

***Gathering in God's Presence***

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

*As you enter into God's presence to worship Him, please focus your heart and mind using the words of God from 2 Chronicles 7:13-14*

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP (FROM PSALM 90)**

Leader: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

**People: Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

Leader: For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past,  
or as a watch in the night.

**People: You sweep them away as with a flood;  
they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning:  
in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.**

Leader: You have set our iniquities before you,  
our secret sins in the light of your presence.

**People: For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.**

Leader: The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty;  
yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.

**People: Teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.**

Leader: Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,  
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

**People: Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children.  
Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us!**

**\* HYMN 91**

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

**EIN FESTE BURG**

1 A mighty fortress is our God,  
a bulwark never failing;  
our helper he, amid the flood  
of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe  
does seek to work us woe;  
his craft and power are great,  
and armed with cruel hate,  
on earth is not his equal.

3 And though this world, with devils filled,  
should threaten to undo us,  
we will not fear, for God has willed  
his truth to triumph through us.  
The prince of darkness grim,  
we tremble not for him;  
his rage we can endure,  
for lo! his doom is sure;  
one little word shall fell him.

2 Did we in our own strength confide,  
our striving would be losing,  
were not the right Man on our side,  
the Man of God's own choosing.  
Dost ask who that may be?  
Christ Jesus, it is he;  
Lord Sabaoth his name,  
from age to age the same;  
and he must win the battle.

4 That Word above all earthly powers  
no thanks to them abideth;  
the Spirit and the gifts are ours  
through him who with us sideth.  
Let goods and kindred go,  
this mortal life also;  
the body they may kill:  
God's truth abideth still;  
his kingdom is forever!

\* **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and take from our neighbors. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and turn them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ.

(a time of silent confession)

\* **ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

\* **GLORIA PATRI (HYMN 546)**

*Hearing God's Word*

**SCRIPTURE**

*Psalm 91*

**RESPONSIVE READING 21**

- <sup>1</sup> He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High,  
who abides in the shadow of the Almighty,  
<sup>2</sup> will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress;  
my God, in whom I trust."  
<sup>3</sup> For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler  
and from the deadly pestilence;  
<sup>4</sup> he will cover you with his pinions,  
and under his wings you will find refuge;  
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.  
<sup>5</sup> You will not fear the terror of the night,  
nor the arrow that flies by day,  
<sup>6</sup> nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness,  
nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.  
<sup>7</sup> A thousand may fall at your side,  
ten thousand at your right hand;  
but it will not come near you.  
<sup>8</sup> You will only look with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked.  
<sup>9</sup> Because you have made the LORD your refuge,  
the Most High your habitation,  
<sup>10</sup> no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent.  
<sup>11</sup> For he will give his angels charge of you  
to guard you in all your ways.  
<sup>12</sup> On their hands they will bear you up,  
lest you dash your foot against a stone.  
<sup>13</sup> You will tread on the lion and the adder,  
the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.  
<sup>14</sup> Because he cleaves to me in love, I will deliver him;  
I will protect him, because he knows my name.  
<sup>15</sup> When he calls to me, I will answer him;  
I will be with him in trouble,  
I will rescue him and honor him.  
<sup>16</sup> With long life I will satisfy him, and show him my salvation.

- <sup>1</sup> But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:  
 "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.  
<sup>2</sup> When you pass through the waters I will be with you;  
 and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
 when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.  
<sup>3</sup> For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

- <sup>4</sup> Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you,  
 I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life.

- <sup>5</sup> Fear not, for I am with you;  
 I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you;

- <sup>6</sup> I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold;  
 bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth,  
<sup>7</sup> every one who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

- <sup>8</sup> Bring forth the people who are blind, yet have eyes, who are deaf, yet have ears!

- <sup>9</sup> Let all the nations gather together, and let the peoples assemble.  
 Who among them can declare this, and show us the former things?

Let them bring their witnesses to justify them, and let them hear and say, It is true.

- <sup>10</sup> "You are my witnesses," says the LORD, "and my servant whom I have chosen,  
 that you may know and believe me and understand that I am He.

Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me.

- <sup>11</sup> I, I am the LORD, and besides me there is no savior.

- <sup>12</sup> I declared and saved and proclaimed, when there was no strange god among you;  
 and you are my witnesses," says the LORD.

- <sup>13</sup> "I am God, and also henceforth I am He; there is none who can deliver from my hand;  
 I work and who can hinder it?"

**MEDITATION:**

*God is Our Refuge*

\* **HYMN 124**

*Be Not Dismayed, Whate'er Betide*

**MARTIN**

1 Be not dismayed whate'er betide,  
 God will take care of you;  
 Beneath his wings of love abide,  
 God will take care of you.

2 Through days of toil when heart does fail,  
 God will take care of you;  
 When dangers fierce your path assail,  
 God will take care of you. [Refrain]

Refrain:  
 God will take care of you,  
 Through ev'ry day,  
 O'er all the way;  
 He will take care of you,  
 God will take care of you.

3 All you may need he will provide,  
 God will take care of you;  
 Nothing you ask will be denied,  
 God will take care of you. [Refrain]

4 No matter what may be the test,  
 God will take care of you;  
 Lean, weary one, upon his breast,  
 God will take care of you. [Refrain]

- <sup>1</sup> God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.
- <sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not fear though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
- <sup>3</sup> though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
- <sup>4</sup> There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.
- <sup>5</sup> God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved;  
God will help her right early.
- <sup>6</sup> The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;  
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
- <sup>7</sup> The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.
- <sup>8</sup> Come, behold the works of the LORD, how he has wrought desolations in the earth.
- <sup>9</sup> He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,  
he burns the chariots with fire!
- <sup>10</sup> "Be still, and know that I am God.  
I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth!"
- <sup>11</sup> The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

## SCRIPTURE

*John 14-16 (selected)*

UNISON READING 51

<sup>25</sup> "These things I have spoken to you, while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. <sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

<sup>26</sup> But when the Counselor comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness to me; <sup>27</sup> and you also are witnesses, because you have been with me from the beginning.

<sup>7</sup> Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. <sup>8</sup> And when he comes, he will convince the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: <sup>9</sup> concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup> concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more; <sup>11</sup> concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

<sup>12</sup> "I have yet many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup> When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

## MEDITATION:

*God is Faithful*

## SCRIPTURE

*Lamentations 3:19-26*

OT page 726

- <sup>19</sup> Remember my affliction and my bitterness, the wormwood and the gall!
- <sup>20</sup> My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me.
- <sup>21</sup> But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:
- <sup>22</sup> The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end;
- <sup>23</sup> they are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness.
- <sup>24</sup> "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."
- <sup>25</sup> The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him.
- <sup>26</sup> It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

\* **HYMN INSERT**

*Great is Thy Faithfulness*

**FAITHFULNESS**

1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness!  
Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see:  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided--  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!  
[Refrain]

***Responding to the Word***

\* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – HEIDELBERG CATECHISM**

**Q. What is your only comfort, in life and in death?**

A. My only comfort is that I belong—body and soul, in life and in death—not to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ, who at the cost of his own blood has fully paid for all my sins and has completely freed me from the dominion of the devil; that he protects me so well that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, that everything must fit his purpose for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life, and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

**SCRIPTURE**

*Hebrews 10:19-25*

NT page 209

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup> by the new and living way which he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, <sup>21</sup> and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup> let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup> Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful; <sup>24</sup> and let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

**SCRIPTURE**

*Habakkuk 3:17–19*

OT page 827

<sup>17</sup> Though the fig tree do not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines,  
the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food,  
the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls,  
<sup>18</sup> yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.  
<sup>19</sup> GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like hinds' feet,  
he makes me tread upon my high places.

**MEDITATION:**

*Faith, not Fear*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

\* **DOXOLOGY (HYMN 544)**

\* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

\* **HYMN 368**

*My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*

**TUNE**

1 My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

2 When darkness veils his lovely face,  
I rest on his unchanging grace;  
in ev'ry high and stormy gale,  
my anchor holds within the veil. [Refrain]

Refrain:

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand,  
all other ground is sinking sand.

3 His oath, his covenant, his blood  
support me in the whelming flood;  
when all around my soul gives way,  
he then is all my hope and stay. [Refrain]

4 When he shall come with trumpet sound,  
O may I then in him be found,  
dressed in his righteousness alone,  
faultless to stand before the throne. [Refrain]

\* **BENEDICTION**

\* **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (HYMN 378)**

My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine.  
Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away,  
O let me from this day, be wholly Thine.

\* **POSTLUDE**

Serving you today: Jack Crislip, Liturgist; Marilee McFadden, Organist.