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OPENING WORSHIP “In Christ Alone” CCLI License #1677508 WORDS AND MUSIC
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In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone! Who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

No power of hell, no scheme of man
 Can ever pluck me from His hand
 Till He returns or calls me home
 Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Behold, God has appointed his Light, and is well pleased with him!

People: The Light of God is not always accepted by those to whom God sends him.

Pastor: But, God's Light goes, nevertheless, even if it means rejection and opposition.

People: The world has rejected the Light, and we ourselves have shared in the rejection of this Light. In penitence, we offer ourselves to be his followers.

OPENING PRAYER

Father God, whose Light is often rejected by humanity, but was faithful to his mission because of his confidence in you: Open our ears to hear the word Christ has for us, that instead of being among those who resist your message, we may be among those who believe and live in his light.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & PETITION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Dear God, we see in your Son, Jesus, a real expression of your light rejected by those he came to save. We see in his death the darkness that opposes your Light. While we sense grief for the way he was treated, we also sense guilt for the way we have treated him. Forgive us for turning deaf ears, for uttering unkind words, for thinking thoughts that hurt him. We pray for a commitment that will keep us in the constant love of Christ our Savior, that we may combat the darkness in the world. We pray through our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN OF PREPARATION "Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling" by Will L. Thompson

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
 calling for you and for me;

see, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.

Refrain:

Come home, come home;
ye who are weary come home;
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, O sinner, come home!

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,
mercies for you and for me?

(Refrain)

Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing,
passing from you and from me;
shadows are gathering, deathbeds are coming,
coming for you and for me.

(Refrain)

O for the wonderful love he has promised,
promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
pardon for you and for me.

(Refrain)

SCRIPTURE 2 John 2:18-27

SERMON "Light *or* Darkness"

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

HYMN OF SENDING "God Be with You till We Meet Again" by Jeremiah Rankin

God be with you till we meet again;
By His counsels guide, uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you;
God be with you till we meet again.

Refrain:

Till we meet, till we meet,
Till we meet at Jesus' feet;
Till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
Neath His wings protecting hide you;
Daily manna still provide you;
God be with you till we meet again.

(Refrain)

God be with you till we meet again;
When life's perils thick confound you;
Put His arms unfailing round you;
God be with you till we meet again.

(Refrain)

God be with you till we meet again;
Keep love's banner floating o'er you,
Smite death's threatening wave before you;
God be with you till we meet again.

(Refrain)

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH