

Ken Mawr United Presbyterian Church

Sunday, July 11, 2021

The Service of Worship

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Welcome

There is an old Gospel Chorus with the opening line, "When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed, when you are discouraged thinking all is lost, count your blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord has done." I don't know how many of you are feeling tossed by life's tempests, or how many are discouraged for one reason or another, but whatever our circumstances may be I am convinced that it is always a good idea for us to sit down and think about the many ways the Lord has blessed us. In our Scripture Lesson for this morning the Apostle Paul lists for us, not the material blessings we enjoy, but the spiritual blessings which are ours because God has chosen us and we belong to Jesus. These are the blessings which define who we really are. In my message this morning I'm going to count them out for us, just so we don't forget how blessed we truly are. -Pastor Bob

Call to Worship

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul,

PEOPLE: **And all that is within me, bless His holy name.**

Leader: Who forgives all your iniquities,

PEOPLE: **Who heals all your diseases.**

Leader: Who redeems your life from the pit,

PEOPLE: **Who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.**

Leader: Who satisfies you with good things,

PEOPLE: **So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.**

Leader: Let us worship God together.

Prayer of Adoration

GIVE PRAISE AND THANKS TO GOD

Hymn of Praise #11

"Stand Up and Bless the Lord"

*Stand up and bless the Lord, you people of his choice;
stand up and bless the Lord your God with heart and soul and voice.
O for the living flame, from God's own altar brought,
to touch our lips, our minds inspire, and wing to heaven our thought.
God is our strength and song, and his salvation ours;
then be his love in Christ proclaimed with all our ransomed powers.
Stand up and bless the Lord, the Lord your God adore;
stand up and bless his glorious name, both now and evermore.*

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Prayer of Confession

Heavenly Father, You have blessed us with every spiritual blessing in Christ Jesus, but we have been slow to recognize those blessings, and slower still to make them realities in our

lives. Forgive us for focusing so much of our attention on the material blessings which come to us from Your hand, to the neglect of the more important blessings which are intended to give us our identity as Your adopted children. Make us ever more aware of the difference those blessings can make in our lives, and make them more and more a part of who we are as we trust in the redeeming love made known to us in Your Son, for we seek forgiveness in His name. Amen.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Congregational Response #270

"O How He Loves You and Me"

O how He loves you and me, O how He loves you and me;

He gave his life – what more could He give?

O how He loves you, O how He loves me, O how He loves you and me!

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Time with the Children (Kids spell Love T-I-M-E)

Prayers of the People & 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; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Prayer Response

Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place;

Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us power, send us grace.

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Dedication of Tithes and Offerings

GOD'S WORD READ AND PROCLAIMED

Scripture

Ephesians 1:3-14

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹ he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

¹¹ In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

Affirmation of Faith (The Heidelberg Catechism)

**My only comfort in life and in death is that I am not my own,
but belong—**

**body and soul, in life and in death—
to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.**

**He has fully paid for all my sins with
his precious blood, and has set me
free from the tyranny of the devil.**

**He also watches over me in such a
way that not a hair can fall from my
head without the will of my Father
in heaven: in fact, all things must
work together for my salvation.**

**Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit,
assures me of eternal life and makes me
wholeheartedly willing and ready from
now on to live for him.**

GO IN GOD'S NAME

Hymn #68

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
praise his name – I'm fixed upon it – name of God's redeeming love

Here I raise to thee an altar, hither by thy help I've come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, bought me with his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee;
prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

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Benediction

Thank you for worshiping with us!

~ EPHESIANS 1:4

**FOR HE CHOSE US
IN HIM
BEFORE THE CREATION
OF THE WORLD
TO BE HOLY AND BLAMELESS
IN HIS SIGHT.**