

WORSHIP OF THE LIVING GOD

September 6, 2020

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor John

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

Congregation *Oh Father, You Are Sovereign*
O Father, You are sovereign In all the worlds You made;
Your mighty Word was spoken, And light and life obeyed.
Your voice commands the seasons And bounds the ocean's shore,
Sets stars within their courses And stills the tempests' roar.

O Father, You are sovereign In all affairs of man;
No powers of death or darkness Can thwart Your perfect plan.
All chance and change transcending, Supreme in time and space,
You hold your trusting children Secure in Your embrace.

O Father, You are sovereign The Lord of human pain,
Transmuting earthly sorrows To gold of heavenly gain,
All evil overruling, As none but Conqueror could,
Your love pursues its purpose— Our souls' eternal good.

O Father, You are sovereign! We see You dimly now,
But soon before Your triumph Earth's every knee shall bow.
With this glad hope before us Our faith springs forth anew:
Our Sovereign Lord and Savior, We trust and worship You!

ADORATION OF GOD

Call to Worship: Isaiah 43.1-3:

Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned; and the flame shall not consume you.

For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

Quieting of Hearts, Confession of Sin and Invocation

Declaration of Truth:

Hebrews 3.13-14; 6.11-12; 10.35-36:

But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.

And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end, Amen, Amen.

The Gloria Patri's first line was sung in the church as early as the 2nd century to affirm that God is Triune. The second line was added in the 4th century to emphasize the eternal Deity of Jesus, refuting the Arian heresy that Jesus was not eternally God.

Hymns of Praise

O Great God

O great God of highest heav'n, occupy my lowly heart.
Own it all and reign supreme, conquer every rebel pow'r.
Let no vice or sin remain that resist Your holy war.
You have loved and purchased me, make me Yours forevermore.

I was blinded by my sin, had no ears to hear Your voice,
Did not know Your love within, had no taste for heaven's joys.
Then Your Spirit gave me life, opened up Your Word to me,
Through the gospel of Your Son, gave me endless hope and peace.

Help me now to live a life that's dependent on Your grace.
Keep my heart and guard my soul from the evils that I face.
You are worthy to be praised with my every thought and deed.
O great God of highest heav'n, glorify Your Name through me.

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be.

Refrain: *Great is Thy faithfulness! (2)*
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

CMPC MISSION AND FAMILY LIFE

Mission Moment

Pastoral Prayer

OUR GIFTS TO GOD

The Gift of Music He Will Hold Me Fast

Receiving God's Tithes and Our Offering

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 *O Church Arise*

O church, arise and put your armor on; Hear the call of Christ our captain;
For now the weak can say that they are strong In the strength that God has given.
With shield of faith and belt of truth We'll stand against the devil's lies;
An army bold whose battle cry is "Love!" Reaching out to those in darkness.

Our call to war, to love the captive soul, But to rage against the captor;
And with the sword that makes the wounded whole We will fight with faith and valor.
When faced with trials on ev'ry side, We know the outcome is secure,
And Christ will have the prize for which He died—An inheritance of nations.

Come, see the cross where love and mercy meet, As the Son of God is stricken;
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet, For the Conqueror has risen!
And as the stone is rolled away, And Christ emerges from the grave,
This vict'ry march continues till the day Ev'ry eye and heart shall see Him.

So Spirit, come, put strength in ev'ry stride, Give grace for ev'ry hurdle,
That we may run with faith to win the prize Of a servant good and faithful.
As saints of old still line the way, Retelling triumphs of His grace,
We hear their calls and hunger for the day When, with Christ, we stand in glory.

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PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

Reading of God's Word

Psalm 129

Greatly have they afflicted me from my youth"

— let Israel now say—

²"Greatly have they afflicted me from my youth,

yet they have not prevailed against me.

³The plowers plowed upon my back;

they made long their furrows.”

⁴The LORD is righteous; he has cut the cords of the wicked.

⁵May all who hate Zion be put to shame and turned backward!

⁶Let them be like the grass on the housetops,

which withers before it grows up,

⁷with which the reaper does not fill his hand

nor the binder of sheaves his arms,

⁸nor do those who pass by say,

The blessing of the LORD be upon you!

We bless you in the name of the LORD!”

Prayer of Illumination

Sermon

We Need Endurance *Dee Hammond, Pastor of Missions and Evangelism*

OUR RESPONSE

Prayer of Application

Hymn of Response *On Jordan’s Stormy Banks*

On Jordan’s stormy banks I stand,
And cast a wishful eye
To Canaan’s fair and happy land,
Where my possessions lie.

All o’er those wide extended plains,
Shines one eternal day;
There God the Son forever reigns,
And scatters night away.

Chorus: *I am bound (I am bound)*
I am bound (I am bound)
I am bound for promised land,
I am bound (I am bound)
I am bound (I am bound)
I am bound for promised land.

No chilling winds nor poisonous breath
Can reach that healthful shore;
Sickness, sorrow, pain and death,
Are felt and feared no more.(Repeat chorus)

When shall I reach that happy place,
And be forever blessed?
When shall I see my Father’s face,
And in His bosom rest?(Repeat chorus)

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The Benediction and Threefold Amen



Chestnut Mountain Presbyterian, PCA

cmpca.org

CMPC Sermon Notes for September 6, 2020

Message: *"We Need Endurance" (Psalm 129)*

Pastor Dee Hammond

- Making our way in the world today takes everything we've got
 - Interesting, disturbing, or a train wreck?
 - A glimpse into 2020 for the people of God (2 Corinthians 4.8-10)
 - We need endurance to run (or walk) the Amazing Race of the Christian life

- The Context – Why did God give us Psalm 129?
 - The Songs of Ascent (120-134)
 - Ascending – a physical journey & a spiritual journey
 - Psalm 120.5-7 – the people of God long for peace, but they dwell in places of war
 - A recalibration for those who live for God

- ***We Need Endurance When the Wicked Won't Let Up*** (vs. 1-2)
 - Remembering the past – just surviving
 - Israel with grey hair
 - We currently live in a world that is increasingly growing hostile against us
 - Persecuted, but protected... let us count the ways
 - Today we have the promise of 2 Timothy 3.12
 - Our afflictions – tortured long and hard (vs. 3)
 - They have NOT prevailed against us!

- ***We Need Endurance to Trust The Lord*** (vs. 5-8)
 - Draw the line
 - Deuteronomy 7.6-11; John 15.18-19
 - An Imprecatory psalm? (calling down of divine judgment on the enemies of God)
 - Genesis 12.1-3
 - Can I ride the fence?
 - All who hate Zion
 - Like withered grass & dry land that yields no harvest
 - Without the blessing of the Lord, without the provision of the Lord
 - Cancel Culture?

- We need endurance to trust the Lord to stand as believers in the midst of great persecution, and to bring the wicked to their knees

➤ ***Where We Find the Endurance We Need*** (vs. 4)

- *"The Lord is righteous"*
 - A relationship – He will hold us fast
 - John 16.33
- Not only has God cut the cords of the plow for us, but God has willingly offered His own back, His own Son, to endure His wrath for the sins of the world
 - Isaiah 53.4-6 (this is the gospel of grace!)
 - Our peace, our hope, our endurance