

WORSHIP OF THE LIVING GOD

November 7, 2021

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements Dee Hammond, Pastor of Missions and Outreach

The Song of Ascent *God's people sang together as they gathered and traveled together up to Jerusalem to worship God.*

Congregation

Come, people of the Risen King, Who delight to bring Him praise;
Come all and tune your hearts to sing To the Morning Star of grace.
From the shifting shadows of the earth We will lift our eyes to Him,
Where steady arms of mercy reach To gather children in.

Refrain: *Rejoice, Rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice; O Church of Christ, rejoice!*

Come, those whose joy is morning sun, And those weeping through the night;
Come, those who tell of battles won, And those struggling in the fight.
For His perfect love will never change, And His mercies never cease,
But follow us through all our days With the certain hope of peace.

Come, young and old from every land Men and women of the faith;
Come, those with full or empty hands— Find the riches of His grace.
Over all the world, His people sing—Shore to shore we hear them call
The Truth that cries through every age: “Our God is all in all!”
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ADORATION OF GOD

Call to Worship:

I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth... .
³ Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together!
—Psalm 34.1,3

Quieting of Hearts, Confession of Sin and Invocation

Declaration of Truth: (Unison)

Revelation 6.9-11

When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. They cried out with a loud voice, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.

Hymn of Praise

All Hail the Power

All hail the power of Jesus' Name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem, And crown him Lord of all:
Bring forth the royal diadem, And crown him Lord of all.

Crown him, ye martyrs of your God Who from his altar call;
Extol the Stem of Jesse's rod, And crown him Lord of all:
Extol the Stem of Jesse's rod, And crown him Lord of all.

Ye seed of Israel's chosen race, Ye ransomed of the fall,
Hail him who saves you by his grace, And crown him Lord of all:
Hail him who saves you by his grace, And crown him Lord of all.

Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget The wormwood and the gall,
Go spread your trophies at his feet, And crown him Lord of all:
Go spread your trophies at his feet, And crown him Lord of all.

Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe, On this terrestrial ball,
To him all majesty ascribe, And crown him Lord of all:
To him all majesty ascribe, And crown him Lord of all.

O that with yonder sacred throng We at his feet may fall;
We'll join the everlasting song, And crown him Lord of all:
We'll join the everlasting song, And crown him Lord of all.

CMPC MISSION AND FAMILY LIFE

Sacrament of Covenant Baptism

Given to Hannah Reagan Bodin, daughter of John and Allison Bodin

Mission Moment The Persecuted Church

Pastoral Prayer

OUR GIFTS TO GOD

The Gift of Music

Receiving God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Hymn of Testimony *The Church's One Foundation*

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation by water and the Word.
From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth;
her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder men see her sore oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

The church shall never perish! Her dear Lord to defend,
To guide, sustain and cherish Is with her to the end;
Though there be those that hate her, And false sons in her pale,
Against or foe or traitor She ever shall prevail.

Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore;
till, with the vision glorious, her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

Reading of God's Word

Psalm 35

Contend, O Lord, with those who contend with me; fight against those who fight against me! ²Take hold of shield and buckler and rise for my help! ³Draw the spear and javelin against my pursuers! Say to my soul, "I am your salvation!" ⁴Let them be put to shame and dishonor who seek after my life! Let them be turned back and disappointed who devise evil against me! ⁵Let them be like chaff before the wind, with the angel of the Lord driving them away! ⁶Let their way be dark and slippery, with the angel of the Lord pursuing them! ⁷For without cause they hid their net for me; without cause they dug a pit for my life. ⁸Let destruction come upon him when he does not know it! And let the net that he hid ensnare him; let him fall into it—to his destruction! ⁹Then my soul will rejoice in the Lord, exulting in his salvation. ¹⁰All my bones shall say, "O Lord, who is like you, delivering the poor from him who is too strong for him, the poor and needy from him who robs him?" ¹¹Malicious witnesses rise up; they ask me of things that I do not know. ¹²They repay me evil for good; my soul is bereft. ¹³But I, when they were sick— I wore sackcloth; I afflicted myself with fasting; I prayed with head bowed on my chest. ¹⁴I went about as though I grieved for my friend or my brother; as one who laments his mother, I bowed down in mourning. ¹⁵But at my stumbling they rejoiced and gathered; they gathered together against me; wretches whom I did not know tore at me without ceasing; ¹⁶like profane mockers at a feast, they gnash at me with their teeth. ¹⁷How long, O Lord, will you look on? Rescue me from their destruction, my precious life from the lions! ¹⁸I will thank you in the great congregation; in the mighty throng I will praise you. ¹⁹Let not those rejoice over me who are wrongfully my foes, and let not those wink the eye who hate me without cause. ²⁰For they do not speak peace, but against those who are quiet in the land they devise words of deceit. ²¹They open wide their mouths against me; they say, "Aha, Aha! Our eyes have seen it!" ²²You have seen, O Lord; be not silent! O Lord, be not far from me! ²³Awake and rouse yourself for my vindication, for my cause, my God and my Lord! ²⁴Vindicate me, O Lord, my God, according to your righteousness, and let them not rejoice over me! ²⁵Let them not say in their hearts, "Aha, our heart's desire!" Let them not say, "We have swallowed him up." ²⁶Let them be put to shame and disappointed altogether who rejoice at my calamity! Let them be clothed with shame and dishonor who magnify themselves against me! ²⁷Let those who delight in my righteousness shout for joy and be glad and say evermore, "Great is the Lord, who delights in the welfare of his servant!" ²⁸Then my tongue shall tell of your righteousness and of your praise all the day long.

All: The grass withers, the flowers fade, but the word of our God will stand forever.

Prayer of Illumination

Sermon

"How Long?"
Series: Timeless Questions from the Psalms

Pastor John

OUR RESPONSE

Prayer of Application

Hymn of Response *It is Well With My Soul*

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

Refrain:

*It is well (It is well) with my soul (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 Benediction and Threefold Amen



Chestnut Mountain Presbyterian, PCA
cmpca.org
CMPC Sermon Notes for November 7, 2021

- *Series- Timeless Questions from the Psalms*
- *Message: "How Long?"*
- *Text: Psalm 35*

- You noticed that this psalm is what we call an imprecatory psalm
- Imprecatory psalms are asking God for justice- and sometimes that is filled in this lifetime. But more often the justice we long to see brought to bear on those who oppose God and God's agenda is not visible until Jesus comes again.
- David will also show compassion for them

Plea to God, 1-3

- Specific request in verse 3

Physical Distress, 4-8

- Military language
- The Angel of the Lord- only here and in Psalm 34 in the psalms, cf. Psalm 34.7
- Caught in their own devices

Anticipation of God's deliverance, 9-10

- The great question: who is like you?
- A God who gets involved in our lives
- Anticipates Jesus

Slander, 11-12

- The world's actions
- Malicious witnesses- lies old about God's people.

David's Compassion for the World, 13-14

- Our heartfelt compassion for our persecutors

The Hatred of the World, 15-16

The Plea, Verse 17

The Promise, Verse 18

The Opposition, 19-21

- Hate
- Being mocked in suffering
- Without cause- Jesus cites this verse, cf. John 15.25

The Prayer, 22-26

- An assurance they will be vindicated
- God is the God who sees

The Church, 27-28

- Praise has been waiting to break through. (note verses 9f and 18 which also point towards hope).
- David remembers what Elijah overlooked in a similar situation- that he has friends as well as enemies; “a mighty throng of them” verse 18, whose desire, like the Lord’s delight (27) - is only for his good.
- That’s the role we play as the church.

So What About Us?

- The most amazing thing about martyrs and those persecuted for their faith is that we see the power of the cross- the amazing peace God gives to those who suffer for their faith.
- We tend to focus on the physical enemies that we see... but the real battle is a spiritual one against Satan.
- We forget that persecution is the norm for Christians; the fact though we experience no real persecution is the anomaly.
- We must pray for those who are suffering; they must know that we care. Together we are the body of Christ.
- We forget the wonder of the cross- that God forgives sinners just like us- and therefore we must forgive those who persecute us.
- The answer to how long... is some day in God’s perfect timing.
- Come quickly, Lord Jesus.