

The power of God's Spirit becomes ours by faith—the power is for those who believe (Ephesians 1:19). It is important to stress that faith is not the power. Rather, it is the switch that allows the Spirit's power to flow into our lives. Only the Spirit has the power to throw mountains into the sea, raise the dead and create the world. The amazing truth of the Gospel is that this great power is at work in our lives—those of us who believe (Ephesians 1:19-20). Hallelujah!

“It is an item of faith that we are children of God; there is plenty of evidence against it.’ The faith that surmounts this evidence and is able to warm itself at the fire of God's love, instead of having to steal love and self-acceptance from other sources, is actually the root of holiness...It is a fatal mistake to think of holiness as a possession which we have distinct from our faith...Faith is the very highest form of our dependence on God. We never outgrow it...Whatever other fruits of the Spirit we show, they grow upon faith, and faith which is in its very nature repentance...Every Christian experience is an experience of what we have not. We are not saved by the love we exercise but by the love we trust.

P.T. Forsyth

Order of Worship *December 2, 2012*

Prelude

SMC Music Team

Welcome and Announcements

Ed Kelley

Celebrating His Presence

Preparation for Worship

Call to Worship

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see.

This is He Whom heav'n-taught singers sang of old with one accord,
Whom the Scriptures of the prophets promised in their faithful word;
Now He shines, the long-expected; let creation praise its Lord.

O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him; angel hosts, His praises sing,
All dominions, bow before Him and extol our God and King;
Let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring.

Christ, to Thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to Thee,
Hymn, and chant, and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory.

Invocation

Josh Cools

A Gospel Moment

The Prayer of Confession and Repentance

Lord God! Eternal and Almighty Father, we acknowledge and confess before Your holy Majesty that we are poor sinners, conceived and born in guilt and in corruption, prone to do evil, unable of ourselves to do any good, who, by reason of our depravity, transgress without end Your holy commandments. Therefore, we have drawn upon ourselves, by Your just sentence, condemnation and death. But, O Lord! With heartfelt sorrow, we repent and deplore our offenses. We condemn ourselves and our evil ways, with true penitence, beseeching that Your grace may relieve our distress. Be pleased to have compassion on us, O most gracious God, Father of all mercies, for the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. And in removing our guilt and our pollution, grant us the daily increase of the grace of Your Holy Spirit, that acknowledging from our inmost heart our own unrighteousness, we may be touched with sorrow that shall work true repentance, and that Your Spirit, mortifying all sin within us, may produce the fruits of holiness and righteousness well pleasing in Your sight. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

People: Thanks be to God!

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Comfort, comfort ye My people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning 'neath their sorrow's load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.

Yea, her sins our God will pardon, blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserved His anger He no more will see or heed.
She hath suffered many a day, now her griefs have passed away;
God will change her pining sadness into ever-springing gladness.

For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near,
Bidding all men to repentance, since the kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise to meet Him, and the hills bow down to greet Him.

The Blessing

Minister: The grace of God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Greeting One Another in the Name of the Lord

Experiencing Renewal

Come and See

Come and see the glory of the Lord, come, behold the Lamb.
Come and see the mercy of the King, bowing down before Him.

Come and give thanks unto the Lord, come, behold the Lamb.
Come and sing the praises of the King, bowing down before Him.

*For He is Lord above the heavens, Lord in all the earth;
Lord of all the angels, worthy to be served.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord.

*(*repeat at asterisk)*

Here I Am to Worship

Light of the world, You stepped down into darkness,
Opened my eyes, let me see.
Beauty that made this heart adore You, hope of a life spent with You.

Chorus: Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that You're my God.
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy, altogether wonderful to me.

King of all days, oh so highly exalted, glorious in heaven above.
Humbly You came to the earth You created,
All for love's sake became poor.

(repeat chorus twice)

And I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross.
I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross.

(repeat chorus twice)

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Pastoral Prayer

Dan Phillips

Song of Preparation to Hear God's Word

(Children ages 4-6 may be dismissed for Children's Church during song)

In My Place

In my place He stood condemned, He who knew no sin,
Became sin for us that we might become His righteousness;
Bearing all my sin and shame, the punishment and blame,
He conquered the grave that we might become the heirs of grace.

Chorus: In my place Jesus died, the spotless Lamb laid down His life;
The wrath of God was satisfied, in my place, Jesus died.

(repeat all)

Bridge: Nail-pierced hands, bleeding side, His body bruised, my God crucified.
A crown of thorns, dying cries, His flesh was torn, my God crucified.
Hallelujah, what a Savior! Hallelujah, what a Savior!
Hallelujah, what a Savior! Hallelujah, what a Savior!

(repeat chorus)

Deepening Our Commitment

Preaching of the Word

Mark Russell

“Confident of Completion”
Philippians 1:3-6

Our Fallen Condition: Because of many afflictions and discouragements in this life, Christians struggle to understand how the finished work of Christ can be brought to bear on their maturity in Him. We tend towards either control or passivity, both of which distort the implications of the Gospel.

We are confident in our Christian maturity because:

1. It starts with God.
2. God gives it a purpose.
3. It will be completed by God.

Receiving of Tithes and Offerings

Song of Response

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Key of David, come and open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Benediction