

WORSHIP SERVICE
September 6, 2020
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

* God's Greeting

* We Greet One Another

Christ be with you.

And also with you!

* Call to Worship (Psalm 96:1-6)

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods.

For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary.

* Opening Song: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

Lift Up Your Hearts #575

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty the King of creation!

O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!

Come, all who hear; brothers and sisters draw near, join me in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wonderously reigning,
sheltering you under his wings, oh, so gently sustaining.

Have you not seen all that is needful has been sent by his gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.

Ponder anew what the Almighty can do as with his love he befriends you.

Praise to the Lord! O, let all that is in me adore him!

All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!

Let the amen sound from his people again. Gladly forever adore him!

* Opening Prayer

WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD

Unison Prayer of Confession

Lift Up Your Hearts #653

Almighty and loving God,

We confess that we put our trust in other gods.

We honor these gods alongside of you and in place of you.

By the Holy Spirit's power, help us to know you, the only true God,

as you have revealed yourself in your Word, to trust in you alone,

to look to you for every good thing, humbly and patiently,

and to love, fear, and honor you with all our hearts. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (Ezekiel 36:25-26)

I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

Thanks be to God!

Song of Response: "How Firm a Foundation"

Lift Up Your Hearts #427

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?

"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."

"When through the deep waters I call you to go, the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be with you in trouble to bless, and sanctify to you your deepest distress."

"When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie, My grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply.
The flame shall not hurt you; I only design your dross to consume, and your gold to refine."

"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!"

Congregational Prayer

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading: Daniel 3

King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, sixty cubits high and six cubits wide, and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. He then summoned the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials to come to the dedication of the image he had set up. So the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials assembled for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up, and they stood before it. Then the herald loudly proclaimed, "Nations and peoples of every language, this is what you are commanded to do: As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace." Therefore, as soon as they heard the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp and all kinds of music, all the nations and peoples of every language fell down and worshiped the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. At this time some astrologers came forward and denounced the Jews. They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "May the king live forever! Your Majesty has issued a decree that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music must fall down and worship the image of gold, and that whoever does not fall down and worship will be thrown into a blazing furnace. But there are some Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon—Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego—who pay no attention to you, Your Majesty. They neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold you have set up." Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?" Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up." Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual and commanded some of

the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace. Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?" They replied, "Certainly, Your Majesty."

He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods." Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them. Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way." Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

Message: "Faith under Fire"

Prayer of Application

WE CELEBRATE GOD'S COVENANT WITH US

The Words of Institution

The Lord's Supper

* Song of Response: "Oh, How I Love Jesus"

Lift Up Your Hearts #676

There is a name I love to hear, I love to sing its worth;
it sounds like music in my ear, the sweetest name on earth.

Oh how I love Jesus, Oh how I love Jesus,
Oh how I love Jesus, because he first loved me!

It tells me of a Savior's love, who died to set me free;
it tells me of his precious blood, the sinner's perfect plea.

Oh how I love Jesus, Oh how I love Jesus,
Oh how I love Jesus, because he first loved me!

It tells of one whose loving heart can feel my deepest woe;
who in each sorrow bears a part that none can bear below.

Oh how I love Jesus, Oh how I love Jesus,
Oh how I love Jesus, because he first loved me!

WE DEPART TO SERVE

* Blessing

* Postlude

*Please stand if you are able.

Message: Rev. Randy Raak

Keyboard: Char Verkade