

Guide for Home Worship

May 17, 2020

Opening Prayer

(select someone from your group to open your service in prayer)

Call to Worship

Psalm 3 (ESV)

LEADER: O Lord, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me; many are saying of my soul, "There is no salvation for him in God."

PEOPLE: *But you, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. I cried aloud to the Lord, and he answered me from his holy hill. I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the Lord sustained me. I will not be afraid of many thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around.*

LEADER: Arise, O Lord! Save me, O my God! For you strike all my enemies on the cheek; you break the teeth of the wicked.

ALL: Salvation belongs to the Lord; your blessing be on your people!

Songs and Liturgy

(sing as a group and/or sing along to recorded versions)

COME BEHOLD THE WONDEROUS MYSTERY

(Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, and Michael Bleecker)

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry
In the dawning of the King.
He the theme of heaven's praises,
Robed in frail humanity.
In our longing in our darkness,
Now the light of life has come.
Look to Christ who condescended,
Took on flesh to ransom us.

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry,
He the perfect Son of Man.
In His living in His suff'ring,
Never trace nor stain of sin.
See the true and better Adam,
Come to save the hell-bound man.
Christ the great and sure fulfillment
Of the law in Him we stand.

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry,
Christ the Lord upon the tree.
In the stead of ruined sinners,
Hangs the Lamb in victory.
See the price of our redemption,
See the Father's plan unfold.
Bringing many sons to glory,
Grace unmeasured love untold.

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry,
Slain by death the God of life.
But no grave could e'er restrain Him,
Praise the Lord; He is alive!
What a foretaste of deliv'rance,
How unwavering our hope.
Christ in power resurrected,
As we will be when He comes.

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RESPONSIVE READING: *Psalm 62 (ESV)*

LEADER: For God alone my soul waits in silence;
from him comes my salvation.

*PEOPLE: He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken.*

LEADER: How long will all of you attack a man
to batter him,
like a leaning wall, a tottering fence?
They only plan to thrust him down from his high position.
They take pleasure in falsehood.
They bless with their mouths,
but inwardly they curse.

*PEOPLE: For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence,
for my hope is from him.
He only is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.*

LEADER: On God rests my salvation and my glory;
my mighty rock, my refuge is God.

*ALL: Trust in him at all times, O people;
pour out your heart before him;
God is a refuge for us.*

JESUS PAID IT ALL

(Alex Nifong, Elvina M. Hall, John Thomas Grape, Kristian Stanfill, 1865)

I hear the Savior say,
“Thy strength indeed is small;
Child of weakness, watch and pray,
Find in Me thine all in all.”

CHORUS:

Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.

Lord, now indeed I find
Thy pow’r, and Thine alone,
Can change the leper’s spots
And melt the heart of stone. (CHORUS)

Oh praise the One Who paid my debt,
And raised this life up from the dead.

For nothing good have I
Whereby Thy grace to claim;
I’ll wash my garments white
In the blood of Calv’ry’s Lamb. (CHORUS)

Oh praise the One Who paid my debt,
And raised this life up from the dead.

And when before the throne
I stand in Him complete,
Jesus died my soul to save,
My lips shall still repeat. (CHORUS)

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Prayer Time

(have an open time of prayer or appoint one or two to pray. Specific prayer requests for this week are listed below.)

- Pray for the racial and cultural tensions in our nation, especially in light of the trauma surrounding the shooting of Ahmaud Arbery. Pray for Ahmaud’s family, as well as for all that are struggling to feel safe and valued. Pray that all of us would grow in empathy, understanding and compassion for one another—that we might be those that experience “just mercy” and so seek to live out (Titus 3:1-8; James 3:17-18).
- Pray for wisdom for our government officials as they seek to lead us in a peaceful, just and liberty-driven manner, so that the gospel and the fruit of the gospel may flourish in our land (1 Timothy 2:1-4)
- You may know that we are in the final days of Ramadan, a holy month for Muslims characterized by fasting and praying. Fasting is one of the Five Pillars of Islam and is one of the highest forms of Islamic worship. The last ten days, which we are currently in, are believed to be especially blessed. The 27th night (May 19th) is “laylat al-qadr,” meaning “night of power” or “night of destiny.” It marks what Muslims believe to be the night when Muhammed received his first revelation of the Qur’an. Let us pray together that during this time of spiritual intensity within the Muslim community, combined with the intensity of the COVID pandemic, that our Muslim friends would come to know the saving grace of Jesus. Let us pray for our Christian workers all across the globe as they have spiritual conversations during this time of heightened awareness of spiritual matters.

Listen to Sermon

“Dreams of Grass”

preached by Pastor Ryan Bouton

1 Peter 1:3-9, 22-25 (ESV)

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls...

²² Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, ²³ since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; ²⁴ for

“All flesh is like grass
and all its glory like the flower of grass.

The grass withers,
and the flower falls,

²⁵ but the word of the Lord remains forever.”

And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

Sharing Time

(have everyone share one thing that struck them from the sermon)

Song

(sing as a group and/or sing along to recorded versions)

BEHOLD THE LAMB (COMMUNION HYMN)

(Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Stewart Townend)

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away,
Slain for us, and we remember
The promise made
That all who come in faith
Find forgiveness at the cross.
So we share in this Bread of Life,
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of peace
Around the table of the King.

The body of our Savior Jesus Christ,
Torn for you, eat and remember;
The wounds that heal
The death that brings us life
Paid the price to make us one.
So we share in this Bread of Life,
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of love
Around the table of the King.

The blood that cleanses every stain of sin,
Shed for you, drink and remember.
He drained death's cup
That all may enter in
To receive the life of God.
So we share in this Bread of Life,
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of grace
Around the table of the King.

And so with thankfulness and faith we rise
To respond, and to remember
Our call to follow
In the steps of Christ
As His body here on earth.
As we share in His suffering,
We proclaim Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heaven
Around the table of the King.

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Benediction

(The leader or individual should read this aloud relishing in the confident assertion that Christ has conquered.)

from 2 Corinthians 13:14 (ESV)

LEADER: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

PEOPLE: *Amen!*