

7.26.20 CCLI License #1677508

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG “To God Be the Glory”

To God be the glory, great things He has done;
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life gate that all may go in.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory, great things He has done.

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

(Refrain)

Great things He has taught us, great things He has done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

(Refrain)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: God is and has always been at work, scattering seeds of love and redemption throughout his creation.

People: We have seen this work in our own lives and in the world at large.

Pastor: But many do not allow the seeds of goodness to grow in and through them.

People: We pray God finds fertile soil in our hearts each and every day so that we may bear the fruits of Christ’s love and redemption in the world.

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious and loving God, who offers us mercy this morning: Prepare our hearts and minds to receive your goodness this morning. Soften the soil of our hearts so that your Word may take root within us. Water the seeds you have planted in our hearts, that we may grow into the likeness of your Son. And shine upon our hearts, that your love may blossom through us, bringing joy and peace to the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & PETITION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God of love and goodness: we recognize the hardness of our hearts. Though we long for you to find nothing but good, fertile soil within us, we confess the presence of rocks and thorns. Forgive us for our unwillingness to allow your love to bear an abundance of fruit within and through us. Forgive us for those areas of our lives we have refused to allow you to plow up and soften. Help us, Lord, to surrender that which hinders growth within us, so that we can be more faithful producers of your love and redemption in the world. In Your Son's Name we pray. Amen.

SONG OF PREPARATION "Blessed Be Your Name"

Blessed be your name in the land that is plentiful.

Where the streams of abundance flow, blessed be your name.

And blessed be your name when I'm found in the desert place.

Though I walk through the wilderness, blessed be your name.

(Chorus)

Every blessing you pour out I'll turn back to praise.

When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say...

Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be your name.

Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be your glorious name.

Blessed be your name when the sun's shining down on me.

When the world's all as it should be, blessed be your name.

And blessed be your name on the road marked with suffering.

Though there's pain in the offering, blessed be your name.

(Chorus)

You give and take away, you give and take away.

My heart will choose to say, Lord, blessed be your name.
 You give and take away, you give and take away.
 My heart will choose to say, Lord, blessed be your name.

(Chorus)

SCRIPTURE Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23

SERMON “Will you Sow?”

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

HYMN OF SENDING “Because He Lives” by Gloria & William Gaither

God sent his Son, they called him Jesus;
 He came to love, heal, and forgive;
 He lived and died to buy my pardon,
 An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

Chorus:

Because he lives, I can face tomorrow;
 Because he lives, all fear is gone;
 Because I know he holds the future,
 And life is worth the living just because he lives.

How sweet to hold a newborn baby,
 And feel the pride and the joy He gives;
 But greater still, the calm assurance,
 This child can face uncertain days because He lives

(Chorus)

And then one day, I'll cross that river
 I'll fight life's final war with pain
 And then as death gives way to victory
 I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He reigns

(Chorus)

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH