

---

## Order of Worship

January 5, 2025

### Reflection

Whatever fills our Sundays fills our hearts throughout the week.

- Michael Horton

### Prelude

*As worship begins, please silence your electronic devices.*

### Call to Worship

*Psalm 46*

Leader: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

**People: Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea.**

Leader: “Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”

**People: The LORD of Hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

### Song

*I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

I sing the mighty power of God,  
That made the mountains rise;  
That spread the flowing seas abroad,  
And built the lofty skies.

I sing the wisdom that ordained  
The sun to rule the day;  
The moon shines full at His command,  
And all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord,  
That filled the earth with food,  
He formed the creatures with His word,  
And then pronounced them good.  
Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed,  
Where'er I turn my eye,  
If I survey the ground I tread,  
Or gaze upon the sky.

There's not a plant or flower below,  
But makes Thy glories known,  
And clouds arise, and tempests blow,  
By order from Thy throne;  
While all that borrows life from You  
Is ever in Your care;  
And everywhere that Man can be,  
You God are present there.

### Prayer of Adoration

God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and in truth through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Affirmation of Faith    *The Heidelberg Catechism, Q. 1*

Minister: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

**All: That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven: in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.**

Gloria Patri

*Meineke*

Glory be to the Father,  
And to the Son,  
And to the Holy Ghost!  
As it was in the beginning,  
Is now and ever shall be:  
World without end,  
Amen, Amen!

Prayer of Confession

**Almighty God, you created us for life together, but we have turned from your will. We have not loved as you command. We have broken our promises to you and to one another. We have taken much**

**and given little. Forgive our disobedience, O God,  
and strengthen us in love, that we may faithfully  
serve you as your people, and live together in  
your joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Private Confession

Song

*O God of Mercy, Hear Our Plea*

O God, we've seen Your faithfulness  
You brought us from the wilderness  
But now our faith is frail and weak  
O God of mercy, hear our plea

When will You comfort our distress?  
How long until the promised rest?  
We cry to You from deepest need  
O God of mercy, hear our plea

Abba Father, our Redeemer  
In this barren land be our hope and strength  
Until glory we will trust and sing  
Abba Father, hear our plea  
Oh, hear our plea

We join creation's longing groan  
To take Your ransomed children home  
For then the eyes of all will see  
The God of mercy hears our plea

Abba Father, our Redeemer  
In this barren land be our hope and strength  
Until glory we will trust and sing  
Abba Father, hear our plea

For then the eyes of all will see  
The God of mercy hears our plea

Abba Father, our Redeemer  
In this barren land be our hope and strength  
Until glory we will trust and sing  
Abba Father, hear our plea

Abba, Father, our Redeemer  
In this barren land be our hope and strength  
Until glory we will trust and sing  
Abba Father, hear our plea  
Abba Father, hear our plea

Words of Pardon and Comfort                      *Galatians 2:20*

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Song    *God is Faithful (Psalm 114)*

God brought out His people  
With a strong and mighty hand  
Took them out of slavery to behold the Promised Land

Mountains fled before them  
And the seas turned back and ran  
And they saw that He was good

Chorus:

God is faithful to His promise  
He is with us He is with us  
God is faithful God is faithful to His own

God has come to free us from the bondage of our sin  
Tasting of His kindness we cannot go back again  
Leads us through the desert  
To the rivers of His grace  
Working all things for our good (Chorus)

We have known Your mercy  
And Your love as in the past  
If days be few or many You will guide us to the last  
You have said it we believe it  
Every promise holding fast  
For we know that You are good (Chorus)

You are faithful to Your promise  
You are with us You are with us  
You are faithful You are faithful to Your own

*(Children through Kindergarten are dismissed for  
Children's Church; they will return for Communion.)*

Prayer of Intercession

*Concluded by the Lord's Prayer*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

High Desert Highlights    *See 'Church Life' on page 15*

Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

*If you have a financial gift, you may place it in the offering plate, located on the information table. Donations can also be given electronically; see [highdesertpca.com](http://highdesertpca.com) for more information.*

Scripture

*Acts 14:1-28*

Sermon

*Rev. Dan Rose*

*"A Tale of Three Cities"*

*You Will Be My Witnesses: The Book of Acts*

Song

*Great is Thy Faithfulness*

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.

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!

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)

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

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

*This is a time for all people to seek the Lord. For Christians, the Lord's Supper (also called Communion or The Eucharist, which means 'thanksgiving') is a time to meet with their Savior by faith, to be strengthened and renewed by Him as they eat the bread and drink the elements. All baptized Christians who trust in Christ*



*alone as their Savior and Lord, belong to a church that embraces the gospel, are at peace with their fellow neighbor, and seek strength and grace to live more faithfully to Christ, are invited to participate.*

*If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer (see Prayers on page 14) and to consider more deeply your relationship to Jesus Christ. We also ask that children who have not yet publicly professed their faith in Christ refrain from partaking until doing so. Both wine (red) and grape juice (white) are offered. Gluten-free bread is also available.*

### Words of Institution

#### Memorial Acclamation

Minister: Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

**All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!**

Minister: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

**All: Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Minister: The gifts of God for the people of God.

#### Song

*Jesus, Strong and Kind*

Jesus said  
That if I thirst  
I should come to him  
No one else can satisfy  
I should come to him

Jesus said  
If I am weak  
I should come to him  
No one else can be my strength  
I should come to him

Chorus:  
For the Lord is good and faithful  
He will keep us day and night  
We can always run to Jesus  
Jesus strong and kind

Jesus said  
That if I fear  
I should come to him  
No one else can be my shield  
I should come to him (Chorus)

Jesus said  
If I am lost  
He will come to me  
And he showed me on that cross  
He will come to me (Chorus x2)

Song

*Were You There?*

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

O! Sometimes it causes me to  
tremble, tremble, tremble!

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

O! Sometimes it causes me to  
tremble, tremble, tremble!

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

O! Sometimes it causes me  
to tremble, tremble, tremble!

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

Were you there when He rose up from the dead?

Were you there when He rose up from the dead?

O! Sometimes I feel like shouting glory, glory, glory!

Were you there when He rose up from the dead?

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Lord, you have put gladness in our hearts; you have satisfied our hunger with good things. In giving all, you have not withheld from us your own dear Son. How can we withhold anything**

**from you, our Lord and our God? Renew us day by day with the gift of your Spirit, that we may give ourselves completely to your service and walk with joy in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Song

*Living Hope*

How great the chasm that lay between us  
How high the mountain I could not climb  
In desperation I turned to heaven  
And spoke Your name into the night  
Then through the darkness Your loving-kindness  
Tore through the shadows of my soul  
The work is finished, the end is written  
Jesus Christ, my living hope

Who could imagine so great a mercy?  
What heart could fathom such boundless grace?  
The God of ages stepped down from glory  
To wear my sin and bear my shame  
The cross has spoken; I am forgiven  
The King of kings calls me His own  
Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever  
Jesus Christ, my living hope

Chorus:  
Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free!  
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me!  
You have broken every chain  
There's salvation in Your name  
Jesus Christ, my living hope

Then came the morning that sealed the promise  
Your buried body began to breathe  
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion  
Declared the grave has no claim on me (Repeat)

Jesus, Yours is the victory! (Chorus)

Jesus Christ, my living hope  
Oh God, You are my living hope

Benediction

Postlude

*All songs used by permission. CCLI License #11101021*

## **Prayers**

*Prayer for Those Searching for Truth:* Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

*Prayer of Belief:* Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

*Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin:* Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the Pioneer and Perfecter of my faith. Amen.

*Prayer of Commitment:* Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.