

Love Unconditionally

Dr. Tim Bruster

Matthew 5:43-48

Traditional Worship

11:00 am

October 29, 2017

WE GATHER

Prelude

Welcome

Musical Call to Worship — Sonata in F Major for
Alto Recorder and Harpsichord, Op. 2: Allegro
Benedetto Marcello, composer

*Call to Worship (based on Lamentations 3:22-24)

When we feel lost and alone and we need guidance, we remember
the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God's mercies never end.
When the news is bad or frightening and we need comfort, we remember
the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God's mercies never end.
When the needs of others overwhelm us and we need strength, we remember
the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God's mercies never end.
The steadfast love of God refreshes anew every morning,
therefore we will hope in the Lord.

*Hymn 384 — Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit;
let us find that second rest.
Take away our bent to sinning;
Alpha and Omega be; ←
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Word of the Day:
Unconditional
Love

Memory Verse:
The steadfast
love of the Lord
never ceases,
God's mercies
never end.
- Lamentations 3:22

Alpha and Omega
are the first and
last letters in the
Greek alphabet. We
are asking God to
be our beginning
and end — our
A to Z.

* Affirmation of Faith

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others by the Spirit.

God is with us. We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

We trust in God. We are called to be the church.

In life beyond death

Amen.

To celebrate God's presence.

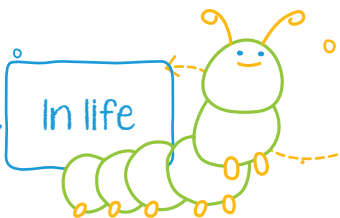
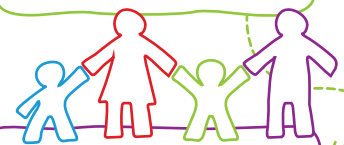
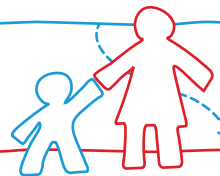
To love and serve others.

In death

In life

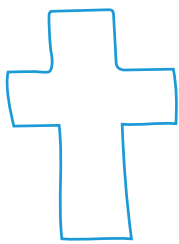
To proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

To seek justice and resist evil.



*Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;



Gloria Patri means "Glory to the Father." This short hymn of praise has been sung by Christians for many centuries.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Please be seated. Ushers will assist in seating at this time.

A Time of Giving

Stewardship Moment

Offertory — Abide With Me
Molly James, arranger

In addition to your regular contribution, every one dollar (\$1) bill placed in the offering plate during the month of October will support the Mission Clothing Bank.

WE PROCLAIM

Scripture — Matthew 5:43-48

God speaks to us through the reading of scripture.

Thanks be to God.

Faith Like a Child

*Passing the Peace

*Hymn — They Who Jesus' Followers Are

They who Jesus' followers are
and enjoy his faithful care,
by a mutual, hearty love
their belief in Jesus prove.

By your reconciling love
ev'ry stumbling-block remove;
each to each unite, endear;
come, and spread your banner here.

Let us each for others care,
each another's burden bear,
to your church a pattern give,
showing how believers live.

May it to the world appear
that we your disciples are
by our loving mutually,
by our Christian unity.



Sermon Snips:
You don't have to "just sit there." Choose one of the sermon snips and let it guide you as you take your relationship with God to the next level.



Love
Unconditionally

Draw a map of the sermon.

Include the sermon path
and all the twists and turns.

Along the way, draw
important images

OR WORDS you hear.



Look around.
What is
something you
see that helps
you know God's
love is real?



Did you just hear a
word or phrase you
don't understand?
Write it down and
ask your parents
about it, or look it up
when you get home.

Write a
"Thank You"
Note to God.

Imagine you are
the one giving
the sermon.
What would you
tell everyone?



Service of Holy Communion

Invitation

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

Find the Prayer Cross in your worship kit. The cord has five knots, and there are five parts to the prayer Jesus taught his friends. Hold each knot between your thumb and forefinger as you say the different parts of the prayer.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name.

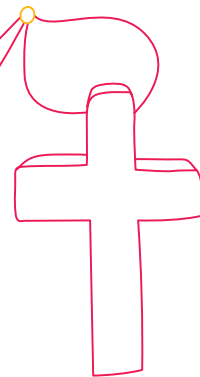
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be
done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who
trespass 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.



Many years
after Jesus went
to heaven, the
early church
added this part
of the prayer.
Hold the prayer
cross close to
your heart as
you say this part.

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Communion Music — Sonata in F Major
for Alto Recorder and Harpsichord, BWV 1035:
Adagio ma non tanto and Siciliano
Johann Sebastian Bach, composer

Sonata in F Major
for Alto Recorder and Harpsichord, Op. 2: Adagio
Benedetto Marcello, composer

WE RESPOND

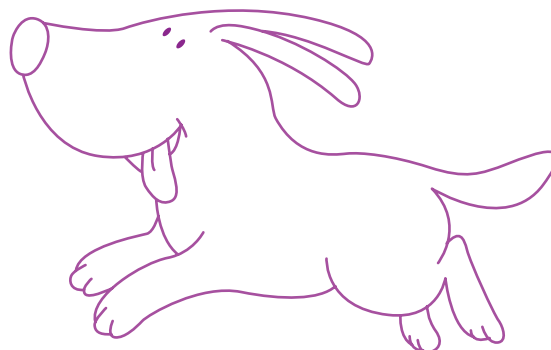
*Invitation to Christian Discipleship

*Hymn 140 — Great Is Thy Faithfulness

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.

(Refrain) 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 springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.



Refrain

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Refrain

*Benediction

Our gathering will soon be ended, where will we go, and what will we do?

We will go out to be God's people in the world.

May grace, peace, hope, love, and joy forever accompany you. Amen.

*Congregational Closing Song – Let There Be Peace On Earth

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.

With God our Creator, children all are we.

Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now,

With every breath I take let this be my solemn vow:

To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

*Postlude – Toccata in D minor, BWV 565

Johann Sebastian Bach, composer

How are you going
to be one of God's
people in the world
this week?

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given in loving memory of Audine and Aubrey Morgan, Annie and Milton McLarty, and Molly and Wesley Morgan by Beverly Morgan and Sandy and Mike Stepp, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The white carnation symbolizes our sympathy to the family and friends of Woodie Wood.

Worship Leaders:

Dr. Tim Bruster, Senior Pastor

Mr. Robert Stovall, Director of Music and Worship Arts

Mrs. Peggy Graff, Organist/Associate Director of Music & Worship Arts

Liturgists: Rev. Phyllis Barren, Rev. Casey Orr

Faith Like a Child: Mister Mark; Landon Peugh, helper

Choir: Choral Union

Alto Recorder: Kenneth Meador

Harpsichord: Peggy Graff

Stewardship Moment: Karol Fate

Acolytes: Collin Burross, Corbin Dilday, and Sam Looney

Procession: Libby Kelley

**Please stand as you are able.*

The new chalices being used in the Sanctuary are a gift to the church from Diane and Ben Fisher.

WORSHIP KIT

↪ INSIDE YOU WILL FIND ↪

TREASURES OF NATURE BOX

One of the best ways we can experience God's power and love is by cherishing God's handiwork in the wonders of nature. Carefully open the box and discover what treasures wait inside.

BLANK CARD

You can use the pencil and crayons to make a *Thank You* note for someone in the Sanctuary who helped make worship feel special to you. It could be a parent, a minister, a choir member, an usher, or someone in the next pew who gave you a friendly wave. After the service, ask your parents to take you to hand-deliver the card.

ANOINTING BALM

Use the anointing balm to bless a friend or family member sitting next to you. Rub a tiny bit of the balm on your thumb and trace the sign of the cross on your neighbor's forehead or back of the hand (whichever they prefer). As you do this, say a simple blessing, such as "God bless you." (It's not just for sneezes.) Or, for a longer blessing, you could say:

*You are a special person.
God loves you, and so do I.
Bless you.*

And don't forget to allow your neighbor the privilege of getting to bless you.

PIPE STEMS

There are so many things you can do with pipe stems. You could:

- Listen to the sermon and sculpt an object you hear mentioned.
- Shape them in the initials of someone you'd like to pray for.
- Look around the Sanctuary and sculpt something you see.
- Sculpt a flower and give it to a family member.
- Make a friendship bracelet and give it to a friend, or to a new member.

PRAYER CROSS

The cross is such a powerful symbol of God's love and hope. Anytime is a good time to hold on to the cross. See inside the bulletin for how to use the prayer cross during the Lord's Prayer.

TANGLE

Listen to a piece of music or a Bible story and mold the tangle to show how it makes you feel. Does it make you feel:

- Open and ready for God's presence?
- Tangled and confused?
- Wrapped snugly and securely?
- Calm like a gentle stream?
- Not sure?

PENCIL AND CRAYONS

Use these to write notes in your bulletin, draw a prayer, illustrate a story you hear in the sermon, or even ask hard questions.

CLOTH FIGURE

Here are just a few things you can do with the cloth figure:

- Have it act out the events in the Bible story.
- Help it read the bulletin.
- Gently hold it the way God is holding you right now.

EYE SPY CARD AND TELESCOPE

Use the Eye Spy card to identify some of the many meaningful objects and symbols in our Sanctuary. Use the telescope to help you explore.

