

# Chestnut Mountain Presbyterian Church

## WORSHIP OF THE LIVING GOD

MAY 1, 2022

### GATHERING TO WORSHIP

#### Prelude

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

#### Welcome and Announcements

Dee Hammond, Pastor of Missions & Outreach

#### Kids of the Kingdom

*Call on Jesus*

#### The Song of Ascent

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

*Trust and Obey*

When we walk with the Lord in the light of his Word  
What a glory he sheds on our way!  
While we do his good will, he abides with us still,  
And with all who will trust and obey.

#### Refrain:

*Trust and obey, for there's no other way  
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.*

Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at his feet,  
Or we will walk by his side in the way;  
What he says we will do, where he sends we will go,  
Never fear, only trust and obey.

### ADORATION OF GOD

**Call to Worship:** "Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors, remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,'

- Isaiah 46.8-11

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

#### Declaration of Truth:

Psalm 25.4-7

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long. Remember your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!

#### Hymn of Praise

*A Mighty Fortress is Our God*

#92

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;  
Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing:  
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;

His craft and pow'r are great, and, armed with cruel hate,  
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,  
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing:  
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;  
Lord Sabaoth, His Name, from age to age the same,  
And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,  
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us;  
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;  
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure,  
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them, abideth;  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him Who with us sideth;  
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;  
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,  
His kingdom is forever.

#### **CMPC MISSION AND FAMILY LIFE**

**Mission Moment**                      *The Gideon Ministry, Broadus Duncan*  
*Unreached Peoples, Emily*

#### **Pastoral Prayer**

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

**The Gift of Music**                      *Holy, Holy, Holy*                      Orchestra

**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**                      *Every Promise of Your Word*  
*(Children ages three through 3rd grade may be escorted to Children's Church)*

From the breaking of the dawn  
to the setting of the sun,  
I will stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.  
Words of power, strong to save,  
that will never pass away,  
I will stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.  
For Your covenant is sure,



And on this I am secure—  
I can stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.

When I stumble and I sin,  
condemnation pressing in,  
I will stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.  
You are faithful to forgive

that in freedom I might live,  
So I stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.  
Guilt to innocence restored,  
You remember sins no more—  
So I'll stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.

When I'm faced with anguished choice,  
  
I will listen for Your voice,  
And I'll stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.  
Through this dark and troubled land  
You will guide me with Your hand  
As I stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.

And You've promised to complete  
Ev'ry work begun in me—  
So I'll stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.

Hope that lifts me from despair,  
love that casts out ev'ry fear,  
As I stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.  
Not forsaken, not alone,

for the Comforter has come,  
And I stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.  
Grace sufficient, grace for me,  
Grace for all who will believe—  
We will stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.

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## **PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD**

### **Reading of God's Word**

Revelation 3.1-6

Pew Bible Page 1029

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

### **Prayer of Illumination**

#### **Sermon**

*Dead... or Alive?* Pastor John

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

#### **OUR RESPONSE**

#### **Prayer of Application**

**Hymn of Response***Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

#457

Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, Tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise,  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, Sung by flaming tongues above;  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, Mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer; Hither by thy help I'm come;  
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, Safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wand'ring from the fold of God:  
He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor Daily I'm constrained to be;  
Let that grace now, like a fetter, Bind my wand'ring heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for thy courts above.

**Benediction and Threefold Amen**



**Chestnut Mountain Presbyterian, PCA**  
**cmpca.org**  
**CMPC Sermon Notes for May 1, 2022**

- **Series:** *The Book of Revelation: Strength for Today, Hope for Tomorrow*
- **Message:** *Dead... or Alive!*
- **Text:** Revelation 3.1-6

**The City of Sardis, 1a**

- 30 miles southeast of Thyatira
- Wool industry- developed process for dying wool
- Gold nuggets were in the river flowing through lower Sardis.
- King Croesus: Born around 595 BC, according to [Herodotus](#) he reigned for 14 years
  - Renowned for his wealth/Midas touch; In Greek and Persian cultures the name of Croesus became a synonym for a wealthy man. Croesus' wealth remained proverbial beyond classical antiquity.
  - “As rich as Howard Hughes... Bill Gates... Jeff Bezos... Elon Musk... Croesus”
  - Croesus is credited with issuing the first true [gold coins](#) with a standardized purity for general circulation.
- A very rich city
- Possible home of Aesop
- Destroyed in 17 AD by an earthquake
- Sardis: seemingly invincible, on top of a mountain with three sides being sheer cliffs

**Jesus: Seven Stars, Seven Spirits, 1b**

- Seven angels and the Holy Spirit- a penetrating knowledge of the Church
- Seven Spirits- the Spirit's fullness
- Seven stars... the seven messengers

**The Analysis, 1c**

- A stunning evaluation
  - From outward appearances: strong, active
  - What Jesus knows: a good reputation of spiritual life, but they are spiritually dead.
    - Isaiah 29.13, Matthew 23.27
  - Deluded about their spiritual experience and ministry
- How does that happen?
  - Note: What is missing in this letter? No challenges to fight from without, just spiritual deadness within.
  - Satan was able to leave these folks alone

**History's Lesson**

- While you were sleeping...
  - Cyrus defeats King Croesus, 6<sup>th</sup> century

- In the third century BC, the city was overthrown by the Roman General Antiochus

### **The Remedy: 5 Commands, 2-3**

- Wake up!
  - Real danger here
- Strengthen
  - What remains- their grip on spiritual realities
  - Works not complete before God- not carrying out the ministry God called them to- not doing their part to advance God's kingdom.
  - Nearby hot springs were supposed to have power to give life to the dead... an ironic note for a city whose church was dead. In John's day Sardis was prosperous but decaying, its glory days long past.
- Remember:
  - What God's word says
  - As in Deuteronomy 8.2, What they were taught; what the first generation of the church had done forty years before
- Keep
  - In other words, do what we remember
  - Obedience
- Repent
  - Spiritual life comes through fellowship with the Living Christ
  - Demonstrated through repentance and obedience
- If not: a thief in the night- immanent judgment- back to the soldiers invading the city
  - No knowledge about when he comes

### **The Remnant, 4-6**

- A few people who are not dirty
- Clothed in white- not stained by sin (cf. Isaiah 1.18)
- Walk with me- companionship with Jesus
- Confess your name- an introduction to the Father!
- Listen

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

- Presumptuous faith
- Self-examination
  - Strengthen
  - Remember
  - Keep
  - Repent
- An introduction

