

ORDER OF WORSHIP

∞ GOD GATHERS ∞



A Sabbath Way of Life

October 25, 2020

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Psalm 108 (responsive reading)

We will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples,
We will sing praises to you among the nations,
**For your steadfast love is as high as the heavens,
And your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.**

Hymn of Praise

All Praise to God Who Reigns Aboveⁱ

(verse 1)

All praise to God who reigns above,
The God of all creation,
The God of wonders, pow'r and love,
The God of our salvation!
With healing balm my soul he fills
The God who every sorrow stills.
To God all praise and glory!

(verse 2)

What God's almighty pow'r hath made
His gracious mercy keepeth;
By morning dawn or evening shade
His watchful eye ne'er sleepeth;
Within the kingdom of his might,
Lo, all is just and all is right.
To God all praise and glory!

Hymn of Praise *All Praise to God, Who Reigns Above* (cont.)

(verse 3)

I cried to him in time of need:
Lord God, O hear my calling!
For death he gave me life indeed
And kept my feet from falling.
For this my thanks shall endless be;
O thank him, thank our God with me.
To God all praise and glory!

(verse 4)

The Lord forsaketh not his flock,
His chosen generation;
He is their refuge and their rock,
Their peace and their salvation.
As with a mother's tender hand
He leads his own, his chosen band.
To God all praise and glory!

(verse 5)

Ye who confess Christ's holy name
To God give praise and glory!
Ye who the Father's pow'r proclaim,
To God give praise and glory!
All idols underfoot be trod,
The Lord is God! The Lord is God!
To God all praise and glory!

(verse 6)

Then come before his presence now
And banish fear and sadness;
To your Redeemer pay your vow
And sing with joy and gladness;
Though great distress my soul befell,
The Lord, my God, did all things well.
To God all praise and glory!

Prayer of Praise

Hymns of Praise

The Church's One Foundationⁱⁱ

(verse 1)

xxx The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is his new creation by water and the Word:
From heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

(verse 2)

Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses, with ev'ry grace endued.

(verse 3)

'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation of peace forevermore;
Till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

(verse 4)

Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,
Like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

Hymns of Praise (cont.)

Be Thou My Visionⁱⁱⁱ

(verse 1)

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art—
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Hymns of Praise

Be Thou My Vision (cont.)

(verse 2)

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

(verse 3)

Be Thou my battle shield, sword for my fight;
Be Thou my dignity, Thou my delight,
Thou my soul's shelter, Thou my high tow'r;
Raise Thou me heav'n-ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

(verse 4)

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure Thou art.

(verse 5)

High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

∞ GOD RENEWS ∞

Confession of Sin (unison)

Jesus, who sat at the table with outcasts and sinners, we confess that too often our words and actions are not consistent with what we say we believe. We often turn a blind eye to the needy. We often show indifference to the lonely. We often pass by on the other side of the road from the suffering. We often fail to show your care and compassion to those around us, particularly those who are different from us. Forgive us, we ask. By your grace change us to be more like you. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

1 Peter 2:24

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn of Preparation

How Firm a Foundation^{iv}

(verse 1)

How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

(verse 2)

"Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed;
For I am your God, and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

(verse 3)

"The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake."

∞ GOD FEEDS ∞

Scripture Reading

Nehemiah 13:15-22

¹⁵ In those days I saw in Judah people treading winepresses on the Sabbath, and bringing in heaps of grain and loading them on donkeys, and also wine, grapes, figs, and all kinds of loads, which they brought into Jerusalem on the Sabbath day. And I warned them on the day when they sold food. ¹⁶ Tyrians also, who lived in the city, brought in fish and all kinds of goods and sold them on the Sabbath to the people of Judah, in Jerusalem itself! ¹⁷ Then I confronted the nobles of Judah and said to them, "What is this evil thing that you are doing,

profaning the Sabbath day? ¹⁸ Did not your fathers act in this way, and did not our God bring all this disaster on us and on this city? Now you are bringing more wrath on Israel by profaning the Sabbath.”

¹⁹ As soon as it began to grow dark at the gates of Jerusalem before the Sabbath, I commanded that the doors should be shut and gave orders that they should not be opened until after the Sabbath. And I stationed some of my servants at the gates, that no load might be brought in on the Sabbath day. ²⁰ Then the merchants and sellers of all kinds of wares lodged outside Jerusalem once or twice. ²¹ But I warned them and said to them, “Why do you lodge outside the wall? If you do so again, I will lay hands on you.” From that time on they did not come on the Sabbath. ²² Then I commanded the Levites that they should purify themselves and come and guard the gates, to keep the Sabbath day holy. Remember this also in my favor, O my God, and spare me according to the greatness of your steadfast love.

Sermon ***Living the Sabbath***
 Resting Socially

Approaching the Table

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross ^v

(verse 1)

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

(verse 2)

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God:
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

Approaching ***When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*** (cont.)

(verse 3)

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down:
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

(verse 4)

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Bread and Cup

[Prayer of Communion for those worshipping at home]

Blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every table of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, (and remembering particularly my own church and those worshipping there)

I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory. And particularly for the blessings given me... I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to draw near to me during these moments.

I thank you for the union I have with you through the Spirit, and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, my mind, and my strength. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

Hymn

In Christ Alone ^{vi}

(verse 1)

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.

(verse 2)

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 the cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied.
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

(verse 3)

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.

Hymn

In Christ Alone (cont.)

(verse 4)

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

(verse 5)

No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
'Til He returns or calls me home,
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.
'Til He returns or calls me home,
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

∞ **GOD SENDS** ∞

Benediction

Postlude

GOING DEEPER

This week, our sermon helps us explore what Sabbath rest means for social relationships.

- Lack of rest (aggravated these days by the extra wear of a pandemic) often means that we are more likely to rub up against one another with our sharp edges, short fuses, and “worn-thinness.” The consequences are often not pretty. What evidence of this kind of relation fraying and fracturing might you see in your different relationships?
- How can Sabbath short-circuit this kind of relational dysfunction in our “dog eat dog” world?
- Can you identify some Sabbath practices and rhythms (even one or two) that could create space in your life for healthier, life-giving relationships with others, whether in your family, friendships, or work relationships?
- In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, armies of Christians across England started Sabbath or Sunday Schools for poor children forced to work six days a week in factories. How does this example help expand your grasp of the connection between Sabbath and social relationships (especially if you understand the connection between education and social power)? Does it stimulate your imagination about the possibilities of connecting Sabbath and social justice today?



Cover: Adobe Stock (stock.adobe.com)

ⁱ Trinity Hymnal #4

ⁱⁱ Trinity Hymnal #347

ⁱⁱⁱ Trinity Hymnal E642

^{iv} Trinity Hymnal 94

^v Trinity Hymnal #252

^{vi} Words and Music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend © 2001 Thankyou Music; CCLI #542165