



September 27, 2020

Prelude *Be Thou My Vision*

Be Thou my Vision O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me save that Thou art
Thou my best thought by day or by night
Waking or sleeping thy presence my light

Be Thou my Wisdom and Thou my true Word
I ever with Thee and Thou with me Lord
Thou my great Father and I Thy true son
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one

Riches I heed not nor man's empty praise
Thou mine inheritance now and always
Thou and Thou only first in my heart
High King of heaven my treasure Thou art

High King of heaven my victory won
May I reach heaven's joys O bright heaven's sun
Heart of my own heart whatever befall
Still be my vision O Ruler of all

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship *from Psalm 98:4-6*

Leader Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

**ALL Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody!**

Leader With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord!

Prelude:

This first song of the service is meant to prepare our minds and hearts for worship. Feel free to sing along or simply meditate as we begin our time worshipping God.

Call to Worship:

We worship because we are called to do so. This call, usually taken from a psalm, is an invitation into the presence of God; to worship and praise him.

Song of Praise

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 for ever wilt be.

Refrain:

"Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!"
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.

Prayer of Adoration (concluding with 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.

Song of Praise:

We enter into God's presence praising him for who he is, and delighting in his desire to be in relationship with us.

Prayer of Adoration:

Praying is essential to worship. As we pray, we begin by adoring God for who he is and what he has done through his son Jesus. We conclude this prayer by reciting together the Lord's Prayer.

Call to Confession *Jeremiah 6:16-17*

¹⁶ Thus says the Lord:

“Stand by the roads, and look,
and ask for the ancient paths,
where the good way is; and walk in it,
and find rest for your souls.

But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’

¹⁷ I set watchmen over you, saying,
‘Pay attention to the sound of the trumpet!’
But they said, ‘We will not pay attention.’

Prayer of Confession (followed by Silent Confession)

Merciful God,
in your gracious presence
we confess our sin and the sin of this world.
We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
Although Christ is among us as our peace,
we are a people divided against ourselves
as we cling to the values of a broken world.
God of grace, help us to admit our sin,
so that as you come to us in mercy,
we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

Assurance of Forgiveness - *Colossians 1:13-14*

¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Call to Confession:

As we praise God, and through the Spirit showing us, we become aware of our own imperfections in light of our perfect God. In love, God calls us to freely and openly confess our sins before him.

Confession of Sin:

Sin is not only something that we've done wrong. Rather, it's a state of being that we're born into, and that we need saving from. It is impossible to conquer sin on our own, or make amends for it by our own actions. Our only hope is to turn to Christ, asking that he forgive and conquer sin for us, and - by grace alone and through faith alone - save us.

Assurance of Forgiveness:

As we confess our sin, God offers us the assurance that, in Jesus, we are forgiven and loved regardless of what we've done in the past. Because of Jesus, we are no longer condemned by our sin, but are brought into new life by the Spirit.

Song of Thanks - *How Deep the Father's Love for Us*

How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure

How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers

It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no power, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection

Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

Song of Thanks: Knowing that we are forgiven,
and knowing that Jesus has reconciled us with
God the Father, we sing with thankful hearts.

Profession of Faith

adapted from the Belgic Confession, 1561, Articles 20-22

LEADER: Christians, what do you believe?

ALL: We believe that Jesus Christ has presented Himself in our behalf before the Father, to appease His wrath, by offering Himself on the tree of the cross, and pouring out His precious blood to purge away our sins. And therefore we always ascribe all the glory to God, humbling ourselves before Him, without presuming to trust in any merit of ours, relying and resting upon the obedience of Christ crucified alone, which becomes ours when we believe in Him. This is sufficient to cover all our iniquities, and to give us confidence in approaching to God; freeing our conscience of fear, terror, and dread.

Sermon - The Glories of Salvation

Central text - 1 Peter 1:10-12

¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, ¹¹ inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. ¹² It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

Profession of Faith:

Either done by a corporate prayer or responsive reading, we - as a church - make use of historical creeds or prayers that summarize the foundational elements of the Christian faith. In short, it is here that we declare what it is we believe.

Sermon:

Though spoken by a person, we are to hear the sermon as God speaking to us. A sermon is a study in God's Word, the announcement of the good news in Christ, and an invitation to apply the truth of God's Word to our daily lives. At Gracehill, our sermons are not generally based on certain themes; rather, we study through individual books of the Bible.

Song of Response - *Amazing Grace*

Amazing grace
How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

Chorus:
My chains are gone
I've been set free
My God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love, Amazing grace

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

The Earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God, Who called me here below
Will be forever mine
Will be forever mine
You are forever mine

Benediction - *Hebrews 13:20-21*

²⁰ Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, ²¹ equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Song of Response:

We sing in response to the hearing of God's faithfulness and love for his people, as revealed in his son Jesus.

Benediction:

As we conclude the service, the benediction is a blessing by God, as found in Scripture, for us individually and as a united church. We take this blessing with us as we - carrying the light of the gospel - go out into a dark world, that others may see the Light.

Doxology

If you'd like to meet to find out more about Gracehill, or ways to get connected, please contact Ben Seneker at: 828.656.3453, or email benseneker@gracehillgr.church; or contact elder Ken Morse at gkmorse60@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Small groups will run until Thanksgiving. They will be offered on Sundays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays and will be studying either 1 Peter (along with the sermon series and provided discussion questions), *"The Gospel-Centered Community"* by Robert Thune and Will Walker, or *"The Prodigal God"* by Tim Keller. We will meet in-person as well as offer a Zoom option. Please email Ben (benseneker@gracehillgr.church) if you are interested or would like to learn more.

Sermon Discussion Questions - 1 Peter 1:10-12

1. How does Peter connect the prophets (and prophecies) of the Old Testament with the lives of the first century Christians? How does Peter show that these Christians - including us - are not just part of the story, but a privileged part of the story?
2. What does it mean to say "salvation is the greatest search and real longing of every human being"?
3. Why do we need a Savior? Or, What is the real problem of this world (and even our own hearts) that needs to be fixed, and how does Jesus accomplish our salvation?
4. "Salvation is for us." What does that mean and what difference does it make in your life to know that?
5. What is Peter's intention when he compares his listeners to what the prophets had seen and what angels had longed to see?

Doxology:

In the Greek - doxologia, a word (logos) of glory (doxa). The doxology is an ancient hymn of praise, and has been part of the worship service in many churches for centuries. It is sung in response to the Lord's abundant grace for us and his church.