

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 22, 2010 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 AM

It's not the fervency or strength of your faith, but the object of your faith (Jesus), that matters.
-Anonymous

" I was wondering if you could help save my soul.
I've done stuff I ain't proud of, and the stuff I am proud of... is disgusting."
- Moe Syzlak of *The Simpsons*

Not just a Rainy Day

It's not just a rainy day
It's not a fleeting sorrow
Please don't trivialize this pain.
It's a world that is fallen
Broken by sin
Waiting, aching for restoration
Come, Lord Jesus.

[† Congregation Stands]

CALL TO WORSHIP †

Eph. 1:7-8, Gal. 3:13, Rev. 5:13

Minister: Let us join our voices to praise the spotless Lamb, Jesus Christ, who has redeemed us from sin and death.

People: We, whom he has redeemed, will sing praises and shout for joy this hour;

Minister: because in Christ the Lamb we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our sins in accordance with the riches of his grace.

People: Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us.

Minister: Let us praise him by saying:

People: Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise! To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb we give worship this hour and forever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION †

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF FAITH †

from Romans 8:1, 28, 38-39

People: We believe that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose.

We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

OH LOVE THAT WILL NOT LET ME GO

Oh love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in Thee;
I give Thee back the life I owe,
That in Thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be

Oh light that follow'st all my ways,
I yield my flickering torch to Thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in Thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be

Oh joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to Thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain
That morn shall tearless be.

Oh cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from Thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

Words: George Matheson, 1882

Music: Christopher Miner, 1997

COME YE SINNERS

Come, ye sinners, poor and wretched,
Weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you,
Full of pity, joined with pow'r.
He is able, He is able,
He is willing, doubt no more.

Come ye needy, come and welcome,
God's free bounty glorify;
True belief and true repentance,
Every grace that brings you nigh.
Without money, without money,
Come to Jesus Christ and buy.

Come ye weary, heavy laden,
Bruised and broken by the fall;
If you tarry till you're better,
You will never come at all.
Not the righteous, not the righteous,
Sinners Jesus came to call.

Lo! The Incarnate God, ascended,
Pleads the merit of His blood;
Venture on Him; venture wholly,
Let no other trust intrude.
None but Jesus, none but Jesus,
Can do helpless sinners good.

Words: Joseph Hart, 1759

Music: Matthew S. Smith, 2000

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

People: Father, we confess that we are satiated and bored: Creation has bored us. Work has bored us. Family has bored us. Friends have bored us. Our homes bore us. Television bores us. Redemption has bored us. Truth has bored us. You have bored us.

No generation in history has ever had so much to entertain it. Yet, we are jaded and cynical. We think the world is our servant, so we are not thankful when things go well for us, and we are not patient when they do not. We believe every desire should be satisfied, so we are not delighted when they are, and we are not humbled when they are not. We laugh, but do not know joy. We are captivated, but are never really awed. We celebrate, but we do not worship.

Have mercy on us, and forgive us. Amaze us with grace—incarnate, bloodstained, resurrected, Messianic grace—the Glory of God in Christ.

(Silently pray to the Lord, confessing your sins)

ASSURANCE OF GRACE & PARDON

Ephesians 2:4-7

Minister: God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

RESPONDING IN SONG †

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

*This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.*

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915; Music: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1839-1908

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ROCK OF AGES (WHEN THE DAY SEEMS LONG)

Rock of Ag---es, when the day seems long
From this labor and this heartache, I have come
The skies will wear out, but you remain the same
Rock of Ag---es, I praise your name

Rock of Ages, you have brought me near
You have poured out your life-blood, your love, your tears
To make this stone heart come alive again
Rock of Ages, forgive my sin.

*Rock of Ag---es. Rock of Ag---es.
Bind your children until the kingdom comes.
Rock of Ag---es your will be done*

Rock of Ages, when in want or rest,
My desperate need for such a Savior I confess
Pull these idols out from my heart embrace.
Rock of Ages, I need your grace.

Rock of Ages, broken scorned for me.
Who am I that you would die to make me free?
To give me glory, (you) took the death and pain.
Rock of Ages, my Offering.

Chorus

Rock of Ages, "It is done!" you cried.
The curtain's torn and I see justice satisfied
Now write your mercy, on my heart and hands.
Rock of ages, in faith I stand.

Rock of Ages, my great hope secure.
Your promise holds just like an anchor to my soul
Bind your children with cords of love and grace.
Rock of Ages, we give you praise.

Chorus

*Words by Sandra McCracken
Music by Kevin Twit*

THERE IS A LAND OF PURE DELIGHT

There is a land of pure delight,
Where saints, immortal reign.
Infinite day excludes the night
And pleasures banish pain.

*Could we but climb where Moses stood
And view the landscape o'er.
Not Jordan's streams nor death's cold flood
Should fright us from this shore.*

There everlasting spring abides,
And never withering flowers:
Death, like a narrow sea, divides
This heavenly land from ours.

*Could we but climb where Moses stood
And view the landscape o'er.
Not Jordan's streams nor death's cold flood
Should fright us from this shore.*

O could we make our doubts remove,
Those gloomy thoughts that rise,
And see the Canaan that we love
With unclouded eyes!

*Could we but climb where Moses stood
And view the landscape o'er.
Not Jordan's streams nor death's cold flood
Should fright us from this shore.*

Words – Issac Watts, 1707
Music – Brian T. Murphy and Benj Pocta, 2006.

HEARING GOD'S WORD (*Lectio Continua*)

John 1:19-28

(*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

Leader: Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we can not ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for 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: Cypress Creek Church (Rob Campbell) - Wimberley

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.

WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb I will sing.
To God and to the Lamb Who is the great "I Am";
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And through eternity I'll sing on.

American Folk Hymn

THE BENEDICTION †

Minister: May Jesus Christ, the sun of righteousness, who comes with healing in his wings, fill you with the joy and peace that passes all understanding. The blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

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

If you did not make it to the meeting last Sunday and wish to hear a recording and/or see the handouts, please either call or email the church office and Erin Simmons will get this to you.

OFFICER TRAINING

Men of COTC, as we move towards becoming a particular church, Officer Training will meet weekly on Wednesdays from 7-8:30 p.m. throughout this fall. The first meeting will be this week, **Wednesday, August 25th** at the church office and will be a time when Pastor Aaron will be discussing what will be studied and required. Pizza will be provided for the first meeting. If you are interested in coming and have not let us know, please email the church office. Remember to be reading 'The Prodigal God' if you have not already.

CLEARANCE BOOKS

There is a section of discounted books that will be on the book table this Sunday and next.

ARTICLE

There is a copy of the article, 'Doing Mercy in the Suburbs' available on the Information Table that Pastor Aaron encourages you to take and read.

RACE FOR ADOPTION

Scott & Courtney Holder are in the process of adopting from Ethiopia. On October 23rd, there is a race that you can participate in where all the proceeds go towards paying for the adoption process. There is a full and half marathon that begins in Gruene and travels River Road.

You can read more about the race at <http://www.marathonforadoption.com> and the Holder's journey at their blog [<http://www.holderjournals.blogspot.com/>]. We encourage you to pray for the Holders and encourage them during this process.

NOISE TRADE

If you go to www.noisetrade.com you can download all different kinds of music for free. You also may 'tip' the artist by paying the band an amount that you decide. You can find a CD by Red Mountain Music called 'Help my Unbelief' which you'll find that you recognize many of the songs (that we either sing or play on Sundays).

SERVING TODAY

Scripture Reader: Nick & Megan Collins
Lead in Prayer: Greg Smith
Setup/Tear-down/Greeting: Sheltons; Holders; Shelley Carlson; Jordan Bednar; Greg Smith
Nursery 1: David & Elizabeth Barnard
Nursery 2/Worship Training: David & Karen Maltby
Sound: Josh Simmons

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 29

Scripture Reader: Scott Price
Lead in Prayer: Josh Simmons
Setup/Tear-down/Greeting: Sheltons; Holders; Shelley Carlson; Jordan Bednar; Greg Smith
Nursery 1: Kenneth & Nicole Dean
Nursery 2/Worship Training: Kelsey Petersen, Forrest Short
Sound: David Barnard

AUGUST 15th GIVING	\$1,102.57
AUGUST GIVING TO DATE	\$5,053.85
2010 MONTHLY BUDGET EXPENSES	\$14,390.87
GIVING NEEDED TO MEET AUGUST BUDGET	\$9,337.02

*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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