SUNDAY, JULY 9TH, 2017, 10AM

Welcome

Scripture reading:

Hear the word of the Lord!

Psalm 114:7-8:

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,

at the presence of the God of Jacob,

who turned the rock into a pool,

the hard rock into springs of water.

1 Chronicles 16:30-31:

Tremble before him, all the earth!

The world is firmly established;

it cannot be moved.

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;

let them say among the nations,

“The Lord reigns!

Rejoice (Dustin Kensrue and Stuart Townend)

Blessed be Your Name (Matt Redman)

All Glory be to Christ (sung to tune of Auld Lang Syne - Dustin Kensrue)

Have you ever walked into church and felt claustrophobic?

I don’t mean by the people.

But crowded by the junk in your life which you brought with you...the stuff that fills and preoccupies your mind and heart, whether it’s recent conversations, things you’ve done, work troubles, family troubles, health troubles, unforeseen circumstances, unexpected bills or sin issues.

Do you know what I’m talking about?

When you walk into church like that, it’s hard to see past yourself, in order to see our great and awe-inspiring God.

Satan wants you to view corporate worship —

the place where we together, get to meet with our Lord and Savior;

where we together express to him our gratitude;

where we together hear his Spirit speak truth into our lives,

where we together experience him realigning our perspective on the truly important, and

where we together respond to his invitation to lay down our burdens, in order to, day by day, take up our cross...

Satan want you to approach this incredible privilege...as just another “to do,” on your long list of “to-do’s.”

In corporate worship, you will benefit from the singing, the prayers,

the fellowship, the giving and the preaching of the word.

But every time we come to the Table, it is our Saviour’s desire that our souls would find grace that restores, that encourages, that emboldens, as we remember his suffering, his death, his burial and his victory.

The Lord’s Table is an invitation for us to get beyond ourselves and to find Christ in all directions - backwards, forward, inward and outward.

Let’s pray together The Lord’s Prayer, pausing at each phrase.

**The Lord’s Prayer**

Our Father in heaven...

hallowed be your name...

your kingdom come...

your will be done on earth as in heaven...

Give us today our daily bread...

Forgive us our sins...

as we forgive those who sin against us...

Lead us not into temptation...

but deliver us from evil...

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Chorus of ‘All Glory be to Christ

Dismissal of Kids to Kids Zone

**Looking Backward\***

If there’s a look we do well, it’s the look backward.

We gaze backward to remember Jesus: the power of his teaching, the purity of his life, the promises he fulfilled, and the sacrifice he made.

As we eat the bread and drink from the cup, we remember... that the giving of his life gave life to us.

Listen again to the events that took place on the day our Savior died for us.

**Mark 15:22-47**

The primary object of our gaze backward is to see Christ crucified.

Do you see the soldiers who more than likely stripped him naked and then threw him down on the cross?

Do you hear the sound of the hammer as it drove the nails into our Savior’s hands and feet?

Do you hear the vicious insults of those who passed by, who mocked him, who dared him to come down from the cross if he truly was the Son of God?

And remember...he could have come down; but he chose not to.

Do you feel the darkness that came over the land for three hours?

This was no solar eclipse. This was a supernatural darkness.

Do you hear the words spoken by Jesus from the cross?

To his mother: *“Woman, here is your son.”* To John: *“Here is your mother.”*

 “Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.”

To the thief who asked Jesus to remember him when he came into his kingdom: *“Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”*

 *“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

*“I am thirsty.”*

*“It is finished.”*

*“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.”*

When we come to the Table, we look back to the cross where Jesus hung.

We look back to remember the enormity of the cost borne by Jesus to rescue us.

There was no other way.

He uniquely is the Savior of the world.

Jesus had told his followers around his last meal with them, that his body would be broken and his blood spilt in order to rescue sinners.

He’d said of the bread, “Take, eat; this is my body. . . “

He’d said of the cup, “Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” ([Matthew 26:26–28](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matt%2026.26%E2%80%9328))

But our glimpse backward goes even further.

We look back and see God clothing Adam and Eve as they leave the garden,

we see Yahweh calling Abram to father a people,

we see “I AM WHO I AM,” raising up Moses to deliver the Israelites,

we see the LORD establish the throne of David,

we see the LORD of Heaven’s Armies fulfilling promise after promise.

Looking back thousands of years like this, is meant to be a vivid reminder of the faithfulness of God to keep his promise to Eve, that from her offspring would come the Rescuer.

Every family has their issues, their challenges, even their shortcomings.

But remember this.

When you receive and believe in Jesus, you are adopted into the family of God — born of his Spirit.

God is your Father as we prayed; Jesus your Savior, is also your brother; the Holy Spirit is your Teacher, and ever-present companion.

Every time you hold, the bread and the cup in your hand, look back and remember... all that is yours because you are in Christ.

The God who fed Israel with manna in the wilderness is the God who satisfies your deepest hunger and thirst through his Son.

**Look back...**

**Remember him...**

**Be in awe of what he did for you...**

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus (We Turn)

Rejoice, verse 3 and chorus 2 and 1

**Looking Inward\***

When we come to the Lord’s Table, in addition to looking backward, we look inward.

1 Corinthians 11:27-32.

We look inward in order to examine ourselves.

Why?

In order that we might not eat the bread or drink the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner.

How could a person participate in the Lord’s Table in an unworthy way?

By not appropriating Jesus’ sacrifice - by not believing in him or receiving him.

The Lord’s Table is for those who are in relationship with Jesus.

But those of us who follow Jesus... for the rest of our lives, our characters are being transformed.

We are a new creation.

But we are also a work in progress.

There remains within us old sin habits that need to be displaced.

We are prone to wander, as the old hymn writer put it.

We are not under the domination of sin, but we still make choices to sin in thought, word and deed.

And when we do, we grieve God’s Spirit, who has been given to us, and restrict his presence and activity in our life.

This is why we regularly, need to ask God to search our heart and to agree with him, whenever he points out things within us that are displeasing to him; to ask him to forgive us and to make us clean on the inside.

The Table gives us this opportunity.

No follower of Jesus can afford to ignore any sin within them that the Holy Spirit convicts them of.

That is the warning of 1 Corinthians 11 - that is why many in Corinth were weak and sick and a number of them had died early deaths.

The mercy of God is great.

But as we come to the Table we are reminded that our God is holy.

There is no darkness in him.

He makes no compromises with sin.

And he will not tolerate un-confessed sin in his people.

We either confess our sin or we come under his discipline.

I invite you as we sing and then read the Scripture, and then sing again, to ask God to search your heart, and to deal with anything he points out to you, in order that you might come to the Table with a clean heart

To look inward is not to get lost in the crowd of your own self.

It’s an opportunity to see your sin, confess it, and rejoice that it’s been nailed to the cross.

At the Cross (Love Ran Red)

Scripture: Psalm 51

Restore My Soul

Receiving of the Bread and the Cup (piano plays) / Offering

Prayer of Thanks

Eating of the bread and drinking of the cup

May the Lord awaken your senses, that you might “taste and see that the Lord is good” through this meal ([Psalm 34:8](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Ps%2034.8)).

May he use the bread and the wine to cause you to “hunger and thirst for righteousness” ([Matthew 5:6](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matt%205.6)).

**Looking Outward\***

Did you notice the people who came to the Table as you did?

They are different than you - different in age, ethnicity, family stories.

There are people here with whom you may share nothing in common.

But remember this!

Because of the cross, you have the same Father, you worship the same Jesus Christ, and you are bonded together forever by the same Spirit.

The Lord’s supper symbolizes the beauty of unity.

Look around.

Treasure the moment.

This is your family - your brothers and your sisters.

You’ll be with them when this foretaste of a meal is swallowed up in the fullness of the marriage feast.

Rejoice

**Looking Forward\***

The apostle Paul tells us that every time we share in the Lord’s Supper, we “proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes” ([1 Corinthians 11:26](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/1%20Cor%2011.26)).

We don’t know when Jesus will come, but when he does, we will feast on a meal far more satisfying than the bread and cup we’ve just eaten and drank.

Hear the word of the Lord: Isaiah 25:6-9.

When we get to that great, final meal, the disappointments, the frustrations, the unfulfilled longings, the burdens, the brokenness, we all live with, will be lifted.

On that day, the bride of Christ, the church, will see her Bridegroom, and we will know why John wrote, “Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb” ([Revelation 19:9](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rev%2019.9)).

We will feast in the city of our God, and we will be satisfied, filled, and nourished forever.

Just as every joy in this life is a hint at the fullness of joy in the next, the Lord’s Supper is a foretaste, a reminder that there’s a better meal coming.

Cornerstone (Hillsong)

**The Blessing**

The angel who said to John,

“Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb,”

also added these words:

“These are the true words of God.”

God speaks truth and only truth.

His words to us are true.

This is the blessing I remind you of as conclude our time together.

Communications:

Prayer for the Day Camp Team

Instructions about the Grace Garden Dedication

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**Psalm 51**

**1**Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love.
Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins.
**2**Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin.
**3**For I recognize my rebellion; it haunts me day and night.

**4**Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight. You will be proved right in what you say, and your judgment against me is just.

**5**For I was born a sinner— yes, from the moment my mother conceived me. **6**But you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.

**7**Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. **8**Oh, give me back my joy again; you have broken me—now let me rejoice. **9**Don’t keep looking at my sins. Remove the stain of my guilt.

**10**Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me. **11**Do not banish me from your presence, and don’t take your Holy Spirit from me. **12**Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you. **13**Then I will teach your ways to transgressors, and they will return to you.

**14**Save me from bloodguilt, O God, the God who saves; and I will joyfully sing of your forgiveness.

**15**Unseal my lips, O Lord, that my mouth may praise you.

**16**You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would offer one. You do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

**17**The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.

Hear the word of the Lord!

Psalm 114:7-8:

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at the presence of the God of Jacob,

who turned the rock into a pool,

the hard rock into springs of water.

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hallowed be your name...

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Give us today our daily bread...

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Lead us not into temptation...

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For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.