

The Lord's Day

May 23, 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...

Your hope is not in your ability to love God, but in his unrelenting and unshakable love for you. **Paul David Tripp**

Prelude Mrs. Wendy Wickham

Aisquith Life and Opportunities Pastor Ceselsky

We praise our great God

Call to Worship Psalm 95:1-3, 6, 7 (ESV)

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise. For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Hymn No. 94 *How Firm a Foundation* Traditional American Melody

How firm a foundation you saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

“Fear not, I am with you. O be not dismayed; for I am your God, and will still give you aid;
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand, upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

“When through the deep waters I call you to go, the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
For I will be with you, your troubles to bless, and sanctify to you your deepest distress.

When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie, My grace all sufficient, shall be your supply;
The flame shall not hurt you; I only design your dross to consume and your gold to refine.

“E’en down to old age all my people shall prove my sovereign, eternal, unchangeable love;
and when hoary hairs shall their temples adorn, like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne.

The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose, I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I’ll never, no never, no never forsake.”

Invocation

We embrace Christ our Savior

Psalter Reading (responsive)

Psalm 31:15-24 (ESV)

¹⁵ My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors!

¹⁶ **Make your face shine on your servant; save me in your steadfast love!**

¹⁷ O LORD, let me not be put to shame, for I call upon you; let the wicked be put to shame; let them go silently to Sheol.

¹⁸ **Let the lying lips be mute, which speak insolently against the righteous in pride and contempt.**

¹⁹ Oh, how abundant is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you and worked for those who take refuge in you, in the sight of the children of mankind!

²⁰ **In the cover of your presence you hide them from the plots of men; you store them in your shelter from the strife of tongues.**

²¹ Blessed be the LORD, for he has wondrously shown his steadfast love to me when I was in a besieged city.

²² **I had said in my alarm, “I am cut off from your sight.” But you heard the voice of my pleas for mercy when I cried to you for help.**

²³ Love the LORD, all you his saints! The LORD preserves the faithful but abundantly repays the one who acts in pride.

²⁴ **Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the LORD!**

Assurance of Pardon

1 Peter 4:12-19 (ESV)

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. ¹⁶ Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. ¹⁷ For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ And “If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?” ¹⁹ Therefore let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

Confession of Faith (unison)

Westminster Larger Catechism, Q. 81

Are all true believers at all times assured that they are presently in the estate of grace, and that they shall be saved? **Assurance of grace and salvation not being of the essence of faith, true believers may wait long before they obtain it; and, after the enjoyment thereof, may have it weakened and intermitted, through manifold distempers, sins, temptations, and desertions; yet are they never left without such a presence and support of the Spirit of God as keeps them from sinking into utter despair.**

Hymn No. 691

It Is Well with My Soul

Ville Du Havre

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, “It is well, it is well with my soul.”

It is well with my soul; it is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, let this blest assurance control,

That Christ has regarded my helpless estate, and has shed his own blood for my soul.

My sin—O the bliss of this glorious thought!—my sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more; praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

O Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend, “Even so”—it is well with my soul.

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

We hear God speak

Scripture Reading

Psalm 31 (ESV)

¹ In you, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me!

² Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily! Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me!

³ For you are my rock and my fortress; and for your name’s sake you lead me and guide me;

⁴ you take me out of the net they have hidden for me, for you are my refuge.

⁵ **Into your hand I commit my spirit;** you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

⁶ I hate those who pay regard to worthless idols, but I trust in the LORD.

⁷ I will rejoice and be glad in your steadfast love, because you have seen my affliction; you have known the distress of my soul,

⁸ and you have not delivered me into the hand of the enemy; you have set my feet in a broad place.

⁹ Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress; my eye is wasted from grief; my soul and my body also.

¹⁰ For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing; my strength fails because of my iniquity, and my bones waste away.

¹¹ Because of all my adversaries I have become a reproach, especially to my neighbors, and an object of dread to my acquaintances; those who see me in the street flee from me.

¹² I have been forgotten like one who is dead; I have become like a broken vessel.

¹³ For I hear the whispering of many—terror on every side!—as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life.

¹⁴ But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, “You are my God.”

Sermon

“Safe in the Hand of God”

Pastor Bell

We respond to God’s grace

Hymn No. 619

A Shelter in the Time of Storm

Sankey

The Lord’s our rock, in him we hide, a shelter in the time of storm,
Secure whatever ill betide, a shelter in the time of storm.

***Oh, Jesus is a rock in a weary land, a weary land, a weary land;
Oh, Jesus is a rock in a weary land, a shelter in the time of storm.***

A shade by day, defense by night, a shelter in the time of storm;

No fears alarm, no foes affright, a shelter in the time of storm.

The raging storms may round us beat, a shelter in the time of storm;
We'll never leave our safe retreat, a shelter in the time of storm.

O Rock divine, O Refuge dear, a shelter in the time of storm;
Be thou our helper ever near, a shelter in the time of storm.

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

Danish

Postlude

We welcome Mrs. Wendy Wickham as our organist today.

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.

A NEW Photo-Directory is coming. Beginning next Sunday, Pastor Ceselsky will begin reviewing information and taking family pictures for the directory. We would really like to have 100% participation.