

WE GATHER

Prelude — Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Jack Schrader, arranger

Welcome

Choral Call to Worship — The Tree Song

Ken Medema, composer

Children's Choir, Junior Worship Leaders, Dads, and Special Friends

*Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 103:1-13)

Let my whole being bless the LORD! Let everything inside me bless God's holy name!

Let my whole being bless the LORD and never forget all God's good deeds!

God forgives all your sins, heals all your sickness, saves your life from the pit, crowns you with faithful love and compassion, and satisfies you with plenty of good things.

The LORD works righteousness; does justice for all who are oppressed.

The LORD is compassionate and merciful, very patient, and full of faithful love.

As high as heaven is above the earth, that's how large God's faithful love is for us.

As far as east is from west — that's how far God has removed our sin from us.

Like a parent feels compassion for their children — that's how the LORD feels compassion for God's own.

We thank You, God, for Your steadfast love!

*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

Word of the Day:
Forgiveness

Memory Verse:
Child, your sins
are forgiven.
— Mark 2:5

"Endureth" means
to last a long time.

*The Apostle's Creed

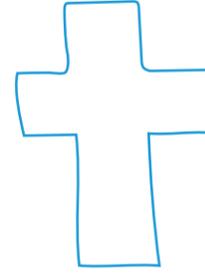
I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God
the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the
quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

*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 — Mark 2:1-12

God speaks to us through the reading of scripture.

Thanks be to God.

Special Music — My Mother
Pamela Sortomme, composer

Faith Like a Child

*Passing the Peace

*Hymn — Father, Forgive Them

Sung to "Have Thine Own Way, Lord"

"Father, forgive them!" Jesus, you prayed;
Even at death, your love was profound.
You were rejected, you were betrayed —
Yet in your word here, mercies abound.

"This is your mother... This is your son."
You blessed the life your loved ones would share.
So in your church, you give to each one
Love's healing bonds — an answer to prayer.

"Father!" You cried out, praying to God,
"Into your hands my spirit I give."
Then on the cross, as love's final Word,
You died so all God's children might live.

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.

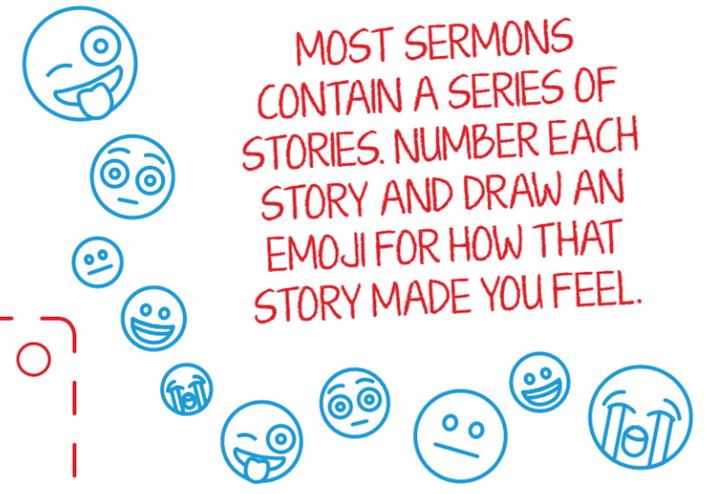
You can listen as the scripture is read, or...
Find a Bible nearby, look up the scripture, and follow along.

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 Forgiveness of Sins

MOST SERMONS CONTAIN A SERIES OF STORIES. NUMBER EACH STORY AND DRAW AN EMOJI FOR HOW THAT STORY MADE YOU FEEL.



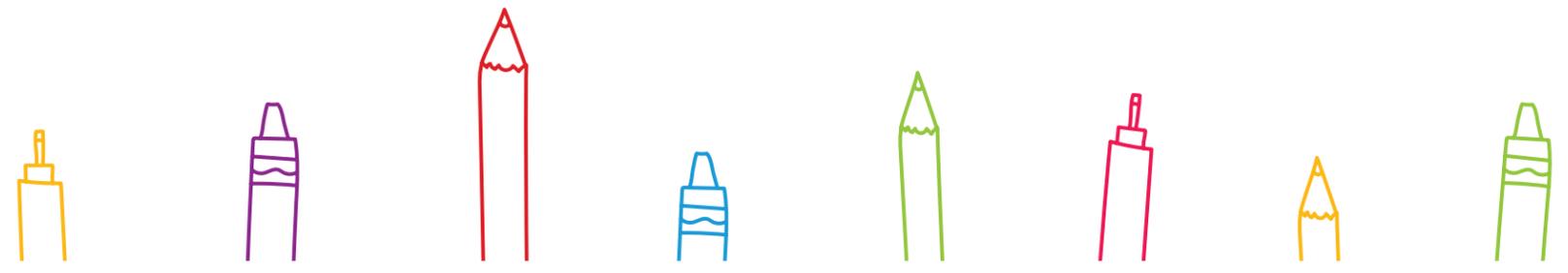
If the sermon is about a Bible hero, think of the person in your life who is most like that hero. Write about that person, or make an illustration.



Did you just hear something you disagree with? Argue about it.



Listen. What is something you hear that gives you a sense of wonder? Of peace? Of hope?



Did the sermon remind you of a story from your life? Write about that story... or illustrate it.

WE RESPOND

Pastoral Prayer

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.

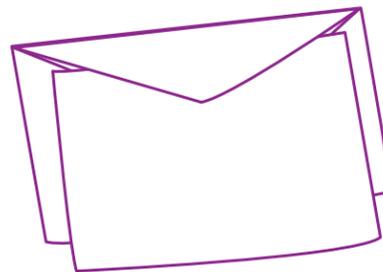
Many years after Jesus went to heaven, the early church added this part of the prayer. Hold the prayer cross close to your heart as you say this part.



A Time of Giving

Offertory — O Love
Elaine Hagenberg, composer

Find the offering envelope in your worship kit. Write your first and last name on the envelope, then put in the money you plan to give to the church. Place the envelope in the offering plate. Every dollar makes a difference!



*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 445 — Happy the Home When God is There

Happy the home when God is there, and love fills every breast;
When one their wish, and one their prayer, and one their heavenly rest.

Happy the home where Jesus' name is sweet to every ear;
Where children early speak his fame, and parents hold him dear.

Happy the home where prayer is heard, and praise is wont to rise;
Where parents love the sacred Word and all its wisdom prize.

Lord, let us in our homes agree this blessed peace to gain;
Unite our hearts in love to thee, and love to all will reign.

*Reception of New Members

*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 — 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 step 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 F Major

Dietrich Buxtehude, composer

The flowers in the sanctuary are given in loving memory of Edna Coverdale Hart and Mary Lee and Ralph Hart, by Susan Hart Thompson and David Hart.

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: Dr. Mike Marshall, Rev. Linda McDermott

Choir: Choral Union

Soloist: Bree Mercer, soprano

Children's Choirs: Mark Burrows and Chris Rathburn, directors, Sara Davis, accompanist

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

Procession Leader: Will Robertson

*Please stand as you are able.

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

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.

