



*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.*



The conversion of Saul of Tarsus is among the greatest events in the history of the church. This spiritual transformation ranks among the most significant events in world history. Without Paul, there would be no New Testament as we know it. Neither would we have many of the doctrinal emphases now considered central to the theology of the New Testament, such as union with Christ, justification by faith, and the significance of Christ's death and resurrection as an explanation of the Christian life. Without Paul, there would not have been an Augustine, or a Luther, or a Wesley. Some of the world's most hostile thinkers (Nietzsche, Freud, and George Bernard Shaw, to name but three) saved their most caustic remarks for the apostle Paul. In short, it is no exaggeration to suggest, with William J. Larkin, that "the most important event in human history apart from the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth is the conversion to Christianity of Saul of Tarsus."

Derek Thomas

Order of Worship

August 2, 2020

Welcome and Announcements

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.*



The Heav'ns Declare Thy Glory (Psalm 19)

The heav'ns declare Thy glory, the firmament Thy pow'r;
Day unto day the story repeats from hour to hour;
Night unto night replying, proclaims in every land,
O Lord, with voice undying, the wonders of Thy hand.

The sun with royal splendor goes forth to chant Thy praise,
And moonbeams soft and tender their gentler anthems raise;
O'er every tribe and nation the music strange is poured,
The song of all creation to Thee, creation's Lord.

All heav'n on high rejoices to do its Maker's will;
The stars with solemn voices resound Thy praises still;
So let my whole behavior, thoughts, words and actions be,
O Lord, my Strength, my Savior, one ceaseless song to Thee.

Invocation

A Gospel Moment

The Prayer of Confession and Repentance

Most holy and merciful Father, we acknowledge and confess before You our sinful nature—prone to evil and slothful in good—and all our shortcomings and offenses against You. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from Your ways, in wasting Your gifts, in forgetting Your love. O Lord, have mercy on us, who are ashamed and sorry for all wherein we have displeased You. Teach us to hate our errors, cleanse us from our secret faults, and forgive our sins for the sake of Your dear Son. And, O most holy and loving Father, send Your purifying grace into our hearts, we beseech You, that we may henceforth live in Your light and walk in Your ways, according to the commandments of Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.*



Assurance of Pardon

People: Thanks be to God!



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



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

Just as I Am

Just as I am without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, Thou will receive,
Will welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, Thy love unknown
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.



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.*



Pastoral Prayer



*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.*



Deepening Our Commitment

Preaching of the Word

Pastor Tim Posey

Series: Acts of the Apostles
“From Enemy to Ambassador” Acts 9:1-9a
Theme: *Surprised by Grace*

Introduction:

I. God's enemy

II. God's judgment

III. God's forgiveness

Conclusion:



*Since Jesus Christ
has committed
Himself to us in the
laying down of His
precious life, we are
reminded of this in
the preaching of the
Word and likewise
called to a daily,
deepening
commitment to
follow after Him.*



Song of Response



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. You will find baskets for your tithes at the rear of the sanctuary.



I Look to the Shepherd

I look to the Shepherd, He meets all my needs;
Beside the still waters He faithfully leads,
Bringing peace to my soul, as His love makes me whole. (*chorus*)

And when in the valley of deepest despair,
I look to the Shepherd, His presence is there;
Bringing peace to my soul, as His love makes me whole. (*chorus*)

Chorus: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me,
Follow me all the days of my life.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me, all my life.

Celebrating the Lord's Supper



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



Benediction

