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## Order of Worship

December 31, 2023

### Reflection

We break promises, so God keeps his. We run from God, so he comes to us. We suffer for sin, so the Savior suffers for us. The history of our Story is the story of God doing what we can't in order to make up for us doing what we shouldn't.

- Kevin DeYoung

### Prelude

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

### Call to Worship

*Psalm 36*

Leader: O God, your constant love reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness extends to the skies.

**People: Your righteousness towers like the mountains, your justice is deeper than the sea.**

Leader: All find protection under the shadow of your wings. We feast on the abundance you provide.

**People: You are the source of all life, and in your light, we see light.**

### Song

*Here I am to Worship*

Light of the world

You stepped down into darkness.  
Opened my eyes, let me see.  
Beauty that made this heart adore You  
Hope of a life spent with You

Chorus:

Here I am to worship,  
Here I am to bow down,  
Here I am to say that You're my God  
You're altogether lovely  
All together worthy,  
All together wonderful to me

King of all days  
Oh, so highly exalted  
Glorious in heaven above  
Humbly You came  
To the earth You created  
All for love's sake became poor (Chorus)

I'll never know how much it cost  
To see my sin upon that cross (Repeat 2x)

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

*Westminster Shorter Catechism 21*

Minister: Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?

**All: The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, and so was, and continues to be, God and man in two distinct natures, and one person, forever.**

Doxology:

*Old Hundredth*

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Him all creatures here below!  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host,  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen.

Prayer of Confession

**Everlasting God, in whom we live and move and have our being, you have made us for yourself, so that our hearts are restless until they rest in you. We confess that we have been foolish, and strayed from you and have wandered our own way. Have mercy on us, and forgive our sin. Give us purity of heart and strength of purpose, that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will, no weakness keep us from doing it; that in your light we may see light clearly, and in your service find perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Private Confession

Song

*Be Still, Be Still*

Should mountains melt into the roaring oceans  
The earth give way or heaven's lights grow cold  
O mighty God, You are my strong defender  
Be still, be still, my soul

When all I see are enemies before me  
When unbelief and doubt have taken hold  
O Lord of hosts, You promise to defeat them  
Be still, be still, my soul

For You are God, I need not fear  
You're sovereign over all  
For You are good and always near  
I'll rest in You alone  
Be still, my soul

Though all around the wicked seem to prosper  
They mock Your name and rise against Your throne  
O righteous Judge, their deeds You will remember  
Be still, be still, my soul

For You are God, I need not fear  
You're sovereign over all  
For You are good and always near  
I'll rest in You alone

For You are God, I need not fear  
You're sovereign over all  
For You are good and always near  
I'll rest in You alone  
Be still, my soul

Though wars erupt, You will not leave us orphans  
Though nations rage, You guard us as Your own  
O, Prince of Peace, we will not be abandoned  
Be still, be still, my soul  
Be still, be still, my soul

Words of Pardon and Comfort

*Isaiah 55:6-7*

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Song

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;  
Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above

Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;  
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;  
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
And wither and perish - but naught changeth Thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;  
All praise we would render; O help us to see  
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!

*(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

*Luke 2:39-52*

Sermon

*Rev. Dan Rose*

*“Twelve-Year Old Jesus”*

Song

*Hail the Day*

Hail the day that Christ arose  
Through the skies to world’s unknown  
Glorious there He ever reigns  
Object of all Heaven’s praise

See Him lift His hands above  
See the scars of His great love  
He has conquered death and sin  
Saving all who hope in Him

Chorus:

Hallelujah, hallelujah  
The King of Love is on His throne  
Hallelujah, hallelujah  
His grace will lead us safely home

Though He dwells beyond the stars  
His redeemed are on His heart  
Even now He intercedes  
Jesus cares for all our needs (Chorus)

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

*Nearer, My God, to Thee*

Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee!  
E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me,  
Still all my song shall be, nearer, my God, to Thee.

Refrain:

Nearer, my God, to Thee,  
Nearer to Thee!

Though like the wanderer, the sun gone down,  
Darkness be over me, my rest a stone.  
Yet in my dreams I'd be nearer, my God to Thee.  
(Refrain)

There let the way appear, steps unto Heav'n;  
All that Thou sendest me, in mercy given;  
Angels to beckon me nearer, my God, to Thee.  
(Refrain)

Then, with my waking thoughts bright with Thy praise,  
Out of my stony griefs Bethel I'll raise;  
So by my woes to be nearer, my God, to Thee.  
(Refrain)

Or, if on joyful wing cleaving the sky,  
Sun, moon, and stars forgot, upward I'll fly,  
Still all my song shall be, nearer, my God, to Thee.  
(Refrain)

There in my Father's home, safe and at rest,  
There in my Savior's love, perfectly blest;  
Age after age to be, nearer my God to Thee. (Refrain)

Song

*Before the Throne*

Before the throne of God above  
I have a strong and perfect plea;  
A great High Priest whose name is love,  
Whoever lives and pleads for me.  
My name is graven on His hands;  
My name is written on His heart.  
I know that while in heav'n He stands,  
No tongue can bid me thence depart,  
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,  
To look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there the risen Lamb,  
My perfect, spotless, righteousness.  
The great unchangeable I Am,  
The King of Glory and of grace.  
One with 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,  
With Christ my Savior and my God.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Lord God, in deep gratitude for this meal, we give ourselves to you. Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the living bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. Lord, may we live to your glory, both as sojourners on earth and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven. Amen.**

Song

*All Glory be to Christ*

Should nothing of our efforts stand,  
No legacy survive;  
Unless the Lord does raise the house,  
In vain its builders strive.

To you who boast tomorrow's gain,  
Tell me what is your life?  
A mist that vanishes at dawn;  
All glory be to Christ!

Chorus:

All glory be to Christ our king!  
All glory be to Christ!  
His rule and reign we'll ever sing,  
All glory be to Christ!

His will be done, His kingdom come  
On earth as is above,  
Who is Himself our daily bread;  
Praise Him, the Lord of love.

Let living water satisfy  
The thirsty without price;  
We'll take a cup of kindness yet;  
All glory be to Christ! (Chorus)

When on the day the great I Am,  
The faithful and the true,

The Lamb who was for sinners slain  
Is making all things new.

Behold, our God shall live with us  
And be our steadfast light.  
And we shall e're His people be;  
All glory be to Christ! (Chorus)

Benediction

Postlude

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## 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.