

WORSHIP SERVICE
August 23, 2020
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

* God's Greeting

* We Greet One Another

Peace be with you.

And also with you!

* Call to Worship (Psalm 63:1-4)

You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you

I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water.

I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory.

Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you.

I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands.

* Opening Song: "Shout to the Lord"

Sing! A New Creation #223

My Jesus, my Savior, Lord, there is none like you. All of my days, I want to praise the wonders of your mighty love. My comfort, my shelter, tower of refuge and strength, let every breath, all that I am, never cease to worship you.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing power and majesty, praise to the King.

Mountains bow down and the seas will roar at the sound of your name.

I sing for joy at the work of your hands: forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.

Nothing compares to the promises I have in you.

* Opening Prayer

WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD

God's Will for Our Lives (Ephesians 2:10)

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared us in advance to do.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Lord, we come before You just as we are, just as You know us. We are sorry for the sins that You know about, but we may have hidden from others. We are thankful that we can trust you to love us even when you are aware of our innermost thoughts and actions. Today is a new day and we ask you to forgive the sins of our past. We renounce Satan and evil spirits and all of their works. Feed us now with your daily bread. Help us to be faithful followers of your teachings, no matter the circumstances that surround us. We have confidence that through it, You are working for our good. We give You our entire body, spirit, and soul, now and forever. Amen.

God's words of Assurance (Isaiah 41:10)

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Song of Response: "Lord God Almighty"

Sing! A New Creation #9

Lord God Almighty, Savior, Redeemer, only true God to be worshiped and praised: How can we tell you how much we love you? Take now our lives, Lord, and teach us to love. "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. You are mine, by name I have called you. When you walk through the waters, I will be there with you. You are my witnesses, created for my glory. Tell the nations I am the Savior. Tell them I am the Lord."

Lord God Almighty, Savior, Redeemer, only true God to be worshiped and praised: How can we tell you how much we love you? Take now our lives, Lord, and teach us to love. Shout for joy, O heavens, and rejoice, O earth! Into joyful shouting let the mountains break forth! For the Lord will comfort his people, show compassion to those afflicted. He will not leave to shame those who trust in his Word.

Lord God Almighty, Savior, Redeemer, only true God to be worshiped and praised:

How can we tell you how much we love you? Take now our lives, Lord, and teach us to love.

Congregational Prayer

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading: Daniel 1: ¹In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. ²And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god. ³Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility— ⁴young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. ⁵The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service. ⁶Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. ⁷The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego. ⁸But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. ⁹Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel, ¹⁰but the official told Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you." ¹¹Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, ¹²"Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. ¹³Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see." ¹⁴So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days. ¹⁵At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. ¹⁶So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead. ¹⁷To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds. ¹⁸At the end of the time set by the king to bring them into his service, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. ¹⁹The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service. ²⁰In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom. ²¹And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.

Message: "Daniel's Challenge"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Application

- * Song of Response: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" (Vs. 1 & 2) *Lift Up Your Hearts #348*
Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and spring-time and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

WE DEPART TO SERVE

- * Blessing
- * Closing Song: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" (Vs. 3) *Lift Up Your Hearts #348*
Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow – blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

*Postlude

- * Please stand if you are able

Message: Rev. Randy Raak

Musicians: Andrew Friend, Holly Raak, Pam Voss