

## *The Lord Gathers and Brings Joy to All Nations*

### **Call to Worship**

**Isaiah 56:6-9**

And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant—these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.”

**The Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares, “I will gather yet others to him besides those already gathered.”**

### **Joy to the World**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness,  
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
And wonders, wonders, of his love.

### **Prayer of Invocation**

*We ask God's presence to enable us to worship him as we ought.*

## *Let Us Confess Our Negligent Approaches to God*

### **Call to Confession**

**from Jeremiah 7:3-14**

Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Amend your ways and your deeds. Do not trust in these deceptive words: ‘This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD.’

For if you truly amend your ways and your deeds, if you truly execute justice one with another, if you do not oppress the sojourner, the fatherless, or the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own harm, then I will let you dwell in this place.

Behold, you trust in deceptive words to no avail. Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, make offerings to Baal, and go after other gods, and then come and stand before me in this house and say, ‘We are delivered!’—only to go on doing all these abominations? Has this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, I myself have seen it, declares the LORD. Go now to my place that was in Shiloh, where I made my name dwell at first, and see what I did to it because of the evil of my people Israel.

### **Prayer of Confession**

Our Father in Heaven,

Though we are dependent upon you for every good gift and for our life itself, we confess that we rarely acknowledge you in thanksgiving or seek you in our sorrows. Though you have gone to great lengths to overcome our sin, that should rightly bar us from your presence, we rarely seek you in prayer. Many of us pray little, but worry about prayer much. We worry about how we sound and who is listening. We doubt that you hear us or care about our sorrows. We wonder if our sin and weakness disgusts you and think we have to clean ourselves up before we can pray.

Some of us love prayer. We plan our public prayers carefully and are delighted when others take notice. In our hearts, we scoff at those who struggle to pray. and our proud of our own spiritual accomplishments. We often pray to you, only to immediately return to our sin and idols. Father, forgive us.

Jesus, you prayed perfectly for us, and by your Spirit you make all of our prayers perfectly acceptable to our Father. As our great High Priest, you stand in heaven now praying for your people and pleading for us. Jesus, thank you.

Holy Spirit, you pray on our behalf when we cannot pray, and you teach us to cry out to our Father. Give us strong desires to come often to the throne of grace to receive help in our time of need. Remind us that though our prayers be weak, our God is mighty to save.

In Christ's name we pray, amen.

### **In Thy Wrath and Hot Displeasure (Psalm 38)**

In thy wrath and hot displeasure, chasten not thy servant, Lord;  
Let thy mercy, without measure, help and peace to me afford.  
Heavy is my tribulation, sore my punishment has been;  
Broken by thine indignation, I am troubled by my sin.

With my burden of transgression heavy laden, overborne,  
Humbled low I make confession, for my folly now I mourn.  
Weak and wounded, I implore thee: Lord, to me thy mercy show;  
All my prayer is now before thee, all my trouble thou dost know.

Darkness gathers, foes assail me. But I answer not a word;  
All my friends desert and fail me, only thou my cry hast heard.  
Lord, in thee I am confiding; thou wilt answer when I call,  
Lest my foes, the good deriding, triumph in thy servant's fall.

I am prone to halt and stumble, grief and sorrow dwell within,  
Shame and guilt my spirit humble, I am sorry for my sin.  
Lord, my God, do not forsake me, let me know that thou art near,  
Under thy protection take me, as my Savior now appear.

### **Assurance of Pardon from Hebrews 4, 5 and 10**

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek. We have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

**Since then we have a great high priest, Jesus the Son of God, let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

### **Before the Throne of God Above**

Before the throne of God above, I have a strong and perfect plea.  
A great high Priest whose Name is Love, who ever lives and pleads for me.  
My name is graven on his hands, my name is written on his heart.  
I know that while in heaven he stands no tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair and tells me of the guilt within,  
Upward I look and see him there who made an end of all my sin.  
Because the sinless Savior died my sinful soul is counted free.  
For God the just is satisfied to look on him and pardon me.

Behold him there the risen Lamb, my perfect spotless righteousness,  
The great unchangeable I am, King of glory and of grace.  
One in Himself I cannot die, my soul is purchased by his blood,  
My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my Savior and my God!

### **Pastoral Prayer**

*Children may be excused to Nursery.*

### ***Jesus Displays His Passion for His Father's House***

#### **Scripture Reading**

**Mark 11:12-25**

On the following day, when they came from Bethany, he was hungry. <sup>13</sup> And seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to see if he could find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. <sup>14</sup> And he said to it, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard it.

<sup>15</sup> And they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. <sup>16</sup> And he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. <sup>17</sup> And he was teaching them and saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'? But you have made it a den of robbers." <sup>18</sup> And the chief priests and the scribes heard it and were seeking a way to destroy him, for they feared him, because all the crowd was astonished at his teaching. <sup>19</sup> And when evening came they went out of the city.

<sup>20</sup> As they passed by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots. <sup>21</sup> And Peter remembered and said to him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered." <sup>22</sup> And Jesus answered them, "Have faith in God. <sup>23</sup> Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. <sup>24</sup> Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. <sup>25</sup> And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses."

#### **Sermon**

**"Fruitlessness and the Power of Prayer"**

**Rev. Jonathan Kuciamba**

*We will receive our gifts and offerings for the Lord's work during this song.*

### **What a Friend We Have in Jesus**

What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

### ***Come to God Your Savior through Christ Jesus***

#### **The Lord's Supper**

*All baptized Christians who trust in Christ alone as their Savior and Lord, who are communicant members of a Bible-believing church, and who seek strength and grace to live more faithfully to Christ are invited to participate. The darker bread in the paper cup in the center of the plate is gluten-free. While communion is being served, please feel free to join in song or meditate quietly on Christ's sacrifice.*

#### **How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds**

How sweet the Name of Jesus sounds, in a believer's ear!  
It soothes his sorrow, heals his wounds, and drives away his fear.  
It makes the wounded spirit whole, and calms the troubled breast;  
'Tis manna to the hungry soul, and to the weary, rest.

Dear Name, the rock on which I build, my shield and hiding place,  
My never failing treasury, filled with boundless stores of grace!

By thee, my prayers acceptance gain, although with sin defiled;  
Satan accuses me in vain, and I am owned a child.

Jesus, my Shepherd, Brother, Friend, my Prophet, Priest, and King,  
My Lord, my life, my way, my end, accept the praise I bring.

Weak is the effort of my heart, and cold my warmest thought;  
But when I see thee as thou art, I'll praise thee as I ought.

#### **Behold the Lamb**

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away, slain for us: and we remember  
The promise made that all who come in faith find forgiveness at the cross.

*So we share in this Bread of life, and we drink of his sacrifice,  
As a sign of our bonds of peace around the table of the King.*

The body of our Savior, Jesus Christ, torn for you: eat and remember  
The wounds that heal, the death that brings us life, paid the price to make us  
one.

The blood that cleanses every stain of sin, shed for you: drink and remember  
He drained death's cup that all may enter in to receive the life of God.

And so with thankfulness and faith we rise to respond: and to remember.  
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ as his body here on earth.

*As we share in his suffering, we proclaim: Christ will come again!  
And we'll join in the feast of heaven around the table of the King.*

#### **I Come By the Blood**

You are the perfect and righteous God whose presence bears no sin.  
You bid me come to your holy place, how can I enter in,  
When your presence bears no sin?  
Through him, who poured out his life for me, the atoning Lamb of God,  
Through him, and his work alone, I boldly come!  
*I come by the blood, I come by the cross,  
Where your mercy flows from hands pierced for me,  
For I dare not stand on my righteousness,  
My every hope rests on what Christ has done, and I come by the blood!*

You are the high and exalted King, the One the angels fear,  
So far above me in every way, Lord, how can I draw near  
To the One the angels fear?  
Through him who laid down his life for me and ascended to your side,  
Through him, through Jesus alone, I boldly come! *Refrain.*

#### **Benediction**

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I Come by the Blood: Words & music: Steve & Vicki Cook © 1994 Sovereign Grace Music.

## **Morning Worship**

**Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

People are always thinking that conduct is supremely important, and that because prayer helps it, therefore prayer is good. That is true so far as it goes; still truer is it to say that worship is of supreme importance and conduct tests it. Conduct tests how much of yourself was in the worship you gave to God. You get most help from religion when you have stopped thinking about your needs, even for spiritual strength, and think about God. Gaze and gaze on him.

— William Temple