

CHURCH OF THE CROSS

Order of Worship



A Presbyterian Church in America

CHURCH OF THE CROSS EXISTS AS A COMMUNITY
CREATED AND SUSTAINED BY GOD'S WORD:
RENEWED THROUGH WORSHIP,
NURTURED THROUGH FELLOWSHIP,
EQUIPPED THROUGH SHEPHERDING,
EXTENDED THROUGH CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT.

Gathered to Worship: The Triune God Renews His People

August 8, 2010 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 AM

“You can never take God by surprise. You can never anticipate him. He always makes the first move. He is always there ‘in the beginning.’

Before man existed, God acted. Before man stirs himself to seek God, God has sought man. In the Bible we do not see man groping after God; we see God reaching after man...The Bible reveals a God who, long before it even occurs to man to turn to him, while man is still lost in darkness and sunk in sin, takes the initiative, rises from his throne, lays aside his glory, and stoops to seek until he finds him.”

- John Stott

[† Congregation Stands]

CALL TO WORSHIP †

from Psalm 24

Minister: Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

People: Who is this King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle!

Minister: Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

People: Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION †

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF FAITH †

Apostles' Creed

Minister: Christian, in whom do you place your trust?

People: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended to the dead;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from there he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic* church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.

**(that is, the true universal Christian church of all times and all places)*

REVELATION 4

We bow down before the Ancient of Days
We bow down to offer our lives and our praise
O Alpha Omega Beginning and End
Master and Maker Messiah and Friend
You died for your people and rose up again
And we bow down
We bow down

We bow down before the Lamb on His throne
We bow down to make His majesty known
With angels and prophets and martyrs we sing
All glory and honor to Jesus our king
Who rules from the heavens salvation to bring
And we bow down
We bow down

We bow down before the Incarnate Word
We bow down to hear the voice of the Lord
To You in whose presence no darkness is found
The elders are falling and casting their crowns
The hosts of the heavens all fall to the ground
And we bow down
We bow down

Blessing and honor
Glory and power
Be to our Savior forever more

WEARY OF EARTH, MYSELF AND SIN

Weary of earth, myself and sin,
Dear Jesus set me free,
And to Your glory take me in,
For there I long to be.

*Let a poor laborer here below,
When from his toil set free;
To rest and peace eternal go;
For there I long to be.*

Burdened, dejected and oppressed,
Ah! Where shall I flee,
But to Your arms for peace and rest?
For there I long to be.

Chorus

Empty, polluted, dark and vain,
Is all this world to me;
May I the better world obtain;
For there I long to be.

Chorus

Words: Samuel Medley, 1738-1799.

Music: Brian T. Murphy, 2005.

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CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

People: Dear Father, my sin is ever before me. I have desired control and that has only produced fear. I have desired power over others and that has only served to alienate me from them. I have desired my own comfort and that has only brought forth anger when my comfort was not achieved. I have sought the approval of others and have meticulously kept them from seeing my true self for fear of rejection. Idolatry plagues my heart! I am consumed with thoughts of self- aggrandizement, self- promotion, and self- service.

In my deepest parts, I doubt that you are God and I want to rule myself. I cry out to You, Father. Only you can deliver me. Show me the cross. For without Jesus' glorious robe of righteousness to cover my nakedness, I'll die. Show me the love of my beautiful Savior who gave up His glory and even His life that I might be delivered from idolatry. May the work of Jesus ever stir me towards radical, joyful obedience. May He be the reason for living and my eternal source of joy, hope, faith and love. Amen.

*(Worshippers may silently confess their tolerance toward sin,
and give thanks for the intolerance Christ shows sin and death through His emptied tomb.)*

ASSURANCE OF GRACE & PARDON

From Jonah 4

Minister: For we know that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, and One who relents from calamity and grants forgiveness through the Son. Therefore now, O Lord, we are confident that you will give us life and power through Christ, for nothing is better to us than life in the Spirit.

People: Thanks be to God!

RESPONDING IN SONG †

Doxology

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.

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

BY THY MERCY

Jesus, Lord of life and glory, bend from heaven thy gracious ear;
While our waiting souls adore thee, friend of helpless sinners, hear:

From the depth of nature's blindness, from the hardening power of sin,
From all malice and unkindness, from the pride that lurks within,

Refrain: By thy mercy, O deliver us, good Lord
By thy mercy, O deliver us, good Lord, good Lord

When temptation sorely presses, in the day of Satan's power,
In our times of deep distresses, in each dark and trying hour,

When the world around is smiling, in the time of wealth and ease,
Earthly joys our hearts beguiling, in the day of health and peace.

Refrain

In the weary hours of sickness, in the times of grief and pain,
When we feel our mortal weakness, when all human help is vain,

In the solemn hour of dying, in the awful judgment day,
May our souls, on thee relying, find thee still our Rock and Stay

Double Refrain

Words by James J. Cummins

Music by Greg Thompson

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PSALM 73

Surely God is good
To all the pure in heart
But as for me, my feet had almost slipped
I nearly lost my grip
For I envied, the arrogant
They are free, from my burdens

Surely I, in vain,
Have kept my, my heart pure
And surely they are strong and free from trials
While I am so confused
Then I entered Your holy place
Then I saw their destiny

Surely, they're cast down
As those on slippery ground
As dreams fade when we wake, so they become
Completely swept away
In my heart I was arrogant
Like a beast before You

Yet always You are near
You guide me by Your Word
And always, my Lord God, You are my strength
My portion You will be
You're my refuge, my Sovereign Lord
I will sing of Your awesome deeds

Surely God is good.

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HEARING GOD'S WORD (*Lectio Continua*)

Philemon (*entire book*)

(*Lectio Continua* is publicly reading Scripture by starting at the beginning of a particular book and working through consecutive readings to the end. Please listen to God's Word rather than reading along.)

Leader: The Word of the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!

MORNING PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Book of Common Prayer 1979

Leader: Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

People: Amen.

Leader: Let us pray.

Here, the leader intercedes for the congregation, the community, and the world at large.

People: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your Name.
Your kingdom come; Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us;
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.

Each week we pray for a local church. Pray for them and their pastor(s) that they might boldly proclaim the truth of the Gospel, lift high the name of Jesus Christ and minister to their community.

This week, please pray for: *Calvary Baptist Church -- Dennis Spire*

CELEBRATING HOLY COMMUNION

WE COME TO HIS TABLE

All baptized Christians who trust in Christ alone as their Savior and Lord, are at peace with their fellow neighbor, and seek strength and grace to live more faithfully to Christ are invited to participate. You will be dismissed forward by the usher. If you are not baptized, but would like to participate, come forward and cross your arms, and you will receive a blessing from the Minister. If you cannot come forward, please notify an usher, and we will serve you at your seat. When you approach the Table please cup your hands to receive the elements and hold the elements until instructed.

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Minister: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

People: Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Minister: Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

People: Therefore, let us keep the feast.

Minister: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come to the table.

OFFERING

In response to God's grace to us through the death and resurrection of His Son, we give offerings and alms (gifts) to His church with thanksgiving and joy. As you return to your seat from the Lord's Table there is a box on the table if you desire to give.

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

2 Corinthians 8: 9

Please put prayer cards in the offering box.

ABIDE WITH ME †

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.
When other helpers, fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, abide with me.

You on my head, in early youth did smile;
And, though rebellious, and perverse meanwhile,
You did not leave me, as often I left Thee.
On to the end Lord, abide with me.

I need Your presence, every passing hour.
What but Your grace, can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like Yourself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with You at hand to bless
Ills have no weight, tears lose their bitterness
Where is your sting death? Where grave your victory?
I triumph still, abide with me.

Hold up your cross Lord, before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, Lord, abide with me. (x2)

*Words by Henry Lyte alt by Justin Smith,
Music by Justin Smith. © 2007 Justin Smith Music*

THE BENEDICTION †

1 Thessalonians 5: 23

Minister: Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Come quickly, Lord Jesus! Amen.

*Immediately following the service, please join us for a time of coffee, refreshments and fellowship.
Children ages 3-9 are dismissed directly after worship to the entrance for Worship Training.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend a very important congregational meeting on **Sunday, August 15th** from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at San Marcos Baptist Academy. Childcare will be available. At the meeting, Pastor Aaron will be discussing more details concerning becoming a particular church, reviewing some budget items as well as having time for congregational prayer. This is a critically important meeting for members. Regular attenders and those considering membership are highly encouraged to attend as well. **Please make time for this meeting.**

OFFICER TRAINING

Officer training will be starting **Wednesday, August 25th** at 7 p.m. This will be a men's study and will be held each Wednesday this fall likely at the church office in San Marcos. More details regarding officer training will be shared at the congregational meeting as well as in upcoming announcements. If you plan to attend or have questions, please contact Pastor Aaron.

SERVING TODAY

Scripture Reader: Shelley Carlson
Lead in Prayer: David Maltby
Setup/Tear-down/Greeting: Sheltons; Holders; Shelley Carlson; Jordan Bednar; Greg Smith
Nursery 1: Tami Christianson, Saralynn Bagley
Nursery 2/Worship Training: Claire Cady, Megan Cox-Artemis
Sound: Josh Simmons

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 15

Scripture Reader: Morgan Knecht
Lead in Prayer: Craig Cady
Setup/Tear-down/Greeting: Sheltons; Holders; Shelley Carlson; Jordan Bednar; Greg Smith
Nursery 1: Kenneth & Nicole Dean
Nursery 2/Worship Training: Josh & Erin Simmons
Sound: Nick Collins

JULY 11th GIVING	\$1,914.25
JULY 18th GIVING	\$1,454.00
JULY 25th GIVING	\$1,396.38
JULY GIVING	\$7,364.78
2010 MONTHLY BUDGET EXPENSES	\$14,390.87
GIVING NEEDED TO MEET JULY BUDGET	\$7,026.09

AUGUST 1st GIVING	\$1,785.52
AUGUST GIVING TO DATE	\$1,785.52
2010 MONTHLY BUDGET EXPENSES	\$14,390.87
GIVING NEEDED TO MEET AUGUST BUDGET	\$12,605.35

*Outside giving from other churches and individuals allow us to meet our budget. We have an open financial policy. Copies of the budget are available on request.

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Church of the Cross supports various ministries financially including those below as well as other needs of the local community.

Campus Crusade for Christ Craig & Ginger Corley

Hays County Food Bank

Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) in the following campuses:

University of Texas, RUF International: Derick McDonald

University of Texas: Derek McCollum

Texas A&M: Ben Hailey

San Marcos Baptist Academy

Seton Medical Center Hays

We have donated carseats, clothing, diapers and other baby supplies for mothers in need.

Southwest Church Planting Network

The relief effort in Haiti

True Vineyard

Building a well in Rwanda.

Take time to prepare your heart, mind and body for worship.

Visit COTC's website and download next week's Order of Worship on Saturday.

You can find it at the following url: www.cotc.info/Liturgy.html

Familiarize yourself and your family with the Order of Worship, the Songs, the Prayers, the Scriptures.

Ask that God would use this practice to cultivate in your family preparedness for worship.



CHURCH OF THE CROSS

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