

Preparing Your Heart for Worship

November 17, 2024

“I will be with you: I will not fail you, nor forsake you.”

(Joshua 1:5)

This word to Joshua is often quoted; it is the basis of that New Testament word “He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.” Beloved, a life of warfare is before us, but the Lord of Hosts is with us. Are we called to lead a great but fickle people? This promise guarantees us all the wisdom and prudence that we shall need. Have we to contend with cunning and powerful enemies? Here is strength and valor, prowess and victory. Have we a vast heritage to win? By this sign we shall achieve our purpose; the Lord Himself is with us.

– C.H. Spurgeon

CALL TO WORSHIP

From Isaiah 62:1-5

Pastor: The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give.

People: You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate,

Pastor: but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married.

Together: For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

HYMNS OF PRAISE

“Now Thank We All Our God”

Now thank we all our God
With hearts and hands and voices
Who wondrous things has done
In whom His world rejoices
Who from our mother’s arms
Has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love
And still is ours today

O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us
And keep us in His grace
And guide us when perplexed
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next

All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given
The Son and Him who reigns
With them in highest heaven
The one eternal God
Whom earth and heaven adore
For thus it was is now
And shall be evermore

“One Day (When We All Get to Heaven)”

One day You’ll make ev’rything new Jesus
One day You will bind ev’ry wound
The former things shall all pass away
No more tears

One day You’ll make sense of it all Jesus
One day ev’ry question resolved
Ev’ry anxious thought left behind
No more fear

Chorus:

When we all get to heaven
What a day of rejoicing that will be
When we all see Jesus
We’ll sing and shout the victory

One day we will see face to face Jesus
Is there a greater vision of grace
And in a moment we shall be changed
On that day

And one day we’ll be free free indeed Jesus
One day all this struggle will cease
And we will see Your glory revealed
On that day (Chorus 2x)

Yes one day we will see face to face Jesus
Is there a greater vision of grace
And in a moment we shall be changed
Yes in a moment we shall be changed
In a moment we shall be changed
On that day (Chorus)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Because Jesus Christ died in your place,
for your sins, you are forgiven.

People: Hallelujah! Praise God!

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

*Children ages 3 through 4th grade dismiss with their
teachers for Sunday school. They will return at the end
of the service.*

OFFERTORY

*Prayer cards are located in the pews. If you'd like our
prayer team to pray for you, please fill out a card and
drop it in the offering plate.*

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

“Grace Greater Than Our Sin”

Marvellous grace of our loving Lord
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt
Yonder on Calvary’s mount outpoured
There where the blood of the Lamb was spilt

Chorus:

Grace, grace, God’s grace
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within
Grace, grace, God’s grace
Grace that is greater than all our sin

Sin and despair like the sea waves cold
Threaten the soul with infinite loss
Grace that is greater, yes grace untold
Points to the refuge the mighty Cross

Chorus

Dark is the stain that we cannot hide
What can avail to wash it away
Look there is flowing a crimson tide
Whiter than snow you may be today

Chorus

Marvellous infinite matchless grace
Freely bestowed on all who believe
You that are longing to see His face
Will you this moment His grace receive

Chorus

SERMON TEXT

John 5:30-47

30 “I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me. 31 If I alone bear witness about myself, my testimony is not true. 32 There is another who bears witness about me, and I know that the testimony that he bears about me is true. 33 You sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. 34 Not that the testimony that I receive is from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved. 35 He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. 36 But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me. 37 And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen, 38 and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent. 39 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me,

40 yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life. 41 I do not receive glory from people. 42 But I know that you do not have the love of God within you. 43 I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him. 44 How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? 45 Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope. 46 For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. 47 But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?"

Leader: This is the word of the LORD.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON: “Witnesses to the Messiah”

John 5:30-47

Rev. Dr. Alec Flynt

THE LORD'S SUPPER

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

New City Catechism

Q43. What are the sacraments or ordinances?

A. The sacraments or ordinances given by God and instituted by Christ, namely baptism and the Lord's Supper, are visible signs and seals that we are bound together as a community of faith by his death and resurrection. By our use of them the Holy Spirit more fully declares and seals the promises of the gospel to us.

Q44. What is baptism?

A. Baptism is the washing with water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; it signifies and seals our adoption into Christ, our cleansing from sin, and our commitment to belong to the Lord and to his church.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my savior. Amen.

Prayer of Humble Access

I do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in my own goodness, but only in your righteousness credited to me. I am not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose manner is always to show mercy. Grant me, therefore, O Lord, the grace to commune now with Christ by faith, that I may evermore live with him and he in me. Amen.

COMMUNION MUSIC

“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

Chorus

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

Chorus

Bridge:

You will reign forever

Let Your glory fill the earth (Repeat 2x)

You will reign forever

Let Your glory fill...

Chorus 2x

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.

Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done,

on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:

For Thine is the Kingdom,

and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

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. Amen. Amen.

BENEDICTION

STAFF

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THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Sunday, November 17

Evening of Testimony & Fellowship, 5:00-7:00 p.m.
Youth Group, BOYS only, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 19

Crichton Table, 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, November 20

Community Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.
Christmas Decorating, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Thursday, November 21

Alec's Men's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

Friday, November 22

Lanier's Men's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.
New Life Moms Group, 10:00 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Youth Group Boys Only – Boys grades 6-10 join us tonight from 5:00-7:00 while the girls are invited to attend the Women's event. This is our last Youth Group before the holidays.

No Biscuits & Bibles this week – We will be back December 3rd & 4th.

No Catechism Club – We will be back after the holidays!

CovBoys & Girls Bible Club – We will be on break until December 4th.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Eve – Mark your calendars and join us for worship Christmas Eve. Services will be at 3:30 & 5:00. Nursery available for ages three and under.

Christmas Decorating – Please join us in decorating the church for Christmas on Wednesday, November 20th from 9:30-11:30. Contact kitty@covenantpresmobile.org if you are interested in helping.

An Evening of Testimony & Fellowship – Ladies, please join us TONIGHT from 5:00-7:00 in Fellowship Hall for a time of fellowship and testimony from our own Brenda Gross. Refreshments will be served. Invite a friend!

Save-the-Date for RYM this Summer – Middle school Youth camp will be held in Texas August 2-6 and High school camp will be held in Panama City July 8-13.

Youth Christmas Parties – Save the date! Middle school's party is Sunday, December 1st and High school's party is Friday, December 13th. More details to come!

Polar Thang Middle School Winter Retreat – Middle schoolers, registration is open for our Winter Retreat at Twin Lakes Conference Center in Florence, Mississippi on MLK weekend. Visit the website to register.

New Life Moms Group – Moms with babies, join us Friday, November 22 at 10:00!

Golden Age Gathering – Our next gathering is Friday, December 6th from 10:00-11:30. Christmas refreshments will be served. Contact kitty@covenantpresmobile.org with questions.