



The Word in the Wilderness: Grace is Limitation

Dr. Tim Bruster

Exodus 20:1-17

Traditional Worship

11:00 am

March 4, 2018

WE GATHER

Welcome

Prelude — O God, Thou Faithful God

Johannes Brahms, composer

Call to Worship

Choir: Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart

Leader: People of God, what would the Church be like if God's vision for life the Church's vision, too?

Congregation: We would love God and love our neighbor.

Choir: Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.

Leader: People of God, what is our profound witness to our love of God in this world?

Congregation: We would love God and love our neighbor.

Choir: Thou my best thought, by day or by night

Leader: People of God, what does God want from us as our true worship?

Congregation: We would love God and love our neighbor. :

All: Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Word of the Day:
Limitation

Memory Verse:
Love God and love
your neighbor
— Luke 10:27

*Hymn 61 — Come, Thou Almighty King

1. Come, thou almighty King,
help us thy name to sing,
help us to praise!
Father all glorious,
o'er all victorious,
come and reign over us, Ancient of Days!

2. Come, thou incarnate Word,
gird on thy mighty sword,
our prayer attend!
Come, and thy people bless,
and give thy word success;
Spirit of holiness, on us descend!

3. Come, holy Comforter,

thy sacred witness bear
in this glad hour.
Thou who almighty art,
now rule in every heart,
and ne'er from us depart, Spirit of power!

4. To thee, great One in Three,
eternal praises be,
hence, evermore.
Thy sovereign majesty
may we in glory see,
and to eternity love and adore!

"Ancient of Days"
is another name
for God.

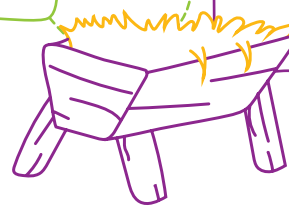
*Affirmation of Faith

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

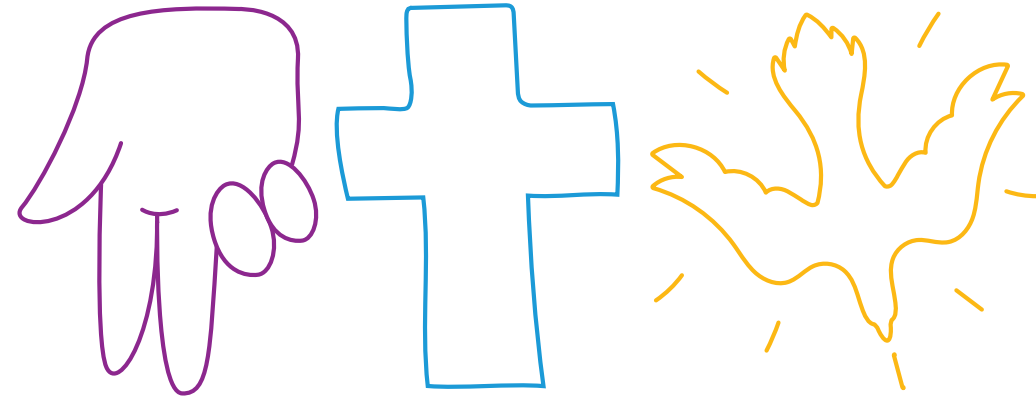
In life

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.

WE PROCLAIM

Scripture — Exodus 20:1-17

God speaks to us through the reading of scripture.

Thanks be to God.

Faith Like a Child

*Passing the Peace

*Hymn — Gifts of Love Our Lord has Given

(sung to "Lord, I Want To Be a Christian")

Gifts of love our Lord has given, Words of life: "I'm your God! I have brought you out of Egypt; now I call. Listen here, listen well: When you live in gratitude you'll keep my law."

"Have no other gods before me, says the Lord God Most High. Don't choose idols that you worship in God's place. Know God's name, use it well. Keep the Sabbath for it is God's gift of grace."

"Do not steal from one another, nor speak lies, hurting others; Do not wish for what your neighbor has in greed." Ten great Words, gifts from God, Help us live in thanks for all we have received.

Scripture: Each week we read from the Bible — the book of God's love. Its words can inspire you, comfort you, teach you, and challenge you to be your best self — a true servant of God.

You can listen as the scripture is read, or... Find a Bible nearby, look up the scripture, and follow along.

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.



The Word in the Wilderness: Grace is Limitation

What about the sermon surprised you?

Be mindful.
What is something deep inside you that God wants the world to know?

Look at the title of the sermon. Write down a word or phrase you think you'll hear a lot. Listen carefully, and draw a star every time you hear that word or phrase.

Take the Bible story, or one of the stories from the sermon, and create a storyboard. Think of it as a 4-panel comic strip that tells the story.



Make a list of all the things that distract you during the sermon. Can you fix some of these? Can God help?



WE RESPOND

Pastoral Prayer

Means of Grace (silent prayer)

During this silent prayer time, we invite you to pray for the work of the First Street Methodist Mission. Pray for:

- The families and individuals who are blessed by its services and compassion.
- The staff and volunteers who are there weekly, keeping things going.
- Its future, that it might continue to be a blessing to our community in new ways.
- Yourself, that God might lead you this week to a place that you might address the needs of the poor or hungry in your midst.

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.

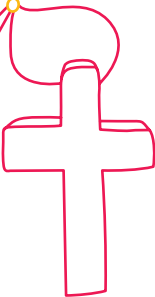
Give us this day our daily bread.

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.

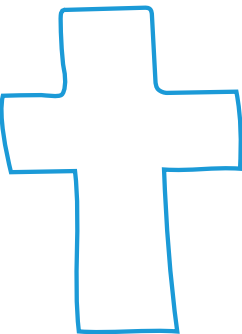
Many years after Jesus went to heaven, the early church added this part of the prayer. Hold the prayer cross close to your heart as you say this part.



Offertory – Children of the Heavenly Father
Dan Forrest, arranger

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.



*Invitation to Christian Discipleship

*Hymn 451 – Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
be all else but naught to me, save that Thou art;
be Thou my best thought in the day and the night,
both waking and sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
I ever with thee, and thou with me, Lord;
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
Great god of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Great God of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

*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.

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

Congregational Closing – 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 – Come, Thou Almighty King
Gordon Young, arranger

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given today by Dr. and Mrs. William Wolff in loving memory of their son, Shan Wolff.

The white carnation symbolizes our sympathy to the family and friends of Pat Merrill.

The red carnation symbolizes our congratulations to Laura and Richard McQuillar on the birth of their daughter, Maya Rae McQuillar.

Worship Leaders:
Dr. Tim Bruster Senior Pastor
Mr. Robert Stovall, Director of Music and Worship Arts
Mrs. Peggy Graff, Organist/Associate Director of Music and Worship Arts
Liturgists: Rev. Linda McDermott, Ms. Darcy Deupree, Rev. Chuck Graff
Faith Like a Child: Mister Mark, Jordon Woods, helper
Choir: Cornerstone Youth Choir, Erin Ypya, director, Dawen Li, accompanist
Instrumentalist: Elaine Johnson, Matthew Roth, Linda Moore
Acolyte: Canon Hamilton
Procession: Sarah Mitchell McMillan and Taylor McMillan

*Please stand as you are able.

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.

