

Worshiping God, Who Removes Obstacles to Advance the Gospel!

APRIL 11, 2021
10:30 AM

PRELUDE *Paraphrase on a Chorus of Judas Maccabeus (Thine is the Glory)*
Dennis Bergin, organ Alexandre Guilmant

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hath won!
Tune: G. F. Handel, 1685-1759
Text: Edmond Budry, 1854-1932

WELCOME

Reverend Dr. Russell St. John, Lead Pastor

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP *Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now*
Kyrstan Brantley, Shelly Hannaford, Bob Nagy, Brian Roby, vocals; Carrie Smith, piano

Lord Jesus Christ, be present now,
Our hearts in true devotion bow,
Your Spirit send with grace divine,
And let your truth within us shine.

Unseal our lips to sing your praise,
Our souls to you in worship raise,
Make strong our faith, increase our light,
That we may know your name aright:

Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To you, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise throughout eternity!

***GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP** Deuteronomy 10:12-17a

Reverend David Barnes, Associate Pastor

Pastor: “And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your good?

People: Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it.

Pastor: Yet the LORD set his heart in love on your fathers and chose their offspring after them, you above all peoples, as you are this day.

People: Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn. For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God...

***WE SING PRAISES TO THE LIVING GOD!**

Peter Lilley, guitar; Matt Brantley, bass; Rod Cunningham, keyboard; Greg Wagener, drums

Our Great God

VERSES



1. E - ter - nal _ God, un - chang - ing, mys - te - ri - ous and un - known; Your
2. Lord, we are _ weak and frail, _____ help - less in the storm. Sur -
3. Let ev - 'ry _ crea - ture in the _ sea and ev - 'ry fly - ing bird, Let



bound - less _ love, un - fail - ing, _____ grace and mer - cy _____ shown. Bright
- round us _ with Your an - gels, _____ hold us in Your _____ arms. Our
ev - 'ry _ moun - tain, ev - 'ry _____ field and val - ley of the _____ earth; Let



ser - a - phim _ in cease - less flight a - round _ Your _ glo - ri - ous throne; They
cold _ and _ ruth - less en - e - my, his pleas - ure _ is _ our harm. Rise
all _ the _ moons _ and all the stars in all _ the _ u - ni - verse Sing

CHORUS



raise their _ voic - es day _ and _ night in praise to You a - lone. Hal - le -
up, O _ Lord, and he _ will _ flee be - fore our sov - reign _____ God.
prais - es _ to the liv - ing _ God who rules them by His _____ Word.



- lu - jah! Glo - ry _ be to _ our great God! _____ Hal - le -



- lu - jah! Glo - ry _ be to _ our great God! _____

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***WE INVOKE HIS PRESENCE**

GOD EXPOSES OUR NEED Galatians 3:1-6

Reverend Dr. Russell St. John

O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith— just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”?

WE CONFESS OUR SIN

CHRIST PROVIDES FOR OUR NEED Galatians 3:7-9

Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.” So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

***TEACH US TO LIVE BY FAITH!**

Behold the Throne of Grace!

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system contains the first four lines of lyrics, and the second system contains the remaining four lines. The melody is primarily in the soprano and alto parts, with the bass part providing a steady harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines.

1. Be - hold the throne of grace! The prom - ise calls me near;
2. My soul, ask what thou wilt; thou canst not be too bold;
3. Thine im - age, Lord, be - stow, thy pres - ence and thy love;
4. Teach me to live by faith; con - form my will to thine;

there Je - sus shows a smil - ing face, and waits to an - swer prayer.
since his own blood for thee he spilt, what else can he with - hold?
I ask to serve thee here be - low, and reign with thee a - bove.
let me vic - to - rious be in death, and then in glo - ry shine.

Words: John Newton, 1779; Music: FESTAL SONG; William H. Walter, 1894

WE INVOKE HIS HELP Romans 14:13; Ephesians 6:18b
Nathan Reddick, Elder

Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother...keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints...

WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD! *At Home, Let There Be Love*

Kyrstan Brantley, Shelly Hannaford, Bob Nagy, Brian Roby, Belle St. John, Lily Reynolds

At home, let there be peace, let there be love.
May we be slow to anger and fast to forgive;
May joy and patience abound where we live;
At home, sweet home, let there be love.

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

At home, let there be peace, let there be love.
May we be kind and gentle and show self-control,
Both child and parent, both young and old;
At home, sweet home, let there be love.

As fam'lies together we before our Father's throne;
May home be a refuge of peace and protection,
A place where Your presence is known.
At home, let there be peace; at home,
Sweet home, let there be love, love.
Blest be the tie that binds.

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GOD PROCLAIMS HIS WORD Reverend Dr. Russell St. John, Lead Pastor
SERMON SERIES "Acts"
SCRIPTURE TEXT Acts 21:17-26
SERMON TITLE *Removing Obstacles*

¹⁷ When we had come to Jerusalem, the brothers received us gladly. ¹⁸ On the following day Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders were present. ¹⁹ After greeting them, he related one by one the things that God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. ²⁰ And when they heard it, they glorified God. And they said to him, "You see, brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews of those who have believed. They are all zealous for the law, ²¹ and they have been told about you that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children or walk according to our customs. ²² What then is to be done? They will certainly hear that you have come. ²³ Do therefore what we tell you. We have four men who are under a vow; ²⁴ take these men and purify yourself along with them and pay their expenses, so that they may shave their heads. Thus all will know that there is nothing in what they have been told about you, but that you yourself also live in observance of the law. ²⁵ But as for the Gentiles who have believed, we have sent a letter with our judgment that they should abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality." ²⁶ Then Paul took the men, and the next day he purified himself along with them and went into the temple, giving notice when the days of purification would be fulfilled and the offering presented for each one of them.

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

Reverend David Barnes

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

Dennis Bergin, organ

BREAD & CUP

***WITH ONE VOICE WE SING TO THE LORD!**

Oh How Good It Is

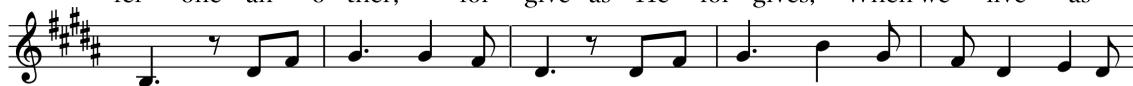
VERSE



1. Oh how good it is when the fam - 'ly of God dwells to -
(2. Oh how) good it is on this jour - ney we share to re -
(3. Oh how) good it is to em - brace His com - mand to pre -



geth - er in spir - it, in faith and u - ni - ty; Where the bonds of
joice with the hap - py, and weep with those who mourn; For the weak find
fer one an - o - ther, for - give as He for - gives; When we live as



peace, of ac - cept - ance and love are the fruit of His pres - ence here a -
strength, the af - flict - ed find grace, when we of - fer the bless - ing of be -
one we all share in the love of the Son, with the Fa - ther, and the



mong us.
long - ing.
Spir - it.

CHORUS

So, with one voice we'll sing to the Lord, and



with one heart we'll live out His word; Til the whole earth



sees the Re - deem - er has come, for He dwells in the pres - ence of His



peo - ple.

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***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** *Reprise: Oh How Good It Is*

Removing Obstacles

Reverend Dr. Russell St. John, Lead Pastor

Acts 21:17-26

Why did Paul agree to observe the law?

1. To remove obstacles to Jewish Conscience.

2. To remove obstacles to Jewish Conversion.

*Congregation please rise

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