

## WORSHIP OF THE LIVING GOD

April 25, 2021

### GATHERING TO WORSHIP

#### Prelude

*Please silence all phones and electronic devices  
as we prepare to worship our great God.*

#### Welcome and Announcements

Dee Hammond, Pastor of Missions & Outreach

#### The Song of Ascent

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

#### Congregation

*Our God Reigns*

How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him  
Who brings good news, good news  
Announcing peace, proclaiming news of happiness.  
Our God reigns; our God reigns!

Refrain: *Our God reigns; our God reigns! x2*

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### ADORATION OF GOD

**Call to Worship:** Our Lord Jesus Christ... is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen. —I Timothy 6.15-16

### Quieting of Hearts, Confession of Sin and Invocation

#### Declaring Our Faith:

Leader: What do we mean when we say God is sovereign?

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#### All:

God is sovereign over the whole world, and everything that happens in it.  
This means God rules over everything.  
There are no limits to God's rule.  
Being sovereign is part of what it means to be God.  
God is never helpless, never frustrated, never at a loss.  
Whenever God acts, he acts in a way that pleases him.  
God is never constrained to do a thing that he despises.  
God is never backed into a corner where his only recourse is to do something he hates to do.  
God does whatever he pleases.  
In Christ, God's awesome, sovereign providence is the place we feel most reverent, most secure, most free.

**Hymn of Praise**                      *Behold Our God*

Who has held the oceans in His hands?  
Who has numbered every grain of sand?  
Kings and nations tremble at His voice  
All creation rises to rejoice

Chorus:

*Behold our God seated on His throne  
Come, let us adore Him  
Behold our King—nothing can compare  
Come, let us adore Him*

Who has given counsel to the Lord?  
Who can question any of His words?  
Who can teach the One who knows all things?  
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds?

Who has felt the nails upon His hands?  
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man  
God eternal, humbled to the grave  
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign

(Men) You will reign forever

(Women) Let Your glory fill the earth

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**CMPC MISSION AND FAMILY LIFE**

**Mission Moment**

*The Gideon Ministry*

Stanley Wright

**Pastoral Prayer**

**OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

**Gift of Music**

**Receiving God's Tithes and Our Offerings**

*The Doxology*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below.  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Hymn of Testimony**     *Our God Almighty is Sovereign Still!*  
(Children ages three through first grade may be escorted to Children's Church)

Amid the fears that oppress our day,  
across the clouds that obscure our way,  
one golden truth sheds its shining ray —  
our God almighty is sov-ereign still!

Refrain:

*Pow'r, Pow'r, God's pow'r.*

*His holy purpose unchanging stands,*

*Pow'r, Pow'r, God's pow'r.*

*He holds the world in his mighty hands.*

Though wars may rise, and though kingdoms fall,  
though ills may threat- en, and fears enthrall,  
our God still lives, and he hears our call —  
our God almighty is sov-ereign still!

Though fierce the fight 'gainst the hosts of wrong,  
his Word is sure, and his arm is strong;  
the day is his: raise his tri-umph song —  
our God almighty is sov-ereign still!  
When Christ shall come to receive his own,  
His kingdom come, his pow-er, his throne,  
eternal King he shall reign alone —  
our God almighty is sov-ereign still!

**PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD**

**Reading of God's Word**

Genesis 18.9-15

They said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "She is in the tent. The LORD said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. <sup>11</sup> Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah. <sup>12</sup> So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?" <sup>13</sup> The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' <sup>14</sup> Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son." <sup>15</sup> But Sarah denied it, saying, "I did not laugh," for she was afraid. He said, "No, but you did laugh."

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

**Prayer of Illumination**

**Sermon**

*"The Sovereignty of God.... Everyday Life"*

Pastor John

Series- Abraham & Sarah: Walking By Faith—Genesis 12-25

**OUR RESPONSE**

**Prayer of Application**

**Hymn of Response***What Grace is Mine*

What grace is mine that He who dwells in endless light  
Called through the night to find my distant soul  
And from his scars poured mercy that would plead for me  
That I might live and in his name be known

Refrain: *So I will go wherever He is calling me*

*I lose my life to find my life in Him*

*I give my all to gain the hope that never dies*

*I bow my heart, take up my cross and follow Him*

What grace is mine to know His breath alive in me  
Beneath his wings my wakened soul may soar  
All fear can flee for death's dark night is overcome  
My Savior lives and reigns forevermore

**The Benediction and Threefold Amen**



**Chestnut Mountain Presbyterian, PCA**  
**cmpca.org**  
**CMPC Sermon Notes for April 25, 2021**

**Pastor John Batusic**

**Message:** *The Sovereignty of God.... Everyday Life*

**Text:** Genesis 18.9-15

### **God Knows Who You Are**

God's question

A socially inappropriate question

Knows her new name

Reveals purpose of the visit

### **God Has a Plan**

Big announcement

This time next year

Eavesdropping

### **God has Power to Carry Out His Plan**

Sarah's question

The reality of old age

Sarah's laughter

Inappropriate

Secretive

### **God Knows What You are Doing in Secret**

God knows about Sarah's laughter

God's question

Abraham does not...

God knows about Sarah's doubts

### **God Knows How to Challenge Your Faith**

God's question: Is anything too hard for the Lord?

God wants us to wrestle with theological truth

Promise reaffirmed

### **God Knows How to Humble Us**

Sarah's denial

Sarah's fear

God's rebuke

Awkward ending

Sarah left to grapple

### **God Knows How to Grow Our Faith**

Sarah shows us walking by faith

Thought process

Not faith in faith

Sarah had a concrete promise

Faith in the God who made the promise  
Faith explodes when we come to grips with the Sovereignty of God  
Hebrews 11.11

***So What About Us?***

Do we believe God is sovereign?  
Is anything too hard for the Lord?

Faith

Prayer

Hope

Great Commission

Country

Personal circumstances