

February 28, 2021 Worship

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

We claim to follow Jesus

but have not taken his path of sacrificial love.

We profess to be disciples,

but we are not willing to bear the cost of discipleship.

We affirm the virtue of self-denial,

but we indulge our selfish desires and seek earthly gain.

Forgive us, we pray. Free us through this time of worship for sincere repentance and new life through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

God, your Son Jesus Christ bore the cross for our salvation and was raised from the dead for the redemption of the world.

Give us the courage to take up our cross and follow him, that through his grace we may accept the cost of faithful discipleship and receive the joy of everlasting life with Christ, in whose name we pray, saying...

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 Be Thou My Vision #595

1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true
word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my redeemer, my love thou hast won,
thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

3 Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

4 Great God of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's
Sun!
Heart of my heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

Trusting in God's promises,
let us pray for the world and for our needs, saying,
Holy God, **hear our prayer.**

God, you blessed Abraham and Sarah
and promised to make them the ancestors of many nations.
In Jesus Christ you have opened your covenant to everyone who lives by faith in you.

For all the descendants of Abraham and Sarah,
both Jews and Christians,
that they may trust in your promise,
dwell together in peace, and be a sign of your abiding love,
Holy God, **hear our prayer.**

God, your reign encompasses all the earth,
though many do not remember your gracious sovereignty.
For peace among the nations
and for integrity within governments,
that your will be done on earth as in heaven,
Holy God, **hear our prayer.**

God, you hear the cry of the poor,
and you satisfy the hungry with good things.
For the poor and the oppressed,
that they may find deliverance,
and for all who voluntarily take up the cross of self-denial
to serve the poor and alleviate human misery,
Holy God, **hear our prayer.**

God, you know the needs of the afflicted
and you hear their cries.
For those who suffer illness of mind or body,
that they may find relief from suffering
and be restored to wholeness,
Holy God, **hear our prayer.**

Grant these prayers, Holy God, by your grace.

Stir up in us the will to seek out your kingdom
with the dedication of our lives in ministry to the world,
for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ,
through whom we pray. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC Rick W. Campbell, Vocalist, Lisa Powell, Pianist
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

CALL TO COMMUNION
WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER
OBSERVANCE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 8:31-38

8:31 Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

8:32 He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

8:33 But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

8:34 He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

8:35 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.

8:36 For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?

8:37 Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?

8:38 Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

SERMON TITLE: Choosing Your Cross Carefully

HYMN Where He Leads Me #346

1 I can hear my Savior calling,
I can hear my Savior calling,
I can hear my Savior calling,
"Take thy cross and follow, follow me."

where he leads me I will follow
I'll go with him, with him all the way.

2 I'll go with him through the garden,
I'll go with him through the garden,
I'll go with him through the garden,

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Disciples of Jesus,
do not shun the way of the cross,
but follow wherever our Lord may lead.
And May the blessing of God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Uphold you on the way

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Kimberly Bracken Long. Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: 1 (p. 103). Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. Kindle Edition.

I'll go with him, with him all the way.

where he leads me I will follow (X3)
I'll go with him, with him all the way.

3 He will give me grace and glory,
he will give me grace and glory,
he will give me grace and glory,
and go with me, with me all the way.

where he leads me I will follow (X3)
I'll go with him, with him all the way.