

# WORSHIP OF THE LIVING GOD

MARCH 27, 2022

## GATHERING TO WORSHIP

### Prelude

*Please silence all phones and electronic devices  
as we prepare to worship our great God.*

### Welcome and Announcements

Ben Phillips, Pastor of Ministries

### The Song of Ascent

*God's people sang together as they gathered and  
traveled together up to Jerusalem to worship God.*

#### *Great Is the Lord*

Great is the Lord He is holy and just, by His power we trust in His love.

Great is the Lord, He is faithful and true, by His mercy He proves He is love.

Great is the Lord and worthy of glory Great is the Lord and worthy of Praise.

Great is the Lord, now lift up your voice, now lift up your voice,

Great - is the Lord. Great is the Lord.

Great is the Lord He is holy and just, by His power we trust in His love.

Great is the Lord, He is faithful and true, by His mercy He proves He is love.

Great are You, Lord and worthy of glory Great are You, Lord and worthy of Praise.

Great are You, Lord, I lift up my voice, I lift up my voice,

Great - are You, Lord. Great are You, Lord.

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## ADORATION OF GOD

**Call to Worship:** Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. - Psalm 107.1-3

### Quieting of Hearts, Confession of Sin and Invocation

#### Declaring Our Faith: (Unison)

Psalm 103.8-12

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

#### Hymn of Praise *Bless the Lord, O My Soul (Ten Thousand Reasons)*

The sun comes up; it's a new day dawning.

It's time to sing Your song again.

Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me

Let me be singing when the evening comes.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul. Worship His holy name.  
Sing like never before, O my soul, I'll worship Your holy name.

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger.  
Your name is great and Your heart is kind.  
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing.  
10,000 reasons for my heart to find.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul. Worship His holy name.  
Sing like never before, O my soul, I'll worship Your holy name.  
I'll worship Your holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul. Worship His holy name.  
Sing like never before, O my soul, I'll worship Your holy name.  
I'll worship Your holy name.

And on that day when my strength is failing  
The end draws near and my time has come.  
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending.  
10,000 years and then forever more!

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul. Worship His holy name.  
Sing like never before, O my soul. (I'll worship Your ho-ly name.)  
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#### **CMPC MISSION AND FAMILY LIFE**

#### **Mission Moment**

#### **Pastoral Prayer**

#### **OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

**The Gift of Music**                      *His Robes for Mine*                      Choir and Orchestra

His robes for mine: O wonderful exchange!  
Clothed in my sin, Christ suffered 'neath God's rage.  
Draped in His righteousness, I'm justified.  
In Christ I live, for in my place He died.

#### CHORUS:

*I cling to Christ, and marvel at the cost:  
Jesus forsaken, God estranged from God.  
Bought by such love, my life is not my own.  
My praise-my all-shall be for Christ alone.*

His robes for mine: what cause have I for dread?  
God's daunting Law Christ mastered in my stead.  
Faultless I stand with righteous works not mine,  
Saved by my Lord's vicarious death and life.

His robes for mine: such anguish none can know.

Christ, God's beloved, condemned as though His foe.  
He, as though I, accursed and left alone;  
I, as though He, embraced and welcomed home!

His robes for mine: God's justice is appeased.  
Jesus is crushed, and thus the Father's pleased.  
Christ drank God's wrath on sin, then cried "'Tis done!"  
Sin's wage is paid; propitiation won.

### **Receiving God's Tithes and Our Offerings**

#### *The Doxology*

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

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

#### **Hymn of Testimony**

#### *Amazing Love*

*(Children ages three through 3rd grade may be escorted to Children's Church)*

My Lord, what love is this- that pays so dearly;  
That I, the guilty one may go free.

Refrain: *Amazing love, O what sacrifice, The Son of God, giv'n for me;  
My debt He pays and my death He dies, That I might live, that I might live.*

And so they watched Him die; despised, rejected;  
But O, the blood He shed flowed for me.

And now this love of Christ shall flow like rivers;  
Come wash your guilt away, live again.

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#### **PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD**

#### Revelation 2.1-7

"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: 'The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands. <sup>2</sup>"I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. <sup>3</sup>I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. <sup>4</sup>But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. <sup>5</sup>Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. <sup>6</sup>Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. <sup>7</sup>He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.'

**All: *The grass withers, the flowers fade, but the word of our God will stand forever.***

### **Prayer of Illumination**

**Sermon**

*Lost Without Your Love*

Pastor John

Series: *Strength for Today, Hope for Tomorrow: The Book of Revelation*

**OUR RESPONSE**

**Prayer of Application**

**Hymn of Response**

*My Jesus, I Love Thee*

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My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine;  
For thee all the follies of sin I resign  
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou;  
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

I love thee because thou hast first loved me,  
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree.  
I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow;  
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

I'll love thee in life, I will love thee in death;  
And praise thee as long as thou lendest me breath;  
And say, when the death-dew lies cold on my brow:  
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

In mansions of glory and endless delight,  
I'll ever adore thee in heaven so bright;  
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow:  
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

**Benediction and Threefold Amen**



## Chestnut Mountain Presbyterian, PCA

cmpca.org

CMPC Sermon Notes for March 27, 2022

- **Series:** *The Book of Revelation: Strength for Today, Hope for Tomorrow*
- **Message:** *Lost Without Your Love*
- **Text:** Revelation 2.1-7

- Jesus addresses the churches directly to give strength for today and hope for tomorrow
- The scariest letter of all

### Primer on the 7 Letters

- Who they are to: Seven churches on a “postal route” circle starting at Ephesus
- A characteristic of Christ from chapter one is applied to each letter
  - Each letter has as an opening line one of the statements about Jesus in verse 12-20.
  - Each of the seven churches presents a different aspect of Jesus’ appearance, power, and authority
- All these letters deal with faithfulness to Christ in the midst of an often-threatening pagan culture
- Remember, these letters are from Jesus...
  - The words of him who was described in 1.12-20
  - Seven lampstands... wants their light to shine in the darkness
- Jesus walking among his churches; his authority is in view
- Shows knowledge of the cities as well
- All follow a similar structure and pattern
  - Are addressed to the angel of the church; angel... or pastor?
  - Contain some marked characteristic of Jesus Christ already declared in the chapter 1 and pinpointed for that particular church’s need;
  - Christ’s assessment: “I know”- divine, intimate knowledge
  - Commendation or rebuke or both;
  - Contain an exhortation(s) or command(s);
  - Contain a promise connected with the balance of the book that serves to motivate obedience
  - Call for hearing what the Spirit says to the churches.
- Ears to hear
  - Structure of Revelation.... Revelation 1 introduces the book; Revelation 2-3 are the didactic portions that teach directly; the pictures/stories that follow reinforce the teaching; point to the final triumph in Revelation 21-22
  - Imitates Jesus teaching with parables and the word pictures/parables of Ezekiel

### Context

- Ephesus...
  - Large city... 200,000 to 250,000 people; 24,000 seat theater
  - Wealth due to trade
- Temple to Artemis (Diana) on of the seven wonders of the ancient world

- Persecution was taking place because they would not say Jesus is Lord
  - Intolerance grew as they became separated from Jewish umbrella
- Some suggest these seven churches represent the history of the church across the ages
  - But: seven is a number of completeness in Revelation; seven churches represent the whole church across the ages and what we struggle with; hence, we learn from all the churches here

### **Commendation**

- What stands out
  - Works
  - Effort
  - Endurance
- Opposing wicked people, false apostles, and Nicolaitians is tiring.
- Strong ministry practices; doctrinal purity

### **Complaint**

- Lost their Love
  - Devastating charge
- Backdrop
  - Connection with Ephesian elders
  - Letter to the Ephesians, 1.15
  - 3.19 Know the love of Christ
- The first generation: known for love
  - Now second and third generation
- In general
- In particular: love for the gospel message and proclamation, cf. Matthew 24.12-14

### **Command**

- Remedy
  - Remember
  - Repent
  - Works... of love for Christ... not performing for others

### **Caution**

- Remove the lampstand unless repent
  - Lampstand at the beginning point back to Jesus in chapter one
  - Historical allusion: The city had been moved several times because of the silting of the Cayster River.. Christ threatens to remove the church
  - Why? A church that loses its first love will eventually fall away... all the works, effort, endurance, discernment, doctrine will not matter
- We are lost without our love
- A Christian is not one going through the motions, a Christian is being who we are

### **The promise, 2.7b**

- What would have been open to Adam and Eve in the Garden if they had not eaten of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil is now in the New Jerusalem for believers.

### **So What About Us?**

- The scariest letter of all...

- Remember Jesus' love for us
- Examine our hearts... Question our motives
- Repent
- Renew... daily
- He who hears... our need is to take this seriously...