Chattanooga Valley Presbyterian Church Order of Worship March 21, 2021

Liturgist: Rob Chaplin | Sermon: Rev. Dennis Louis | Lead Musician: Scott Finch

Meditation: Romans 15:8-13

For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name." And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him." And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Call To Worship: Psalm 33:18-22

L: Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love,

ALL: That he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine.

L: Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.

ALL: For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.

L: Let your steadfast love, O Lord,

ALL: Be upon us, even as we hope in you.

L: This is the Word of the LORD!

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Opening Hymn: O Worship the King | 2

- 1. O worship the King all glorious above, O gratefully sing his pow'r and his love; our shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days, pavilioned in splendour and girded with praise.
- 2. O tell of his might, and sing of his grace, whose robe is the light, whose canopy space. His chariots of wrath the deep thunder-clouds form, and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.
- 3. The earth with its store of wonders untold, Almighty, your pow'r has founded of old; 'stablished it fast by a changeless decree, and round it has cast, like a mantle, the sea.
- 4. Your bountiful care what tongue can recite? It breathes in the air; it shines in the light; it streams from the hills; it descends to the plain; and sweetly distils in the dew and the rain.
- 5. Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail, in you do we trust, nor find you to fail; your mercies, how tender, how firm to the end, our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.
- 6. O measureless Might! Ineffable Love! While angels delight to hymn you above, the humbler creation, though feeble their lays, with true adoration shall lisp to your praise.

Pastoral Prayer Followed by 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, for ever. Amen.

Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

L: Beautiful Savior and coming King, we are weary and our eyes feel dim because of sin. Even in this moment we find it hard to focus and our hearts are filled with restless doubts.

ALL: At times this week we have lived as though we imagined that you will not come again for us. We have placed more importance on the things that can be seen than what you have called us to accept with the eyes of faith.

L: We run to caffeine instead of Christ for relief. We are drawn to cope using too much sleep rather than finding our comfort in your Holy Spirit. We run toward food for stability in place of our faithful Father.

ALL: We delight in the sense of belonging we feel in our temporal relationships, our families, our favorite people more than being secure in our eternal Redeemer.

L: We dare to feel important because of our daily efforts rather than standing in awe in light of your Wondrous Cross. We feel so needy because we are. And yet, we know that your Word declares that we do not remotely fathom our need as we should.

ALL: Teach us in this hour to depend more fully on You, because, You, O God, are rich in mercy and compassion. You have declared that you will forgive us as dear children and will not cast out any bruised reed for the sake of Your Holy Name.

L: You have said that you are faithful and will cleanse us from all unrighteousness. So here we are again asking in faith for more grace, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

(time of silent confession)

L: You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. *Romans 5:6-8*

Song of Preparation: All I Have Is Christ

- 1. I once was lost in darkest night, yet thought I knew the way. The sin that promised joy and life had led me to the grave. I had no hope that you would own a rebel to your will, and if you had not loved me first I would refuse you still.
- 2. But as I ran my hell-bound race, indifferent to the cost, you looked upon my helpless state and led me to the cross. And I beheld God's love displayed; you suffered in my place. You bore the wrath reserved for me; now all I know is grace.

Refrain: Hallelujah! All I have is Christ. Hallelujah! Jesus is my life. Hallelujah! All I have is Christ. Hallelujah! Jesus is my life.

3. Now, Lord, I would be yours alone and live so all might see. The strength to follow your commands could never come from me. O Father, use my ransomed life in any way you choose, and let my song forever be: my only boast is you. *Refrain*

Sermon: "The Resurrection is For Today"

Word: John 11:17-27

17 Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. 18 Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, 19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. 20 So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. 21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." 23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." 24 Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" 27 She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

Questions for Reflection (*Please read John 11:1-44 for the full context.*)

- 1. What is the spiritual connection between physical death and resurrection (cf. Ephesians 2:1-10 and Titus 3:3-8)?
- 2. Write out all the ways John describes the grief over Lazarus' death (by his family), how others sought to comfort them, and how Jesus provided comfort.
- 3. According to Jesus, why did he allow Lazarus to die (cf. John 11:4, 14-15)?
- 4. What do the phrases, "if you had been here he wouldn't have died and I know he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day" tell us about what Martha (and others) believe about Jesus?
- 5. What is the significance of Jesus saying I am the resurrection and the life (cf. Exodus 3)?
- 6. Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-58 and list all the ways Paul indicated that the resurrection is for today (cf. John 11:24).
- 7. How can you apply the doctrine of the resurrection today?

Song of Approach: Spirit of the Living God | 726

Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me.
Break me! Melt me! Mold me! Fill me!
Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me. *Repeat*

Communion

The Gathering of Offerings & Sending Hymn: My Hope is in the Lord | 523

- 1. My hope is in the Lord who gave himself for me, and paid the price of all my sin at Calvary. For me he died, for me he lives, and everlasting life and light he freely gives.
- 2. No merit of my own his anger to suppress, my only hope is found in Jesus' righteousness. For me he died, for me he lives, and everlasting life and light he freely gives.
- 3. And now for me he stands before the Father's throne. He shows his wounded hands, and names me as his own. For me he died, for me he lives, and everlasting life and light he freely gives.
- 4. His grace has planned it all, 'tis mine but to believe, and recognize his work of love and Christ receive. For me he died, for me he lives, and everlasting life and light he freely gives.

Benediction: Hebrews 13:20-21

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever ... so that all the peoples will say...

ALL: Amen. Our LORD is faithful. Praise the LORD!



To see lives transformed through following Jesus.



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