

LENTEN WORSHIP 2021

February 24

GREETING

OPENING HYMN #489 - "Wide Open are Your Hands"

Wide open are your hands, to pay with more than gold
The awful debt of guilt and sin, Forever and of old.
Ah, let me grasp those hands, That we may never part,
And let the power of their blood sustain my fainting heart.

Wide open are your arms, a fallen world to embrace,
To win to love and endless rest, our wayward human race,
Lord, I am sad and poor, but boundless is your grace.
Give me the soul-transforming joy for which I seek your face.

Draw all my mind and heart, up to your throne on high,
And let your sacred cross exalt, my spirit to the sky.
To these, your mighty hands, my spirit I resign.
In life, I live alone to you, in death am yours alone.

L: Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

**C: Praised be God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
The source of all mercy, and God of all consolation.**

L: Seek the Lord while he may be found.

C: Call upon him while God is near

L: Let the wicked abandon their ways

C: and the unrighteous their thoughts.

L: Let them turn to the Lord for mercy

C: to our God, who is generous in forgiving.

L: All you who are thirsty, come to the water.

You who have no money, come, receive bread, and eat.

Come without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk.

**C: Praised be God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the source of all mercy and the God of all consolation.**

L: Let us pray. Almighty God, our redeemer,

C: in our weakness we have failed to be your messengers of forgiveness and hope in the world. Renew us by your Holy Spirit, that we may follow your commands and proclaim your reign of love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING - Ephesians 1:1-14 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

To the saints who are in Ephesus and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

LENTEN DIALOG SKIT - "Dear Paul"

Paul – Pastor John

Mark – Owen Aeschlimann

Sylvia – Brittany Walton

REFLECTION - Intern Tamara

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

L: In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation

C: We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 1:13-14)

L: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

L: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith; (*Jude 20*)

C: pray in the Holy Spirit

L: Keep yourselves in the love of God; (*Jude 21*)

C: look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

L: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; (*2 Corinthians 5:17*)

C: Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!

L: God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another:

Silence for self-examination

L: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. In your compassion, forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

L: Almighty God, have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ. Strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep you in eternal life.

C: Amen

OFFERING PRAYER: Blessed are you O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

L: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. 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.

BLESSING: The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, be upon you now and forever. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN - #699 Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!

Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

REFRAIN

**This is my story; this is my song,
praising the savior all the day long.**

**This is my story; this is my song,
praising the savior all the day long.**

Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;

Angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

REFRAIN

Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my savior am happy and blest.

Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

“DEAR PAUL”

After many years of writing letters to the early Christian churches, Paul is still at it in Heaven, reading letters from, and answering, 21st century folks. Paul's sometimes humorous, always heartfelt responses to modern-day issues and questions reflect the same message of grace, love and Christian unity he shared with the church at Ephesus 2000 years ago.

This series of brief weekly plays will be presented online as a way of introducing the lessons from the Letter to the Ephesians.

These Lenten worship services will also be available online beginning at 11 AM each Wednesday.