



ORDER FOR THE
PUBLIC WORSHIP *of* GOD

September 9, 2018, 11:00 a.m.

Trinity Season



PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*As you enter the Sanctuary, please prepare your heart for worship
and silence your mobile devices.*

The theme for our worship service today is the faithfulness of God. Thus, our opening song is the beloved hymn, "Great Is Thy Faithfulness."

Lamentations 3:22-23, which also serves as this morning's Assurance of Divine Pardon passage, inspired Thomas Obediah Chisholm to write this hymn in 1923. His purpose was to convey the sense of wonder and gratefulness all Christians should have toward God's faithfulness.

Chisholm himself, though he experienced ill health and poverty most of his adult life, possessed such wonder and gratefulness. At age 75, he wrote in a letter, "My income has not been large at any time due to impaired health in the earlier years which has followed me on until now. Although I must not fail to record here the unfailing faithfulness of a covenant-keeping God and that He has given me many wonderful displays of His providing care, for which I am filled with astonishing gratefulness."

As all three verses indicate, God is always faithful to His people in Christ. We need not look any further than His Word (verse 1), creation (verse 2), and our lives (verse 3) to see His great faithfulness on display.

Whatever challenges, trials, or disappointments we might be facing this morning, we are reminded in this hymn that God's promises are true, that He never changes, and that His compassion never fails.

Let us then worship our faithful God together!

PRAISE GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

ORGAN PRELUDE: "Trumpet Voluntary" G.F. Handel, arr. Dupré
Samuel Metzger, organ

INSTRUMENTAL PRELUDE: "On Eagle's Wings" Mark Hayes
Jill Peak, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP Tim Russell

✦HYMN OF PRAISE: No. 32 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" FAITHFULNESS

✦INVOCATION (*Please lift hands*)

✦PSALTER LESSON: Psalm 36:5-10 Haley Overcast

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

**Your righteousness is like the mountains of God;
your judgments are like the great deep;
man and beast you save, O Lord.**

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

**They feast on the abundance of your house,
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.**

For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.

**Oh, continue your steadfast love to those who know you,
and your righteousness to the upright of heart!**

✦DOXOLOGY LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below: alleluia, alleluia!
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

RECEIVE GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

SONG OF CONTEMPLATION: "Be Unto Your Name" Lynn DeShazo, Gary Sadler

We are a moment, You are forever, Lord of the ages, God before time.
We are a vapor, You are eternal, love everlasting, reigning on high.

Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, worthy is the Lamb Who was slain!
Highest praises, honor and glory be unto Your name, be unto Your name.

We are the broken, You are the Healer; Jesus Redeemer, mighty to save.
You are the love song we'll sing forever, bowing before You, blessing Your name!

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, be unto Your name.

*Jauna Ellis, Hannah Crowley, Donna Sanders, Christy Young,
Peter Vanderbijl, Drew Fitzgerald, Calvin Ellis, Michael Varner
Kate Ryan, violin; Kenneth Coca, cello*

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Faithful God,
we confess that we have been unfaithful
to our covenant with You and with one another.
We have worshiped other gods:
money, power, greed, and convenience.
We have served our own self-interest
instead of serving only You and Your people.
We have not loved You
nor have we loved our neighbor as You have commanded.
Forgive us, O Gracious God.
Restore us to the joy of Your salvation
and sustain us with Your bountiful Spirit
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON. Lamentations 3:22-23

*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*

WORSHIP OF GOD WITH THE GIFTS OF GOD

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"arr. Mack Wilberg

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heav'n to earth come down.
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, all Thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit; let us find Thy promised rest;
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return and never, nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing, glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish, then, Thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation, perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place;
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise. Amen.

*The Chancel Choir
Calvin Ellis, director*

✦PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING David Bowen

✦GREETINGS

TRUST GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

PRAYER FOR THE 2018-19 FELLOWS

✦PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Please stand)*

**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.**

✦HYMN OF PREPARATION:

"Before the Throne of God Above" Charitie Lees Bancroft, Vikki Cook



1. Be - fore the throne of God a - bove I have a
2. When Sa - tan tempts me to de - spair And tells me
3. Be - hold Him there, the ris - en Lamb, My per - fect
strong and per - fect plea; A great High Priest whose name is
of the guilt with - in, Up - ward I look and see Him
spot - less right - eous - ness, The great un - change - a - ble I
Love, Who ev - er lives and pleads for me. My name is grav - en
there Who made an end of all my sin. Be - cause the sin - less
AM, the King of glo - ry and of grace. One with Him - self I
on His hands, My name is writ - ten on His heart. I know that
Sav - ior died My sin - ful soul is count - ed free; For God the
can - not die; My soul is pur - chased by His blood. My life is
while in heav'n He stands No tongue can bid me thence de -
just is sat - is - fied, To look on Him and par - don
hid with Christ on high, With Christ, my Sav - ior and my
part, No tongue can bid me thence de - part.
me, To look on Him and par - don me.
God, With Christ, my Sav - ior and my God!

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON. Acts 17:1-15
(page 926 in the pew Bible)

The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the Word of our God will stand forever. *(Isaiah 40:8)*

SERMON *Opening Grace: Part 1* George W. Robertson

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

♠HYMN OF COMMITMENT: No. 173 "Praise Him! Praise Him!" JOYFUL SONG

♠BENEDICTION (*Please lift hands*)

♠CONGREGATIONAL THREE-FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "Now Thank We All Our God" J.S. Bach, arr. Fox

♠*Indicates congregation standing*

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Opening Grace: Part I | George Robertson

September 9, 2018

I. Open-minded (*Acts 17:10-15*)

A. Preaching

B. Persuasion

C. Proof

II. Open-Hearted (*Acts 17:1-9*)

A. Preaching

B. Persuasion

C. Proof