

Worship Service September 18, 2022

Welcome and Announcements ~ Craig Keith

Our special giving focus for missions this month is International Ministries' world mission offering. Thank you for your generosity and prayers to support the work God has invited them to do in the world.

We have a new doorknob for the Bonnet Street entrance, so if you are in need of a key to go with it, please let Lorraine Wilkins know.

Tuesday ~ There will be a deacon meeting at 4:30 pm at the church.

Wednesday ~ The Seeking God Together group will meet via zoom at 11 am.

Thursday ~ We will have choir practice at 7 pm at church.

The flowers this morning are given by Martha Thompson in loving memory of Joe Stannard.

Happy Birthday to Holly O'Brien on Tuesday and to Kristen Jefferson on Thursday!



Word of Preparation ~ Craig Keith

Prelude ~ Barb West will play as we prepare our hearts for worship.

Call to Worship ~Adapted from selected verses from Psalm 84 (TPT)

Please join in reading the bold lines.

God of Heaven, you find so much beauty in your people!

We're like lovely sanctuaries of your presence.

Deep within us are longings, desires of living in union with you.

**When we're near you, our hearts and souls will sing and worship
with my joyful songs of you, our true source and spring of life!**

What pleasure fills those of us who live every day in your temple,
enjoying you as we worship in your presence!

**How enriched are we who find our strength in You, Lord;
within our hearts you lead us on Your pathways of holiness!**

Even when our paths wind through the dark valley of tears,
we dig deep to find a pleasant pool where others find only pain.

We grow stronger and stronger with every step forward,

God, your wraparound presence is our defense.

In your kindness look upon the faces of your anointed ones.

**For just one day of intimacy with You is like
a thousand days of joy rolled into one!**

For You, Lord God are brighter than the brilliance of a sunrise!

Wrapping Yourself around us like a shield,

You are so generous with Your gifts of grace and glory.

Those who walk along Your paths with integrity
will never lack one thing they need, for You provide it all!

O Lord, what peace fills all who trust in You!

Song ~ “O God of Vision” (#288 in the blue hymnal)

*O God of vision far greater than all human scheming
Gather us now in your presence, refreshing, redeeming
Show us anew life in your breathtaking view
Lovely beyond all our dreaming*

*Pour out your Spirit on all now assembled before you
May our diversity here be a means to adore you
Women and me, young, old, and youthful again
Make us as one, we implore you*

*Grant to us insight, O God, for this time of decision
May we dream challenging dreams of both depth and precision
Speak through the dark. Dispel by lightning’s bright spark
Whatever clouds dim our vision*

*Break the suns’ rays into color, a rainbow around us
Storm clouds, though real and near, are not enough to confound us
Arched in the sky, beauty and promise are high
Giving us hope to astound us*

*Grateful, we come now by Christ’s invitation clear spoken
We seek the nourishment found in fruit crushed and bread broken
Christ for us all! Come, let us answer the call
Offering our lives as the token*

Words ~ Jane Parker Huber, 1981 Music ~ *Ernerurten Gesangbuch*, 1665

Praying Together ~

Space for prayer requests

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 debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.
Amen

Song ~ “The Church’s One Foundation” (# 272 in the blue hymnal)

*The church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord
We are his new creation by water and the Word
From heaven he came and sought us to be his holy bride
With his own blood he bought us, and for our life he died
Called forth from every nation, yet one o’er all the earth
Our charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth
One holy name professing and at one table fed
To one hope always pressing, by Christ’s own Spirit led
Through with a scornful wonder the world sees us oppressed
By schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed
Yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up, “How long?”
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song
Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of our war
We wait for consummation of peace forevermore
Till with the vision glorious our longing eyes are blest
And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest
We now on earth have union with God the Three in One
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won
Oh, happy ones, and holy! Lord, give us grace that we like them, the
meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee*

Words ~ Samuel Stone Music ~ Samuel Wesley | Public Domain

Choir Song ~ “One Step He Leads”

Sermon Introduction ~ Pastor Rebecca Sommons

Scripture ~ 1 Corinthians 3:1-21 (TPT) read by Craig Keith

¹ Brothers and sisters, when I was with you, I found it impossible to speak to you as those who are spiritually mature people, for you are still dominated by the mind-set of the flesh. And because you are immature infants in Christ, ² I had to nurse you and feed you with “milk,” not with the solid food of more advanced teachings, because you weren’t ready for it. In fact, you are still not ready to be fed solid food, ³ for you are living your lives dominated by the mind-set of the flesh. Ask yourselves: Is there jealousy among you? Do you compare yourselves with others? Do you quarrel like children and end up taking sides? If so, this proves that you are living your lives centered on yourselves, dominated by the mind-set of the flesh, and behaving like unbelievers. ⁴ For when you divide yourselves up in groups— a “Paul group” and an “Apollos group” — you’re acting like people without the Spirit’s influence. ⁵ Who is Apollos, really? Or who is Paul? Aren’t we both just servants through whom you believed our message? Aren’t each of us doing the ministry the Lord has assigned to us? ⁶ I planted the church, and Apollos came and cared for it, but it was God who caused it to grow. ⁷ This means the one who plants is not anybody special, nor the one who waters, for God is the one who brings the supernatural growth. ⁸ Now, the one who plants and the one who waters are equally important and on the same team, but each will be rewarded for his own work. ⁹ We are coworkers with God, and you are God’s cultivated garden, the house he is building.

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¹⁰ God has given me unique gifts as a skilled master builder who lays a good foundation. Afterward another craftsman comes and builds on it. So builders beware! Let every builder do his work carefully, according to God’s standards. ¹¹ For no one is empowered to lay an alternative foundation other than the good foundation that exists, which is Jesus Christ! ¹²⁻¹³ The quality of materials used by anyone building on this foundation will soon be made apparent, whether it has been built with gold, silver, and costly stones, or wood, hay, and straw. Their work will soon become evident, for the Day will make it clear, because it will be revealed by blazing fire! And the fire will test and prove the workmanship of each builder. ¹⁴ If his work stands the test of fire, he will be rewarded. ¹⁵ If his work is consumed by the fire, he will suffer great loss. Yet he himself will barely escape destruction, like one being rescued out of a burning house. ¹⁶ Don’t you realize that together you have become God’s inner sanctuary and that the Spirit of God makes his permanent home in you? ¹⁷ Now, if someone desecrates God’s inner sanctuary, God will desecrate him, for God’s inner sanctuary is holy, and that is exactly who you are. ¹⁸ So why fool yourself and live under an illusion? Make no mistake about it, if anyone thinks he is wise by the world’s standards, he will be made wiser by being a fool for God! ¹⁹ For what the world says is wisdom is actually foolishness in God’s eyes. As it is written: The cleverness of the know-it-alls becomes the trap that ensnares them.

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²⁰ And again:

The Lord sees right through the clever reasonings of the wise
and knows that it's all a sham.

²¹ So don't be proud of your allegiance to any human leader.

For actually, you already have everything!

It has all been given for your benefit,

²² whether it is Paul or Apollos or Peter the Rock,

or whether it's the world or life or death,

or whether it's the present or the future—

everything belongs to you!

²³ And now you are joined to the Messiah, who is joined to God.

Sermon ~ “Moving Toward Maturity” ~ Pastor Rebecca

Journaling questions for this week ~

***In what area do I sense the Holy Spirit working
to help me grow in maturity?***

***What are the things that I contribute to our shared life in Christ
that have eternal worth?***

Song ~ The worship team will lead us in singing “Lay Me Down.”

With this heart open wide, from the depths, from the heights

I will bring a sacrifice

With these hands lifted high, hear my song hear my cry

I will bring a sacrifice. I will bring a sacrifice

Chorus

I lay me down, I'm not my own. I belong to You alone

Lay me down, lay me down

Oh hand on my heart, this much is true ~

There's no life apart from You

Lay me down, lay me down, Oh lay me down

Letting go of my pride, giving up all my rights

Take this life and let it shine

Take this life and let it shine

Chorus

Oh lay me down, lay me down, lay me down

It will be my joy to say ~ Your will Your way

It will be my joy to say ~ Your will Your way

It will be my joy to say ~ Your will Your way, always

(Repeat)

Chorus

CCLI Song # 6223577 Chris Tomlin | Jason Ingram | Jonas Myrin | Matt Redman
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Benediction ~ inspired by Acts 20:28 (NLV)

May each of us keep a careful watch over ourselves and over the church.

The Holy Spirit has made each of us a vital part of His holy temple.

May we lovingly feed and care for the church family of God,

which Christ redeemed with His own blood.

And may we lay down our lives like he did,

letting them be transformed by the Gospel.