

March 10-Written Service

Praise team- Lindsay Hunter, Lesley and Neil Bartholomew, Judie Campbell, Merlin Thompson

Special Music: Brian and Andrew Maag

Pianist: Laura Garred

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: Shouts of joy! Shouts of praise! Sounds of hope and love!

All: Moments of thanks for our God!

Leader: We are God's people, led by God's love. Enter God's house full of praise!

All: God's love is never ending.

Leader: God has brought us into this place and shared with us this land; a land of milk and honey.

All: Today let us all rejoice in the good things that the Lord has given you!

Song: Blessed Be Your Name

Blessed be Your name in the land that is plentiful;

Where the streams of abundance flow, blessed be Your name;

Blessed be Your name when I'm found in the desert place,

When I walk thro' the wilderness, blessed be Your name.

Every blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise;

When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say.

Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name;

Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your glorious name.

Blessed be Your name when the sun's shining down on me;

When the world's all as it should be, blessed be Your name;

Blessed be Your name on the road marked with suffering;

Tho' there's pain in the offering, blessed be Your name.

Every blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise;

When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say.

Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name;

Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your glorious name.

Prayer

Song: Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)

You call me out upon the water, the great unknown where feet may fail.

And there I find You in the mystery, in oceans deep, my faith will stand.

And I will call upon Your name and keep my eyes above the waves.
When oceans rise, my soul will rest in Your embrace
For I am Yours and You are mine.

Your grace abounds in deepest waters, Your sov'reign hand will be my guide.
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me, You've never failed
And You won't start now.

And I will call upon your name and keep my eyes above the waves.
When oceans rise, my soul will rest in Your embrace
For I am Yours and You are mine.

Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders,
Let me walk upon the waters wherever You would call me.
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander
And my faith will be made stronger in the presence of my Savior.

Spirit lead me where my trust is without border,
Let me walk upon the waters wherever You would call me.
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander
And my faith will be made stronger in the presence of my Savior.
I will call upon Your name, keep my eyes above the waves.
My soul will rest in Your embrace. I am Yours and You are mine.

Announcements

Special Music- Good, Good Father sung by Brian and Andrew Maag

Congregational Prayer

Song: #581- 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus (vs. 1,2,4)

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, just to take Him at His Word,
Just to rest upon His promise, just to know: "Thus saith the Lord."

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him! How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust Him more!

O how sweet to trust in Jesus, Just to trust His cleansing blood,
Just in simple faith to plunge me 'neath the healing, cleansing flood!"

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him! How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust Him more!

I'm so glad I learned to trust Thee, precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;

And I know that Thou art with me, wilt be with me to the end.

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him! How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!

Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust Him more!

Offering/Offertory

Offering Song- Open our Eyes

Offering prayer

Children's Message

Scripture: Deuteronomy 26: 1-11

When you have entered the land the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance and have taken possession of it and settled in it, take some of the first fruits of all that you produce from the soil of the land the Lord your God is giving you and put them in a basket. Then go to the place the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name and say to the priest in office at the time, "I declare today to the Lord your God that I have come to the land the Lord swore to our forefathers to give us." The priest shall take the basket from your hands and set it down in front of the altar of the Lord your God. Then you shall declare before the Lord your God: "My father was a wandering Aramean, and he went down into Egypt with a few people and lived there and became a great nation, powerful and numerous. But the Egyptians mistreated us and made us suffer, putting us to hard labor. Then we cried out to the Lord, the God of our fathers, and the Lord heard our voice and saw our misery, toil and oppression. So the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with miraculous signs and wonders. He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey; and now I bring the first fruits of the soil that you, O Lord, have given me." Place the basket before the Lord your God and bow down before him. And you and the Levites and the aliens among you shall rejoice in all the good things the Lord your God has given to you and your household.

Message

Intro

Recent Internet memes

I won't tell anyone I win the lottery, but there will be hints

Share a few examples

This is really just raising the question, "what's the first thing you would do if you won the lottery?"

It's a question that helps us identify some of our dreams or priorities

Today's holiday addresses the same impulses

By thinking about what we'd do first when "our ship comes in"

Deut 26:1-11

Holiday at the beginning of harvest

In returning to Him the firstfruits, we're trusting Him to continue providing

A fire could wipe out the rest of the crop

When do we think about God?

Do we trust Him only when we already feel safe?

When we've already gotten the things we want (even need)?

God gives Moses this assurance in Exodus at the burning bush:

¹¹ But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

¹² And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you ^[b] will worship God on this mountain."

The sign happens after Moses follows what God is calling him to do

Not before he acts

Moses has to trust God in order to see the evidence of God's faithfulness

Source of what we have

Ourselves

We can tend to fall into the trap of thinking that everything we have is something we've earned

That quickly leads us to thinking of it all as ours

To do with what we want

BUT

God

We remember God as the source of all that we have been given

Everything we have is a gift

He brought us out of slavery

He gave us this land

He sends the rain to make the crop grow

If it's all a gift (even the ability to work)

Then we view it differently

Then it makes more sense to return a portion out of gratitude to the giver

Value of putting God first

We give to God first, not because He needs it most

But because we need to grow our trust in Him over providing for ourselves

Widow's mite

Jesus points out people filing past the collection box

Some wealthy people drop in a pile of coins that clank and make a big sound

Lots can be done through their gifts

But Jesus highlights a widow who puts in a tiny amount

Money that won't pay all the bills or make a big difference on the spreadsheet

Jesus says about her, "She has put in everything she had to live on"

She trusted God to give to Him rather than keeping it for what must have been very real needs

She gave first

She is one of the clearest examples in the whole Bible of someone who trusted God for whatever would come next

Similarly, we cannot save ourselves

Need to trust God

All of salvation is a gift

Sometimes we fall into the trap of thinking that I can be saved because I worked really hard

"I earned this"

Even if you've been around church for a while and know that isn't theologically sound, it's still a trap

The religious leaders in Jesus' day got caught up in those same thoughts

We trust God first

Because everything we have is a gift

There's no guarantee about the rest of the harvest

There's no guarantee about the how the rest of the month will go

Instead we trust that God will continue to watch over us and care for us

And we trust Him, not only to provide our daily bread, our mortgage and utilities, but
our eternal salvation itself

Song: #319- Near the Cross (vs. 1,2,4)

Jesus, keep me near the cross—there a precious fountain,
Free to all, a healing stream, flows from Calvary's mountain.

In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever,
Till my raptured soul shall find rest beyond the river.

Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me;
There the Bright and Morning Star sheds its beams around me.
In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever,
Till my raptured soul shall find rest beyond the river.

Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever,
Till I reach the golden strand, just beyond the river.

In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever,
Till my raptured soul shall find rest beyond the river.

Benediction

Postlude