

The Lord's Day

May 16, 2021 at 10:30 AM

We welcome you to worship today. It is a privilege to have you as our guest.

As you join us today, begin to worship quietly with personal prayer.

Please turn off your cell phone and turn your hearts and minds toward God.

We prepare for worship

Take a moment and meditate on this as you prepare for worship...

In an anti-Christian world saturated with lies and deceit, Christians [must] stand out as emblems of truth, honesty, and integrity.

Simon Kistemaker

Prelude

Largo (from Xerxes)

G.F. Handel
Dr. Kenneth Dean

Aisquith Life and Opportunities

Pastor Bell

We praise our great God

Call to Worship

Psalms 125:1-2 (ESV)

¹ Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

² As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds his people, from this time forth and forevermore.

Hymn No. 345

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

Austrian Hymn

Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God;
He whose word cannot be broken formed thee for his own abode;
On the Rock of Ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

See, the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters, and all fear of want remove:
Who can faint, while such a river ever flows their thirst t'assuage?
Grace which, like the Lord, the giver, never fails from age to age.

Round each habitation hov'ring, see the cloud and fire appear
For a glory and a cov'ring, showing that the Lord is near:
Thus deriving from their banner light by night and shade by day,
Safe they feed upon the manna which he gives them when they pray.

Savior, if of Zion's city I, through grace, a member am,
Let the world deride or pity, I will glory in thy name:
Fading is the worldling's pleasure, all his boasted pomp and show;
Solid joys and lasting treasure none but Zion's children know.

Invocation

We embrace Christ our Savior

Psalter Reading (**responsive**)

Psalms 32 (ESV)

¹ Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

² **Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

³ For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

⁴ **For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

⁵ I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity;

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

⁶ Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found;
surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.

⁷ You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸ **I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.**

⁹ Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you.

¹⁰ **Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the Lord.**

¹¹ Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

Assurance of Pardon

1 Peter 2:22-25 (ESV)

²² He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³ When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Confession of Faith (**unison**)

Westminster Larger Catechism, Question 70

Q. What is Justification?

A. **Justification is an act of God's free grace unto sinners, in which he pardons all [our] sins, accepts and accounts [us] righteous in his sight; not for any wrought in [me], or done by [me], but only for the perfect obedience and full satisfaction of Christ, by God imputed to [me], and received by faith alone.**

Hymn No. 520

Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

Germany

Jesus, thy blood and righteousness my beauty are, my glorious dress;
'midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed, with joy shall I lift up my head.

Bold shall I stand in thy great day; for who aught to my charge shall lay?
Fully absolved through these I am from sin and fear, from guilt and shame.

When from the dust of death I rise to claim my mansion in the skies,
ev'n then this shall be all by plea, Jesus hath lived, hath died, for me.

Jesus, be endless praise to thee, whose boundless mercy hath for me—
For me a full atonement made, an everlasting ransom paid.

O let the dead now hear thy voice; now bid thy banished ones rejoice;
Their beauty this, their glorious dress, Jesus, thy blood and righteousness.

The Prayers of God's People and the Lord's Prayer (**in unison**)

We respond in gratitude for God's blessing

The Doxology (Hymnal, pg. 731) and Prayer of Dedication

The Offertory

Meditation (from Thais)

Massenet

We hear God speak

Scripture Reading

Revelation 14:1-5 (ESV)

¹ Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. ² And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, ³ and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. ⁴ It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb, ⁵ and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.

Sermon

“A True Mega-Church”

Pastor Ceselsky

We respond to God's grace

Hymn No. 701

Redeemed, How I Love to Proclaim It!

Ada

Redeemed, how I love to proclaim it! Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;
Redeemed thro' his infinite mercy, his child, and forever, I am.

**Redeemed, redeemed, redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;
Redeemed thro' his infinite mercy, his child, and forever, I am.**

Redeemed and so happy in Jesus, no language my rapture can tell;
I know that the light of his presence with me doth continually dwell.

I think of my blessed Redeemer, I think of him all the day long;
I sing, for I cannot be silent; his love is the theme of my song.

Benediction and Three-Fold Amen (**Hymnal, pg 740**)

Danish

Postlude

Variations on Nettleton: Come, Thou Fount

Hustad

We welcome Dr. Kenneth Dean as our organist today.

Cover art by Gwen Cicone.

Rafiki and Refreshments: John & Gwen Cicone would like to invite you for light refreshments and a short presentation about the work of the Rafiki foundation after worship on June 6th. There will be a time for your questions and products from the Widow's Exchange.