

Musical Prelude

Call to Worship

God is calling us from the darkness of death into the glorious light of God's presence. From the tumult and harsh sounds of this world's violence we are being called into the beauty of peace. We are being ushered into the reign of Shalom, so let us be silent before the God of the cosmos. The Creator will take away the gloom and the anguish as we seek God's face among the poor and needy and open our hands to feed the hungry.

Opening Prayer

God of all time and space, as You were with our ancestors so You are with us now. You have promised to be with us till the end of time. In Your presence we are not alone. Your love has surrounded us from the beginning. You have filled our lives with Your grace. You never let us go even as You encourage us to find You in new and surprising places. AMEN

Hymn #264 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

1 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.

3 To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life, thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish, like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

2 Unresting, unchanging, 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.

4 Thou reignest in glory, thou rulest in light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render, O help us to see
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

Prayer of Confession

Sometimes, O God, we lose faith and trust. We look at our lives and the world and we don't like what we see. We are impatient, ungrateful and angry. We don't have a clear plan. We question whether there is a purpose to anything. In this time of worship, remind us of Your promise never to leave us or forsake us. Help us to trust Your promise to be with us as we learn the power of Your love. AMEN

Words of Assurance

God is faithful and can be trusted. Let us live in the grace of God's love. Thanks be to God AMEN.

The Scripture

Psalms 90 - God's Eternity and Human Frailty

A Prayer of Moses, the man of God.

- ¹ Lord, you have been our dwelling-place
in all generations.
- ² Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
- ³ You turn us back to dust,
and say, 'Turn back, you mortals.'
- ⁴ For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past,
or like a watch in the night.
- ⁵ You sweep them away; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning;
- ⁶ in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.
- ⁷ For we are consumed by your anger;
by your wrath we are overwhelmed.
- ⁸ You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
- ⁹ For all our days pass away under your wrath;
our years come to an end like a sigh.
- ¹⁰ The days of our life are seventy years,
or perhaps eighty, if we are strong;
even then their span is only toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we fly away.
- ¹¹ Who considers the power of your anger?
Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due to
you.
- ¹² So teach us to count our days
that we may gain a wise heart.
- ¹³ Turn, O Lord! How long?
Have compassion on your servants!
- ¹⁴ Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast
love,
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
- ¹⁵ Make us glad for as many days as you have
afflicted us,
and for as many years as we have seen evil.
- ¹⁶ Let your work be manifest to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.
- ¹⁷ Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us,
and prosper for us the work of our hands—
O prosper the work of our hands!

Zephaniah

1 The word of the Lord that came to Zephaniah son of Cushi son of Gedaliah son of Amariah son of Hezekiah, in the days of King Josiah son of Amon of Judah.

The Coming Judgement on Judah

² I will utterly sweep away everything
from the face of the earth, says the Lord.
³ I will sweep away humans and animals;
I will sweep away the birds of the air
and the fish of the sea.
I will make the wicked stumble.
I will cut off humanity
from the face of the earth, says the Lord.
⁴ I will stretch out my hand against Judah,
and against all the inhabitants of Jerusalem;
and I will cut off from this place every remnant of Baal
and the name of the idolatrous priests;
⁵ those who bow down on the roofs
to the host of the heavens;
those who bow down and swear to the Lord,
but also swear by Milcom;
⁶ those who have turned back from following the Lord,

who have not sought the Lord or inquired of him.
⁷ Be silent before the Lord God!
For the day of the Lord is at hand;
the Lord has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.
¹² At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
'The Lord will not do good,
nor will he do harm.'
¹³ Their wealth shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

The Great Day of the Lord

¹⁴ The great day of the Lord is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter,
the warrior cries aloud there.
¹⁵ That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
¹⁶ a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

¹⁷ I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the Lord,
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.
¹⁸ Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the Lord's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

The Message: "Has God Become Irrelevant?"

Hymn #690 From the Slave Pens of the Delta

1 From the slave pens of the delta,
From the ghettos on the Nile,
Let my people seek their freedom
In the wilderness a-while”;
So God spoke from out of Sinai;
So God spoke and it was done,
And the people crossed the waters
Toward the rising of the sun.

2 From the aging shrines and structures,
From the cloister and the aisle,
Let my people seek their freedom
In the wilderness a-while”;
So the Son of God has spoken,
And the storm clouds are unfurled,
For his people must be scattered
To be servants in the world

3 When we murmur on the mountains
For the old Egyptian plains,
When we miss our ancient bondage
And the hope, the promise wanes,
Then the rock shall yield its water,
And the manna fall by night,
And with visions of the future
Shall we march toward the light.

4 In the maelstrom of the nations,
In the journeying into space,
In the clash of generations,
In the hungering for grace,
In our agony and glory,
We are called to newer ways
By the Lord of our tomorrows
And the God of earth’s today

Prayers of the People

Hymn #688 O Day of God, Draw Nigh

1. O day of God, draw nigh
in beauty and in power;
come with thy timeless judgment now
to match our present hour.

2. Bring to our troubled minds,
uncertain and afraid,
the quiet of a steadfast faith,
calm of a call obeyed.

3. Bring justice to our land,
that all may dwell secure,
and finely build for days to come
foundations that endure.

4. Bring to our world of strife
thy sovereign word of peace,
that war may haunt the earth no more,
and desolation cease.

5. O day of God, draw nigh
as at creation’s birth;
let there be light again,
and set thy judgments on the earth.

Blessing

Musical Postlude