mine; the pain was Thine, and the ease mine; the stripes Thine, and the healing balm issuing from them were mine; the vinegar and gall were Thine, that the honey and sweet issuing from them might be mine; the curse was Thine, that the blessing might be mine; the crown of thorns was Thine, the life purchased by it mine; Thou paidst the price, that I might enjoy the inheritance.”

John Flavel (1627-1691)

Affirmation of Faith – The Creed of Chalcedon (AD 451)

All: Therefore, following the holy fathers, we all with one accord teach men to acknowledge one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, at once complete in Godhead and complete in manhood, truly God and truly man, consisting also of a reasonable soul and body; of one substance with the Father as regards his Godhead, and at the same time of one substance with us as regards his manhood; like us in all respects, apart from sin; as regards his Godhead, begotten of the Father before the ages, but yet as regards his manhood begotten, for us men and for our salvation, of Mary the Virgin, the God-bearer; one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, Only-begotten, recognized in two natures, without confusion, without change, without division, without separation; the distinction of natures being in no way annulled by the union, but rather the characteristics of each nature being preserved and coming together to form one person and subsistence, not as parted or separated into two persons, but one and the same Son and Only-begotten God the Word, Lord Jesus Christ; even as the prophets from earliest times spoke of him, and our Lord Jesus Christ himself taught us, and the creed of the fathers has handed down to us.

The Lord's Table

A prayer for those not partaking:

God of all truth, please enable me to understand you and to understand myself. Amidst the discord and confusion of this world, please open my mind and heart to what's right and pleasing to you. Amen.

Hymn: 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

Benediction

Announcements

- We celebrate the birth of Eric and Debi Hein's grandson, Travis James Hein, born on November 3
- Special request from Patti Proano-Arnaiz of the Germantown food pantry to pack Thanksgiving boxes, Monday, November 20, 1-4pm
- Sunday Morning Prayer, 10:30-10:50, Room 135
- Youth Group, Today, 5-7:30pm, Roberts home
- 2024 Budget Questionnaire due Friday, November 17
- Year-To-Date Giving \$185,646.57, Expenses \$192,826.60
- The Gaithersburg/Clarksburg Community Group will meet on Nov. 12 (Ruffa), Dec. 3 (Hillah), 17 (Routenberg), and Jan. 7 (Weaver)
- Germantown Community Group Nov. 15
- The Rockville/Olney CG will meet on Nov. 17, Dec. 1
- Germantown Food Pantry, Wednesday, Nov. 29, 10-1pm
- Baby Shower for Maddie Ruffa, Saturday, December 9
- Youth Group Christmas Party, Sunday, Dec. 10, Yoon Residence
- Churchwide Christmas Party, Friday, December 15, 5:45-8:45pm
- Diaconate/Mercy Ministry Conference, Saturday, March 16, 10-4pm, McLean Pres
- Nicaraguan Mission Trip, June 2-9, Questions? Ask Jim Crosely, hokiesub@yahoo.com

Greeting One Another