

A SERVICE OF THE WORD

January 10, 2021

The Welcome & Announcements

The Prelude & Silent Preparation

-THE LORD CALLS US TO WORSHIP-

The Call to Worship

Psalm 95:1-2

¹ Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
² Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

The Salutation

Zephaniah 3:17

¹⁷ The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing...

The Invocation & Prayer of Praise

-THE LORD ASSURES US OF HIS FORGIVENESS-

The Call to Confession

Psalm 86:5

For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.

The Confession of Sin

Silent Prayers of Confession

General Prayer of Confession

Leader:

To you, O Lord, We lift up our souls, O our God, in you we trust; let us not be put to shame. Remember your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Remember not the sins of our youth or our transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember us, for the sake of your goodness, O Lord! For your name's sake, O Lord, pardon our guilt, for it is great. Turn to us and be gracious to us, for we are lonely and afflicted. The troubles of our hearts are enlarged; bring us out of our distress. Consider our affliction and our trouble, and forgive all our sins. In the name of Christ our Lord we pray, Amen. (*From Psalm 25*)

The Assurance of Pardon

2 Corinthians 5:21

²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Psalm #34C

Through All the Changing Scenes of Life

1. Through all the changing scenes of life,
in trouble and in joy,
the praises of my God shall still
my heart and tongue employ.
2. Of his deliv'rance I will boast,
till all that are distressed
from my example comfort take,
and charm their griefs to rest.
3. Oh, magnify the Lord with me;
with me exalt his name;
when in distress to him I called,
he to my rescue came.
4. The hosts of God encamp around
the dwellings of the just;
deliv'rance he affords to all
who on his succor trust.
5. Oh, make but trial of his love,
experience will decide
how blest they are, and only they,
who in his truth confide.
6. Fear him, ye saints, and you will then
have nothing else to fear:
make you his service your delight;
your wants shall be his care.

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The Prayer of the Church

Lamentations 3:22-23

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

-THE LORD INSTRUCTS US FROM HIS WORD-

The Old Testament Reading

Psalm 34 (ESV)

Of David, when he changed his behavior before Abimelech, so that he drove him out, and he went away.

¹ I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. ² My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad. ³ Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together! ⁴ I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. ⁵ Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed. ⁶ This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him and saved him out of all his troubles. ⁷ The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. ⁸ Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! ⁹ Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack! ¹⁰ The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing. ¹¹ Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. ¹² What man is there who desires life and loves many days, that he may see good?

¹³Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. ¹⁴Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. ¹⁵The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry. ¹⁶The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth. ¹⁷When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. ¹⁸The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. ¹⁹Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all. ²⁰He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken. ²¹Affliction will slay the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be condemned. ²²The LORD redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

The New Testament Reading

James 4 (ESV)

¹What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? ²You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. ⁴You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? ⁶But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

The Sermon

Elder John Lindley

The Mind of Christ

Philippians 2:1-11

¹ So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant,^[a] being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Hymn #488

May the Mind of Christ My Savior

1. May the mind of Christ, my Savior,
live in me from day to day,
by his love and pow'r controlling
all I do and say.
2. May the Word of God dwell richly
in my heart from hour to hour,
so that all may see I triumph
only through his pow'r.

3. May the peace of God my Father
rule my life in ev'rything,
that I may be calm to comfort
sick and sorrowing.

4. May the love of Jesus fill me
as the waters fill the sea;
him exalting, self-abasing:
this is victory.

5. May I run the race before me,
strong and brave to face the foe,
looking only unto Jesus
as I onward go.

6. May his beauty rest upon me
as I seek the lost to win,
and may they forget the channel,
seeing only him.

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The Confession of Faith
The Belgic Confession; Article 22

Unison:

We justly say with Paul, that we are justified by faith alone, or by faith without works. However, to speak more clearly, we do not mean that faith itself justifies us, for it is only an instrument with which we embrace Christ our Righteousness. But Jesus Christ, imputing to us all his merits and so many holy works which he has done for us and in our stead, is our Righteousness. And faith is an instrument that keeps us in communion with him in all his benefits, which, when they become ours, are more than sufficient to acquit us of our sins.

-THE LORD DISMISSES US TO HIS SERVICE-

The Closing Prayer

The Doxology #562 - Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

1. Lord, dismiss us with your blessing;
fill our hearts with joy and peace.
Let us each, your love possessing,
triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us, O refresh us,
Trav'ling through this wilderness

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NOTE: All scripture quotations taken from the ESV (English Standard Version of the Bible)