

Worshiping Christ, Who Comforts Us!

MARCH 7, 2021
10:30 AM

PRELUDE *Prelude and Fugue in E Minor*
Prelude and Fugue in B Flat Major J. S. Bach
Dennis Bergin, organ

WELCOME
Reverend Dr. Russell St. John, Lead Pastor

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP *O Day of Rest and Gladness*
Kyrstan Brantley, Virginia McGuigan, flute; Carrie Smith, piano

O day of rest and gladness, O day of joy and light,
O balm of care and sadness, most beautiful, most bright,
On you the high and lowly, through ages joined in tune,
Sing, “Holy, holy, holy” to the great God triune.

You are a port protected from storms that round us rise,
A garden intersected with streams of paradise;
You are a cooling fountain in life’s dry, dreary sand;
From you, like Pisgah’s mountain, we view our promised land.

New graces ever gaining from this our day of rest,
We reach the rest remaining to spirits of the blest.
To Holy Ghost be praises, to Father, and to Son;
The church her voice upraises to you, blest Three in One.

***GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP** Psalm 30
Reverend David Barnes, Associate Pastor

Pastor: I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up and have not let my foes rejoice over me.

People: O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.

Pastor: O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol; you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.

People: Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name.

Pastor: For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime.

People: Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

Pastor: As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved." By your favor, O LORD, you made my mountain stand strong; you hid your face; I was dismayed.

People: To you, O LORD, I cry, and to the Lord I plead for mercy:

Pastor: "What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?"

People: Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me! O LORD, be my helper!"

Pastor: You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent.

All: O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever!

***MY COMFORT STILL IS THIS: MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED!**

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When Morning Gilds the Skies

I will extol the LORD at all times; his praise will always be on my lips. Ps. 34:1.

1. When morn - ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing cries:
 2. When sleep her balm de - nies, my si - lent spir - it sighs:
 3. Does sad - ness fill my mind? A so - lace here I find:
 4. In heav'n's e - ter - nal bliss the love - liest strain is this:

May Je - sus Christ be praised. A - like at work and prayer
 May Je - sus Christ be praised. When e - vil thoughts mo - lest,
 May Je - sus Christ be praised. Or fades my earth - ly bliss?
 May Je - sus Christ be praised. The pow'rs of dark - ness fear,

to Je - sus I re - pair: May Je - sus Christ be praised.
 with this I shield my breast: May Je - sus Christ be praised.
 My com - fort still is this: May Je - sus Christ be praised.
 when this sweet chant they hear: May Je - sus Christ be praised.

5. Let earth's wide circle round
 in joyful notes resound:
 May Jesus Christ be praised.
 Let air and sea and sky,
 from depth to height, reply:
 May Jesus Christ be praised.

6. Be this, while life is mine,
 my canticle divine:
 May Jesus Christ be praised.
 Be this th'eternal song,
 through all the ages on:
 May Jesus Christ be praised.

German, ca. 1800
 Tr. by Edward Caswall, 1853, 1858

LAUDES DOMINI 6.6.6.D.
 Joseph Barnby, 1868

***WE INVOKE HIS PRESENCE**

GOD EXPOSES OUR NEED Ecclesiastes 4:1

Hunter Quinn, Seminary Intern

Again I saw all the oppressions that are done under the sun. And behold, the tears of the oppressed, and they had no one to comfort them! On the side of their oppressors there was power, and there was no one to comfort them.

WE CONFESS OUR SIN

CHRIST PROVIDES FOR OUR NEED 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

***BIDDING ALL MEN TO REPENTANCE!**

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Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem. Is. 40:1, 2

1. Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
2. Yea, her sins our God will par - don, blot - ting out each dark mis - deed;
3. For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
4. Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er plac - es plain;

com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, mourn - ing 'neath their sor - row's load.
all that well de - served his an - ger he no more will see or heed.
bid - ding all men to re - pen - tance, since the king - dom now is here.
let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits his ho - ly reign.

Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them; tell her
She hath suf - fered man - y a day, now her griefs have passed a - way; God will
O that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way; let the
For the glo - ry of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad; and all

that her sins I cov - er, and her war - fare now is o - ver.
change her pin - ing sad - ness in - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
val - leys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him.
flesh shall see the to - ken, that his word is nev - er bro - ken.

Johannes Olearius, 1671
Tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1863

THIRSTING 8.7.8.7.7.8.8.
Louis Bourgeois, 1551
Arr. by Henry A. Bruinisma; alt. 1990

WE INVOKE HIS HELP Psalm 23

Dan Marcotte, Elder

People: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD! *Psalm of Comfort*

Kyrstan Brantley, soprano; Shelly Hannaford, alto; Bob Nagy, tenor; Brian Roby, bass;
Laura Quinn, cello; Greg Wagener, drums

Because the Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in pastures green:
He leads me beside still water. He restoreth my soul:
And He leads me in righteousness for His name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
Yet I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; Thy rod and staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, all the days of my life,
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever, and ever, forever.

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GOD PROCLAIMS HIS WORD Hunter Quinn, Seminary Intern
SERMON SERIES “Acts”
SCRIPTURE TEXT Acts 20:7-16
SERMON TITLE *True Comfort*

⁷ On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight. ⁸ There were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered. ⁹ And a young man named Eutychus, sitting at the window, sank into a deep sleep as Paul talked still longer. And being overcome by sleep, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead. ¹⁰ But Paul went down and bent over him, and taking him in his arms, said, “Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him.” ¹¹ And when Paul had gone up and had broken bread and eaten, he conversed with them a long while, until daybreak, and so departed. ¹² And they took the youth away alive, and were not a little comforted.

¹³ But going ahead to the ship, we set sail for Assos, intending to take Paul aboard there, for so he had arranged, intending himself to go by land. ¹⁴ And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and went to Mitylene. ¹⁵ And sailing from there we came the following day opposite Chios; the next day we touched at Samos; and the day after that we went to Miletus. ¹⁶ For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia, for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost.

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Jesus, Lover of My Soul

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? Rom. 8:35

Dm A⁷ Dm A Dm A⁷ Dm A

1. Je - sus, lov - er of my soul, let me to thy bo - som fly,
 2. Oth - er ref - uge have I none, hangs my help - less soul on thee;
 3. Thou, O Christ, art all I want; more than all in thee I find:
 4. Plen - teous grace with thee is found, grace to cov - er all my sin;

Dm A⁷ Dm A Dm C F C⁷ Dm A⁷ Dm

while the near - er wa - ters roll, while the tem - pest still is high:
 leave, ah! leave me not a - lone, still sup - port and com - fort me!
 raise the fall - en, cheer the faint, heal the sick, and lead the blind.
 let the heal - ing streams a - bound; make and keep me pure with - in:

F B^b F B^b C⁷ F C⁷ F Dm A Dm C F E⁷ Am

hide me, O my Sav - ior, hide, till the storm of life is past;
 All my trust on thee is stayed, all my help from thee I bring;
 Just and ho - ly is thy name; I am all un - righ - teous - ness;
 thou of life the foun - tain art, free - ly let me take of thee;

B^b F Dm Gm A Dm A⁷ Dm 7

safe in - to the ha - ven guide, O re - ceive my soul at last!
 cov - er my de - fense - less head with the shad - ow of thy wing.
 false and full of sin I am, thou art full of truth and grace.
 spring thou up with - in my heart, rise to all e - ter - ni - ty.

Charles Wesley, 1740

ABERYSTWYTH 7.7.7.D.
Joseph Parry, 1879

GOD INVITES US TO HIS TABLE 1 Corinthians 11:23-29

Reverend Dr. Russell St. John

I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.

WE FEED ON CHRIST BY FAITH

Kyrstan Brantley, Shelly Hannaford, Bob Nagy, Brian Roby

BREAD & CUP *Behold the Lamb of God*

Behold the Lamb of God, the Lamb for sinners slain;
A perfect sacrifice for all, He died, but lives again.

Chorus: Behold the Lamb of God, behold His hands, His side.
The Son of God, the sinless Lamb, for me was crucified.

He lives let Heav’n rejoice, and earth her honors bring.
To Him, the everlasting God, the great, eternal King. [*Chorus*]

Oh, strike your harps of gold, ye ransomed host above.
Praise Him who bought you with His blood, and saved you by His love. [*Chorus*]

The Son of God, the sinless Lamb, for me was crucified.

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Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!

A friend of... "sinners." Matt. 11:19

1. Je - sus! what a Friend for sin - ners! Je - sus! lov - er of my soul;
 2. Je - sus! what a strength in weak - ness! Let me hide my - self in him;
 3. Je - sus! what a help in sor - row! While the bil - lows o'er me roll,
 4. Je - sus! what a guide and keep - er! While the tem - pest still is high,
 5. Je - sus! I do now re - ceive him, more than all in him I find;

friends may fail me, foes as - sail me, he, my Sav - ior, makes me whole.
 tempt - ed, tried, and some - times fail - ing, he, my strength, my vic - t'ry wins.
 • e - ven when my heart is break - ing, he, my com - fort, helps my soul.
 storms a - bout me, night o'er - takes me, he, my pi - lot, hears my cry.
 he hath grant - ed me for - give - ness, I am his, and he is mine.

REFRAIN

Hal - le - lu - jah! what a Sav - ior! Hal - le - lu - jah! what a Friend!

Sav - ing, help - ing, keep - ing, lov - ing, he is with me to the end.

J. Wilbur Chapman, 1910

HYFRYDOL 8.7.8.7.D.
Rowland Hugh Pritchard, 1855

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** *Reprise: Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners*

True Comfort

Hunter Quinn, Seminary Intern

Acts 20:7-16

How does Paul comfort the church?

1. Through the Word and Sacraments.

2. Through the Holy Spirit.

*Congregation please rise

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