

~ O The Deep, Deep Love Of Jesus ~

PRELUDE/GATHERING SONG

Josh Bales

Writer Frederick Buechner describes Sabbath rest like this: “The room is quiet. You’re not feeling tired enough to sleep or energetic enough to go out. For the moment there is nowhere else you’d rather go, no one else you’d rather be. You feel at home in your body. You feel at peace in your mind. For no particular reason, you let the palms of your hands come together and close your eyes. Sometimes it is only when you happen to taste a crumb of it that you dimly realize what it is that you’re so hungry for you can hardly bear it (From *Wishful Thinking: A Seeker’s ABC*, p. 101).”

“Come Away from Rush and Hurry”

Words: Marva J. Dawn, 1999; Music: John Wyeth, 1813 ©

*Come away from rush and hurry to the stillness of God’s peace;
From our vain ambition’s worry, come to Christ to find release.
Come away from noise and clamor, life’s demands and frenzied pace;
Come to join the people gathered here to seek and find God’s face.*

*In the pastures of God’s goodness we lie down to rest our soul.
From the waters of God’s mercy we drink deeply, are made whole.
At the table of God’s presence all the saints are richly fed.
With the oil of God’s anointing into service we are led.*

*Come, then, children, with your burdens—life’s confusions, fears, and pain.
Leave them at the cross of Jesus; take instead His Kingdom’s reign.
Bring your thirsts, for He will quench them—He alone will satisfy.
All our longings find attainment when to self we gladly die.*

CALL TO WORSHIP & INVOCATION

Leader & People

Individuality is idolized in our culture...so much so that some of us even resist being united with others at all. In stark contrast to this, Christian worship is actually characterized by unity. Saying creeds together, like the Apostle’s Creed below, is one way for us to rejoice over what we hold in common with each other, with Christians through the ages, and even around the world! The call to worship invites us, if only for an hour, to see what it feels like to be a part of something greater than ourselves as we worship the “one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all” (*Ephesians 4:6*).

L: Do you believe in God the Father?

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

L: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

All: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

L: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

All: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

L: Let us pray:

All: Covenant God, when we remember Your faithfulness to us, how can we keep from singing? May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts, be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, our Rock and our Redeemer.

WORSHIPING GOD TOGETHER IN SONG

Congregation

“Authentic Christian faith is not merely believed. Nor is it merely acted upon. It is sung with utter joy sometimes, in uncontrollable tears sometimes, but it is sung. ‘Words and music did for me what solid, even rigorous, religious argument could never do, they introduced me to God, not belief in God, more an experiential sense of GOD’—that’s the way Bono, lead singer of the band U2, puts it (Reggie M. Kidd, *With One Voice: Discovering Christ’s Song in our Worship*, 13-14).”

“Praise To The Lord, The Almighty”

Based on Psalm 103, Joachim Neander, 1680/Music from the *Stralsund Gesangbuch*, 1655

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near,
Join me in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o’er all things so wondrously reigneth!
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e’er have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee!
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;
Ponder anew what the Almighty will do,
If with His love He befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the amen sound from His people again;
Gladly fore’er we adore Him.

“O The Deep, Deep Love Of Jesus”

Samuel T. Francis, 1834-1925/Thomas J. Williams, 1890

O the deep, deep love of Jesus! Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free;
Rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me.
Underneath me, all around me, is the current of Thy love;
Leading onward, leading homeward, to Thy glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus! Spread His praise from shore to shore;
How He loveth, ever loveth, changeth never, nevermore;
How He watches o’er His loved ones, died to call them all His own;
How for them He intercedeth, watcheth o’er them from the throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus! Love of ev’ry love the best:
‘Tis an ocean vast of blessing, ‘tis a haven sweet of rest.
O the deep, deep love of Jesus! ‘Tis a heav’n of heav’ns to me;
And it lifts me up to glory, for it lifts me up to Thee.

PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE...

Congregation

...AROUND THE WORLD IN VIDEO, WORD & SONG

Author and Professor Philip Jenkins notes that "Over the past century...the center of gravity in the Christian world has shifted inexorably southward, to Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Already today, the largest Christian communities on the planet are to be found in Africa and Latin America. If we want to visualize a "typical" contemporary Christian, we should think of a woman living in a village in Nigeria or in a Brazilian favela (From *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity*, p. 2)."

All: O Lord, whose holy saints in all times and places have endured affliction, suffering, and tribulation: By the strength of Your power, we pray, send Your Holy Spirit, the Comforter and Advocate of all Christians, to sustain Your people in their martyrdom, witness, and mission. The world without provocation hates Your church, but You have taught us not to despair. Therefore, You who are a God at hand and not a God afar off, grant to these Christians the power to lift up their hands, their eyes, and their hearts to continue their living witness in unity with the universal church, to the glory of your most holy name. Amen.

- Pastor Carlos Lamelas, *Cuba*
- Mrs. Ratna, Mrs. Eti, Dr. Rebekka, *Indonesia*
- Dr. Kiflu Gebremeskel, *Eritrea*

All: 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

"A Hymn For All The World"

Words and Music by Josh Bales

There is no place in all the world You do not call Your own.
Creator of all peoples, every nation, every tongue.
From every corner of the earth, boundless is Your reign
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, hear us sing Your praise.

We Your people call to You, asking for Your help
God be merciful to those whose pain we've never felt.
Give them rest from worldly sorrow, bless them Lord with food to eat.
We ask You, gentle Shepherd, call the ones that are Your sheep.

All-seeing Lord now look to those in city and in field,
Who seek to spread Your fame and love, this broken world to heal.
See Your persecuted children, soothe their violent wounds.
In their weakness be their strength, that they might hope in You.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, may Your Kingdom come
In all the earth as it is in heaven, may Your will be done.
In all the world, in all our hearts, Jesus, You are King.
We wait, we hope, we trust, we know, Your face we soon shall see.
We wait, we hope, we trust, we know, Your face we soon shall see.

AFFIRMING OUR COMMON FAITH

Leader & People

From the Heidelberg Catechism, Questions 69 & 74

Q: How does baptism remind you and assure you that Christ's one sacrifice on the cross is for you personally?

A: In this way: Christ instituted this outward washing and with it gave the promise that, as surely as water washes away the dirt from the body, so certainly His blood and His Spirit wash away my soul's impurity, in other words, all my sins.

Q: Should infants, too, be baptized?

A: Yes. Infants as well as adults are in God's covenant and belong to God's people. They, no less than adults, are promised the forgiveness of sins through Christ's blood and the Holy Spirit who gives faith. Therefore, by baptism, the sign of the covenant, infants should be received into the Christian church and should be distinguished from the children of unbelievers. This was done in the Old Testament by circumcision, which was replaced in the New Testament by baptism.

CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

DOXOLOGY

Congregation

"Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"

The Lesser Doxology/Words: Bishop Thomas Ken, 1709/Music: The Genevan Psalter, 1551

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

TITHES & OFFERINGS

Congregation

Welcome Pads Passed

One of the ways God's people display their trust in His gracious provision for them is their giving back to Him. God doesn't need our money (it is His already). And we certainly don't give money to God in order to gain His love. We give to Him in loving obedience and with overflowing gratitude. The Lord is our shepherd. We have all that we need!

OFFERTORY

Women's Chorus

"God of Wonders"

Words by J. Paul Williams/Music by Joseph M. Martin © 2006 Harold Flammer Music and Malcom Music/
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*God of wonders. God of wonders.
The poet wonders at the sight of the mountains standing tall.
The snow-capped peaks, the canyons deep,
The Lord God made them all.*

*The artist wonders at the scene of peaceful skies above.
The clouds that play both night and day,
The Lord God made them all.
Alleluia, alleluia.*

*Glory be to God. Alleluia, alleluia. Glory be to God.
The singer wonders at the sound of nature's harmony.
The waterfall, the eagle's call, the Lord God made them all.
Alleluia, alleluia. Glory be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.
Glory be to God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia.*

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Grades K-2

MESSAGE

Rev. Cortese

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD IN SONG

"Days Of Elijah"

Congregation

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CLOSING PRAYER