

Bulletin for Worship

July 26th, 2020

Call to Worship

Pete Wills

The Kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed. It is a small seed, but is capable of great things.

Together

The Lord plants amazing seeds of transforming love in us that they may grow in words and actions that heal the hearts of the people who are near us. Let us worship God together.

Hymn Glory to God Hymnal #771 "What is the World Like?" vs. 1-3

What is the world like
when God's will is done?
Mustard seeds grow more
than we can conceive:
Roots thread the soil;
branches reach for the sun.
This is how God moves us
each to believe.

What is the world like
when God's will is done?
Witness the wandering child coming home;
Watch as the parent
breaks into a run.
This is how God longs for us
when we roam.

What is the world like
when God's will is done?
No more is neighbor
just ally or friend;
Peace thrives in places
where once there was none.
This is how God works
when rivalries end.

TEXT: Adam M. L. Tice, 2009, © 2009 GIA Publications, Inc.

MUSIC (NEW WORLD 10.10.10.10): Sally Ann Morris, 2009; © 2009 GIA Publications, Inc.

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Prayer of Adoration

Prayer of Confession

Holy and Loving Lord, who watches over us at all times, be with us all these days. We confess that we have allowed a host of worries and frustrations to crowd out Your word for us. As You give us peace and Your transforming love, also forgive all those times when we have been less than faithful disciples. Gently visit us again with Your healing powers. Restore our hope and courage and joy for all the times ahead. We ask this in the name of the Master Healer, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Hope and Forgiveness

Here is wonderful news! While we were worrying and fretting, God has been at work in our lives offering healing and peace. Receive these gifts in the name and love of the Lord our God.

The Presbyterian Hymnal #579 “Gloria Patri”

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

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Glory Be to the Father

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text. Composer: Henry W. Greatorex (1851)

Scripture Readings: Romans 8:26-39

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

‘For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.’

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things

to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

³¹ He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

³³ He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

⁴⁴ 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ 'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' ⁵²And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

Message: "The Spirit Helps Us in Our Weakness"
Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who have sinned against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Sending Hymn Glory to God #321 "The Church's One Foundation"

(as sung by the Congregation and Ecumenical Choir Commemorating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, October 22nd 2017)

The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord.

She is his new creation
by water and the word.
From heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy bride.
With his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.

Elect from every 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 every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder
this world sees her oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping;
their cry goes up: "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.

Through 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.

Yet she on earth has union
with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won:
Oh, blessed heav'nly chorus!
Lord, save us by your grace,
that we, like saints before us,
may see you face to face.

TEXT: Samuel John Stone, 1866, alt.

MUSIC (AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D): Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864

Benediction