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**Leading our community into a deep connection in Christ**

**Worship Service for August 15, 2021 at 11 AM**

**Welcome**

**Opening Song:**God So Loved

Oooo, Ooooo, Ooooo

Come all you weary, come all you thirsty  
Come to the well that never runs dry  
Drink of the Water, come and thirst no more

Come all you sinners, come find His mercy  
Come to the table, He will satisfy  
Taste of His goodness, find what you’re looking for

Chorus 1:  
For God so loved the world that He gave us His  
One and only Son to save us  
Whoever believes in Him will live forever

Oooo, Ooooo, Ooooo

Bring all your failures, bring your addictions  
Come lay them down at the foot of the cross  
Jesus is waiting there with open arms

Chorus 1

Chorus 2:  
The power of Hell forever defeated  
Now it is well, I’m Walking in freedom  
For God so loved, God so loved the world

**Invocation**

**Confession and Forgiveness:**

**P:** Our Heavenly Father asks us to come into His presence.

**C:** But we are sinful and unworthy.

**P:** Yes, all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, but Jesus Christ died on the cross that we may be forgiven and washed clean of all our sins by His blood spilled on the cross.

**C:** Lord, if You wash us, we will certainly be clean and pure.

**P:** We take a moment to bow before the His cross and silently reflect on our lives and confess our sins.

(Time of silence for reflection and confession)

**P:** Let us confess, together, our sins to God our Father.

**C:** Heavenly Father, we confess that we are sinners.  We have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have not loved you with our whole heart and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not lived out our faith out in our community. We justly deserve Your punishment.  For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.  Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name.  Amen.

**P:** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins.  As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I, therefore, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen

**Song of Praise and Thanksgiving:** Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia

Christ has arisen, alleluia. Rejoice and praise Him, alleluia.  
For our Redeemer burst from the tomb,  
Even from death, dispelling its gloom.

Refrain:  
Let us sing praise to Him with endless joy;  
Death’s fearful sting He has come to destroy.  
Our sin forgiving, alleluia! Jesus is living, alleluia!

For three long days the grave did its worst   
Until its strength by God was dispersed.  
He who gives life did death undergo;   
And in its conquest His might did show.

Refrain

The angel said to them, do not fear! You look for Jesus who is not here.  
See for yourselves the tomb is all bare; Only the grave cloths are lying there.

Refrain

Go spread the news: He’s not in the grave; He has arisen this world to save.  
Jesus’ redeeming labors are done; Even the battle with sin is won.

Refrain

Christ has arisen; He sets us free; Alleluia, to Him praises be.  
Jesus is living! Let us all sing; He reigns triumphant, heavenly King.

Refrain

**Epistle Reading -**Ephesians 5:6-21

Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore, do not become partners with them; for at one time, you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.  
C: Thanks be to God.

**Gospel Reading** - John 6:60–69

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?” But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, “Do you take offense at this? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) And he said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.”

After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. So Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”  
P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
C: Praise be to You, o Christ.

**Children's Message**

**Sermon Hymn***–*In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found.   
He is my light, my strength, my song  
This Cornerstone, this solid ground.  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm  
What heights of love, what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease  
My Comforter, my All in All.   
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, Fullness of God in helpless babe  
This gift of love and righteousness, Scorned by the ones He came to save  
‘Til on that cross as Jesus died, The wrath of God was satisfied  
For every sin on Him was laid, Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day, Up from the grave He rose again  
And as He stands in victory, Sin’s curse has lost its grip on me  
For I am His and He is mine, Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death, This is the power of Christ in me  
From life’s first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny  
No power of hell, no scheme of man,   
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
‘til He returns or calls me home,   
Here in the power of Christ I’ll stand  
No power of hell, no scheme of man,   
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
‘til He returns or calls me home,   
Here in the power of Christ I’ll stand

**Sermon** - "Living as the Chosen People of God" Joshua 24:1–2a, 14–18

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel. And they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, ‘Long ago, your fathers lived beyond the Euphrates, Terah, the father of Abraham and of Nahor; and they served other gods...

...“Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods, for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our fathers up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight and preserved us in all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed. And the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore, we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

P: This is the Word of the Lord.  
C: Thanks be to God.

**Prayers** *Text in prayer requests to (813) 602-1104*

**Nicene Creed**

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.  Amen

**Words of Institution**

**Peace**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

P: We greet each other in the peace of Christ.

**Distribution**

**Prayer**

**Benediction**

**Closing Song:**As For Me & My House

Let our foundation be Built on your majesty  
Let every word you speak Fill this home  
Jesus our cornerstone. The anchor for our souls  
Your glory will be shown By our love

Chorus:  
As for me and my house, as for me and my house  
We will serve you. We will serve you  
As for me and my house, as for me and my house  
We will serve you. We will serve you

We stand on Holy Ground. This is where lost get found  
Your goodness all around, it’s pouring out  
Your presence is new wine. The old is left behind  
There’s nothing but new life to be found

Chorus

This is a house where idols fall  
This is a house where dead man walk  
This is a house where freedoms calls  
Can you hear it now, hear it now

Repeat

Chorus 2x

**Offering**

**Upcoming Events**

**August 16, Council Meeting**Zoom

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