



For what we proclaim is not ourselves,
but Jesus Christ as Lord,
with ourselves as your servants
for Jesus' sake.

2 Corinthians 4:5

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people,
to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.
Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.
Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky.
Yes, the Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness will go before him and make his footsteps a way.

from Psalm 85

The Lord's Day — February 21, 2021 A.D.

Welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus! Thank you for joining us today and may the Lord richly bless you.

Song of Assembly¹

On Jordan's Stormy Banks

Traditional

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand and cast a wishful eye,
To Canaan's fair and happy land where my possessions lie.

All o'er those wide extended plains shines one eternal day;
There God, the Son forever reigns and scatters night away.

I am bound, I am bound, I am bound for the Promised Land.

I am bound, I am bound, I am bound for the Promised Land

No chilling winds nor pois'nous breath can reach that healthful shore,
And sickness, sorrow, pain, and death are felt and feared no more.

When shall I reach that happy place and be forever blest?

When shall I see my Savior's face and in His bosom rest?

Welcome and Announcements

Responsive Call to Worship:

Psalm 36:5,7-9

Pastor: Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds!

People: How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

Pastor: They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights!

People: For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light!

Prayer of Adoration & Praise

based on Psalm 85

Hymn of Praise

Great King of Nations, Hear Our Prayer

Croft

Great King of nations, hear our prayer, while at your feet we fall,
and humbly, with united cry, to you for mercy call.

The guilt is ours, but grace is yours, O turn us not away;
but hear us from your lofty throne, and help us when we pray.

Our fathers' sins were manifold, and ours no less we own,
yet wondrously from age to age your goodness has been shown.

When dangers, like a stormy sea, beset our country round,
to you we looked, to you we cried, and help in you was found.

With one consent we meekly bow beneath your chast'ning hand,
and, pouring forth confession meet, mourn with our mourning land.

With pitying eye behold our need, as thus we lift our prayer;
correct us with your judgments, Lord, then let your mercy spare.

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Reading of the Word: *lost and found*

Luke 15:1-10

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Confession of Sin

Our Father, you are the Lord of life. Our Savior, Jesus, is the Author of life. In him is life, and that life is the light of people. The light continues to shine in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it. Yet, Lord, the darkness that brings death and destruction often seems so strong in our lives and in our world. Forgive us for the ways we pursue death and not life. Help us to live as light in this world, as people who entrust ourselves completely to you ...*Silent & Personalized Confession of Sin...* Amen!

Hear the Good News!

1 John 1:5-9

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Worship with Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

Indescribable

Story

From the highest of heights, to the depths of the sea, Creation's revealing your majesty.

From the colors of fall to the fragrance of spring; Every creature unique in the song that it sings; All exclaiming:

*Indescribable! Uncontainable! You placed the stars in the sky and you know them by name. You are amazing God!
All powerful, untamable; awestruck we fall to our knees as we humbly proclaim. You are amazing God!*

Who has told every lightning bolt where it should go? Or seen Heavenly storehouses laden with snow?

Who imagined the sun and gives source to its light? Yet conceals it to bring us the coolness of night?

None can fathom:

*Incomparable, unchangeable; You know the depths of my heart and you love me the same.
You are amazing God! You are amazing God!*

All I Have Is Christ

Kauffman

I once was lost in darkest night, Yet thought I knew the way
The sin that promised joy and life, Had led me to the grave
I had no hope that You would own, A rebel to Your will
And if You had not loved me first, I would refuse You still

But as I ran my hell-bound race, Indifferent to the cost
You looked upon my helpless state, And led me to the cross
And I beheld God's love displayed, You suffered in my place
You bore the wrath reserved for me, Now all I know is grace

*Hallelujah! All I have is Christ,
Hallelujah! Jesus is my life!*

Now, Lord, I would be Yours alone, And live so all might see
The strength to follow Your commands, Could never come from me
O Father, use my ransomed life, In any way You choose
And let my song forever be, My only boast is You

Yet Not I but Through Christ in Me Robinson, Farren, Thompson

What gift of grace is Jesus, my redeemer, There is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom, My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus, For my life is wholly bound to His
Oh, how strange and divine, I can sing: All is mine! Yet not I, but through Christ in me

The night is dark but I am not forsaken, For by my side, the Savior He will stay
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing, For in my need, His power is displayed
To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me, Through the deepest valley, He will lead
Oh, the night has been won, and I shall overcome, Yet not I, but through Christ in me

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven, The future sure, the price it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon, And He was raised to overthrow the grave

To this I hold, my sin has been defeated, Jesus now and ever is my plea
Oh, the chains are released, I can sing: I am free! Yet not I, but through Christ in me

With every breath, I long to follow Jesus, For He has said that He will bring me home
And day by day I know He will renew me, Until I stand with joy before the throne

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus, All the glory evermore to Him
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat: Yet not I, but through Christ in me!

When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat: Yet not I, but through Christ in me!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me! Yet not I, but through Christ in me!

We Respond By Confessing Our Faith: The Apostles' Creed²

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Communion, also called The Lord's Supper or Eucharist, is the family meal of Christians. We invite all committed followers of Jesus Christ to share in this sacrament: those who are baptized members of a congregation that proclaims the gospel, who are at peace with God and their neighbor, and who seek strength to live in a deeper communion with Jesus. If you are not a Christian, or you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer. We hope that this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and with his people, the Church.

(Gluten free communion bread is available upon request; please speak to the pastor before the service or alert your server during communion.)

Great Is Thy Faithfulness**Chisholm**

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father, There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not, As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

*Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided, Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness, To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

² The Apostle's Creed is a concise summary of Christian belief. As early as the second century it served as a baptismal confession. It developed and reached its current form by the ninth century. It is the most popular creed used in worship by Western Christians. The word "catholic" means universal.

Benediction³

Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Song of Faith

Behold Our God

Baird/Altrogge

Behold our God, seated on His throne. Come, let us adore Him.
Behold our King, nothing can compare, come, let us adore Him!

This Week

Tuesday 6:30am

Men's Bible Study @ Java Jaay (*Hebrews*)

Tuesday 9:30-11:00am

Ladies Bible Study via Zoom (*Psalms*)

Tuesday @ Noon

Men's Bible Study @ Kent's Office (*1 Samuel*)
(*resumes soon*)

Wednesday 6:15-7:30pm

4 Year Olds - 5th grade / Kid's Quest

Wednesday 6:30-7:30pm

DPC Youth! (6th-8th Grade)

DPC Youth! (9th-12th Grade)

Wednesday 7:30pm

Praise Worship Band Practice

Friday 6:30am

Men's Bible Study @ Temple, Inc. (*Paul's Letters to the Thessalonians*)

³ Just as God called us into His presence at the beginning, so now He commands His blessing upon us as we depart. We look up and extend our hands in a posture of thanksgiving as we receive this great gift. Our final response to God's assurance of His peace and presence upon those who are in Christ is a chorus of joyful song.

Church Family Reminders

Dear Church Family, Thank you all so much for your prayers and love during this past month as my mom, Joyce Bright, dealt with the horrific effects of Covid-19. The Lord has lovingly upheld us with His righteous right hand reminding us to not fear or be dismayed. He is The Lord our Righteousness-Jehovah Tsidkenu! My precious, beautiful mom is now free from the effects of the fall and dwells securely in our Father's house for all eternity. We love you all. Deanna Lyons and Family

Get More Connected: Sign up for the weekly email by emailing Tonya at tonya@decaturpca.org.

Next Up! The next four books of Scripture that we'll be reading together via the Cultivate daily readings will be Leviticus, Hebrews, Ezra/Nehemiah, and Luke. Sign up today by emailing Tonya at tonya@decaturpca.org

Women's Bible Study: Please join us for Women's Bible Study, via Zoom, on Tuesday mornings, 10:00-11:00, led by Teresa Quinn & Annah Joseph. The group is studying *Psalms: At His Feet Studies*. Please email Annah at annahjoseph@gmail.com to sign up! All ladies feel free to join anytime, we will be studying a new Psalm each week.

NextGen Wednesday Nights: Children ages 4-11 are invited to join us on Wednesday nights, 6:15-7:30pm. We are not providing a meal, and masks are encouraged. Teachers, paid workers and volunteers are required to wear masks. Nursery is available.

Wednesday Night Open Door Study: *"The Person of Jesus: A Study of Love"*, led by Pastor Rick Stark, for adults not in a Life Group and/or all hanging around until the children or youth finish. Masks required (for now) and safe distancing. Join us in the gathering area Wednesday evenings, 6:15p.m. - 7:15p.m.

"Above all (at least for me) there is this: Christ himself. That is the supreme 'incomparable excellence' of the Bible—the picture of the way of salvation, with Christ at its center.

"Modern scholars tell us that the Christ of historic Christian belief is a creation of the faith of the early Christian community. Now, I think I've read a fair sample of the world's greatest literature and it seems to me that there is something here that belongs to a different order altogether. Indeed—and I think I've said this often enough—if I couldn't worship the Christ of the Bible, I'd worship those who invented him.

"There is no record in the whole of literary history of a community creating a figure comparable to Christ: such grandeur, such compassion, such magnificent teaching, such magnificent *ways* of teaching, such marvelous relationships with men, with women, with children! So good, and yet so credible; so divine, and yet so human; so real that the narrative totally convinces us that if we came to Him we'd find rest for our souls.

"As far as I'm concerned, I am a Christian because of what the Christ of the Bible does to me, and I come at the Book through Him. I accept it as God's Word, because it has this incomparable excellence, Christ himself. Even as a concept, He is unsurpassable. There is no way in which I would want Him improved or want Him altered. When I find Him, I find the Absolute and I find the Ultimate. My spiritual quest is over."

Donald Macleod,

A Faith To Live By: Understanding Christian Doctrine, p.19