



The life of the church mirrors the gospel pattern in the life of a disciple.

This is demonstrated in our **order of worship** (the bulletin you are holding): Opening moments offer recognition of the greatness and goodness of God that naturally folds into confession, assurance of pardon, songs of thanksgiving, instruction, and a charge to serve God in response to His grace in Christ.



As part of the process of our sanctification, perseverance is a synergistic work. This means it is a cooperative effort between God and us. We persevere as He perseveres. An analogy of this is often used with children. A child and his father walk down a dangerous path while holding hands. There are two ways in which they can hold hands. First, the child can grasp his father's hand and hold on tightly. If he lets go, he may fall. Second, the father can hold the child's hand. Only if the father loosens his grip can the child fall. In the first instance, the child's safety depends on the consistency and firmness by which he clings to his father. In the second instance, the safety depends on the consistency and firmness by which the father clings to him. We may push the analogy a bit and say that when the child loosens his grip on the father's hand the father may let him stumble and scrape his knees. Though the child incurs the father's displeasure in the process, the father will not allow his grip on the child to be loosed entirely, preventing him from falling into an abyss.

R.C. Sproul, *Grace Unknown*

# *Order of Worship*

## *March 18, 2018*

### **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Prelude**

SMPC Music Team

## *Celebrating His Presence*

### **Preparation for Worship**

### **Call to Worship**



We believe everyone **worships** something and that we will inevitably imitate and serve what we worship.



## ***This Is My Father's World***

This is my Father's world, and to my list'ning ears,  
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.

This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought  
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world, the birds their carols raise,  
The morning light, the lily white declare their Maker's praise.

This is my Father's world: He shines in all that's fair;  
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass, He speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world, O let me ne'er forget  
That though the wrong oft seems so strong, God is the Ruler yet.

This is my Father's world: the battle is not done;  
Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and earth and heav'n be one.

### **Invocation**

### **A Gospel Moment**

### **The Prayer of Confession and Repentance**

Almighty God, we confess that we often complain about the claims You make on our lives. You have called us to be the church, to continue the mission of Jesus Christ to our lonely and confused world. Yet we acknowledge we are more apathetic than active, isolated than involved, callous than compassionate, obstinate than obedient, legalistic than loving. Gracious Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive our sins. Remove the obstacles preventing us from being Your representatives to a broken world. Awaken our hearts to the promised gift of Your indwelling Spirit. This we pray in Jesus' powerful name. Amen.



*The **gospel moment** is a time we use to remind people of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

*By His obedience we are justified, and by His death we are reconciled to God. As we apprehend this we are ready to confess our sin.*



*Since we understand that we are redeemed sinners, we agree with God about our sin to the end that we might be confirmed in the forgiveness and absolution we have in Christ. This pattern of **confession** makes way for affirmation and confirmation of God's covenant promise that He assures every believer of pardon for the sake of Christ's obedience and substitution.*





*For assurance of pardon, the man who has faith is the man who is no longer looking at himself and no longer looking to himself. He looks entirely to the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work, and rests on that alone". –Martyn Lloyd-Jones*



## **Assurance of Pardon**

*People:* Thanks be to God!

## **Give Thanks**

Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
Give thanks to the Holy One,  
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son. *(repeat)*

And now let the weak say, 'I am strong',  
Let the poor say, 'I am rich'  
Because of what the Lord has done for us!

## **The Blessing**

*Minister:* The grace of God be with you.  
*People:* And also with you.

## **Reception of New Members**

## **Greeting One Another in the Name of the Lord**

# *Experiencing Renewal*

## ***Better Is One Day***

How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty  
For my soul longs and even faints for You,  
For here my heart is satisfied within Your presence.  
I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings.

*Chorus:* Better is one day in Your courts, better is one day in Your house,  
Better is one day in Your courts than thousands elsewhere.  
Better is one day in Your courts, better is one day in Your house,  
Better is one day in Your courts than thousands elsewhere,  
Than thousands elsewhere.

One thing I ask and I would seek: to see Your beauty,  
To find You in the place Your glory dwells.  
One thing I ask and I would seek: to see Your beauty,  
To find You in the place Your glory dwells.

*(repeat chorus twice)*

## ***There is a Redeemer***

There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One. *(chorus)*

Jesus, my Redeemer, Name above all names,  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, hope for sinners slain. *(chorus)*

When I stand in glory I will see His face,  
And there I'll serve my King forever, in that Holy place. *(chorus)*

*Chorus:* Thank You, O my Father, for giving us Your Son;  
And leaving Your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.

*(last time repeat chorus)*



Now that we  
have  
reenacted the  
story of the  
gospel as a  
church  
community.  
We now  
**experience  
the renewal**  
merited for us  
by Jesus  
Christ. We  
express this  
renewal in  
our singing  
praises to  
Jesus for His  
great mercy  
towards us.





Jesus, our  
shepherd, prays  
with us and for  
us. We pray the  
**pastoral prayer**  
expecting the  
Holy Spirit to  
minister Jesus'  
benefits to us as  
He prays for us.



## Pastoral Prayer



(children 4-5  
years are  
dismissed to  
Children's  
Church during  
Song of  
Preparation)



## Song of Preparation to Hear God's Word

### ***The Church's One Foundation***

The church's one Foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;  
She is His new creation by water and the Word:  
From heav'n He came and sought her to be His holy bride;  
With His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died.

Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,  
Her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
One holy Name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
And to one hope she presses, with ev'ry grace endued.

The church shall never perish! Her dear Lord to defend,  
To guide, sustain and cherish, is with her to the end;  
Though there be those that hate her, and false sons in her pale,  
Against or foe or traitor she ever shall prevail.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,  
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:  
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,  
Like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with Thee.





**Receiving of tithes and offerings** is not an "add on" to the service. It is part of worship. We demonstrate our trust in God's present provision and hope in our future with Him by supporting the spread of the Gospel.



## Receiving of Tithes and Offerings

## Song of Response

### ***O Church Arise***

O Church arise and put your armor on, hear the call of Christ our Captain,  
For now the weak can say that they are strong  
In the strength that God has given.  
With shield of faith and belt of truth we'll stand against the devil's lies;  
An army bold whose battle cry is love,  
Reaching out to those in darkness.

Come see the cross where love and mercy meet,  
As the Son of God is stricken.  
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet,  
For the Conqueror has risen!  
And as the stone is rolled away and Christ emerges from the grave,  
This victory march continues till the day  
Every eye and heart shall see Him.

So Spirit come, put strength in every stride, give grace for every hurdle,  
That we may run with faith to win the prize  
Of a servant good and faithful.  
As saints of old still line the way retelling triumphs of His grace,  
We hear their calls and hunger for the day  
When with Christ we stand in glory.



The

**Benediction** is a pronouncement of God's favor upon His assembled people.



## Benediction

