

Prelude: Take Time to Be Holy

Announcements: Annual General Meeting

Call to Worship:

Day or night, it is always the right time to come before God,

For God already knows what lies in our hearts.

Let us offer up our hopes yet unmet:

For peace, for reconciliation, for grace.

Let us offer up the wrongs we have done:

Our greed, our apathy, our meanness.

Let us offer up the good we have left undone:

Forgiving another, offering mercy, choosing compassion.

And in silence, let us offer God the whole of our hearts.

Hymn: VU # 672 Take Time to Be Holy

1 Take time to be holy,
speak oft with your Lord;
abide in him always,
and feed on his word.
Make friends of God's children,
help those who are weak,
forgetting in nothing
his blessing to seek.

2 Take time to be holy,
let him be your guide,
and run not before him,
whatever betide.
In joy or in sorrow,
still follow the Lord,
and, looking to Jesus,
still trust in his word.

3 Take time to be holy,
be calm in your soul,
each thought and each motive
beneath his control.
Thus led by his spirit
to fountains of love,
you soon shall be fitted
for service above.

Lighting of the Candle

God's mercy is deeper than the depths of the sea, and God's grace is wider than the whole of the earth.
The lighting of this Candle reminds us that Jesus is the Light of the World, A light that speaks truth into our lives.

We open our hearts to your light to reveal the truth of our lives:

The fear that stifles us,

The prejudice that blinds us,

The ignorance that hobbles us,

The doubt that plagues us.

Darkness can not overcome the light.

Help us find courage in unlikely places,

See the world with new and gracious eyes,

Move to those places where love is needed,

Have faith that you are with us.

In the light of your love we are changed

Children's Time Listening to God Ashley

Hymn: VU # 87 I Am the Light of the World

CHORUS:

I am the Light of the World

You people come and follow me.

If you follow and love, You'll learn the mystery

Of what you were meant to do and be.

1. When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the shepherds have found their way home,
The work of Christmas is begun!
2. To find the lost and lonely one,
To heal that broken soul with love,
To feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,
To feel the earth below the sky above!
3. To free the prisoner from all chains,
To make the powerful care,
To rebuild the nations with strength and goodwill,
To see God's children everywhere.
4. To bring hope to every task you do,
To dance at a baby's new birth,
To make music in an old person's heart,
And sing to the colors of the earth!

Opening Prayer

Loving and gracious God, you are so patient with us.

We run away, and you seek us.

We make foolish choices, and you teach us the better way.

We hurt you and others, and instead of hurting us back, you forgive us.

Help us, we pray;

Help us reveal your glory and goodness in our living,

That we will bear the imprint of Christ throughout the world. Amen.

Song of Reflection - The Blessing: Canadian Version

The Lord bless you
And keep you
Make His face shine upon you
And be gracious to you
The Lord turn His
Face toward you
And give you peace
Amen, amen, amen
Amen, amen, amen
The Lord bless you
And keep you
Make His face shine upon you
And be gracious to you
The Lord turn His
Face toward you
And give you peace
Amen, amen, amen (we sing, we sing)
Amen, amen, amen
May His favor be upon you
And a thousand generations
And your family and your children
And their children, and their children
May His favor be upon you
And a thousand generations

And your family and your children
And their children, and their children
May His presence go before you
And behind you, and beside you
All around you, and within you
He is with you, He is with you
In the morning, in the evening
In your coming, and your going
In your weeping, and rejoicing
He is for you, He is for you
He is for you, He is for you
He is for you, He is for you
He is for you, He is for you (I know, I know)
Amen, amen, amen
Amen, amen, amen
May His presence go before you
And behind you, and beside you
All around you, and within you
He is with you, He is with you
In the morning, in the evening
In your coming, and your going
In your weeping, and rejoicing
He is for you

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

“Confession is a stripping away of protection, the telling of a truth which might once have seemed like a humiliation, become suddenly a gateway, an entrance to solid ground; even a first step home. To confess is to free oneself, not only by admitting a sin or an omission but to profess a deeper allegiance, a greater dedication to something beyond the mere threat of immediate punishment or the desolation of being shunned. To confess is to declare oneself ready for a more courageous road, one in which a previously defended identity might not only be shorn away, but be seen to be irrelevant, a distraction, a working delusion that kept us busy over the years and held us unaccountable to the real question.

“To confess is not only to acknowledge a truth we have held from ourselves all along, breathing quietly, alone and in secret what we could not initially give a voice, but a hopeful dedication to a larger power that might make us powerless to commit the same sin again.”

In the season of Lent we are invited to consider how we live as followers of Christ – to look at our decisions and our actions straight on, and to hold them up to the example of Christ, and to make amends. In this time of silence, and in our prayer together, let us look at our lives. We pray, first in silence.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, Creator of all that is, Giver of Life, Gracious Redeemer

**There are chasms in our lives, deep valleys that separate us
From one another and from You.**

We confess that we have allowed those rifts to grow,
**For fear of admitting our part in the separation,
For fear of being rejected when we reach out.**

You call us to a reconciled life, to healed relationships,

To a wholeness with each other and with You.

Mend us, we pray, and make us new creations

Gracious God, source of all life, Lord of mercy and grace, hear our prayer.

We come before you in need of healing:

The healing of our bodies and souls,

The healing of our relationships,

The healing of our pride and fear and apathy.

We know that with you, nothing is impossible, not even our healing,

Not even the restoration of the whole world.

We pray that you will heal us, that you will heal our world,

So that we will be freed to serve and love and dream and be,

As Christ calls us. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Out of the depths we cry to God, in our suffering and in our pain. Out of the depths God cries to us, asking us to repent, to return to God with our whole hearts, to admit our sin, and to accept forgiveness. So, let us pray with one another, first in silence.

Jesus calls us to deny ourselves.

**Yet we trust in our own works
rather than in God's grace.**

Jesus calls each of us to take up our cross.

**Yet rather than allow our selfishness and sin to be put to death,
we cling to what we know.**

Jesus calls us to follow him.

**Yet we fear where faith will lead
and what it might change in our lives.**

In this moment of silence,

we confess the sin that separates us
from one another and from God.

Silence for reflection & self-examination

Words of Assurance

People of God, hear this good news.
God's covenant with us is true.
God is faithful even when we fail.
Through the Holy Spirit,
God gives us the gift of faith and makes us righteous.
Believe in the good news
that you are set free to live as children of God.
Amen. Thanks be to God!

Reading of Scripture

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

17:1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless.
17:2 And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous."
17:3 Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him,
17:4 "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations.
17:5 No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations.
17:6 I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.
17:7 I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

Living Psalm 22:23-31 Expanded version by Tabitha Carey

We are Gods people

In every generation God has been our provider and sustainer. Our faith has survived generations because God has remained faithful to us.

We wander far from God, but the sweet spirit calls us home. Gods unending mercy and grace offer us redemption time and time again. For this reason, all praise is due.

Jehovah Jireh, our provider, Jehovah Rapha, The Lord that Heals is near to those who are oppressed.

El Shaddai, All Sufficient One, you remain with us and You Lord are enough. You are the source of all blessings.

We hear you calling us, We turn our attention back to you. Instruct us in all our ways. Teach us to show honour and respect and treat each other with kindness and love.

When we focus on your presence in our lives, we had a change in our priorities. Our heart ached for those who are struggling in poverty, oppression, injustice, and those who are isolated and alone.

I hear you Lord, I am listening, I want to do your will. So I will show up, the best I can:

For the poor, the hungry, the lonely.

Those who have not had Choice to live abundantly.

The scales in this world have lacked balance. Jehovah Jireh, God of abundant provision There **IS** enough for everyone in this world.

Enough Food. Love. Care. Meaningful Work. Liberation. and Transformation

All the world could engage to remember that we have all we need and more... and this is not ours, but God's. All of creation, every river, every field, all the highs and lows. All the creatures of the sky, sea and under the ground and living on the earth are yours. You are the creator and sustainer and caretaker of everything.

We stand in humble awe. We acknowledge your generosity and give you thanks. We offer you ourselves as living sacrifices, to partner with you to work towards a better world for every person. To all that come after me, may they live more abundantly because I listened and followed you Holy God.

Romans 4: 18-2225

4:18 Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be."

4:19 He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb.

4:20 No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God,

4:21 being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

4:22 Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness."

Mark 8:31-38

8:31 Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

8:32 He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

8:33 But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

8:34 He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

8:35 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.

8:36 For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?

8:37 Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?

8:38 Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Mark 9:7

9:7 Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!"

Hymn VU # 371 Open My Eyes That I May See

1 Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

2 Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wave-notes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

3 Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

O Holy God, we know we have fallen short.

We turn our backs when we could embrace.

We remain silent when we could speak.

We speak when we could listen.

We close the door when we could fling it wide open.

We judge when we could seek understanding.

We cling when we could give.

Forgive us, O God, for being so very human at times,

and help us to continue to grow into the people you created us to be, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Written By: Danny Flouck

Pre Sermon Prayer

Our eyes are not focused on you

Our ears are full of layers and layers of falsehood about ourselves, others and about you.

We struggle to stay in tune with your voice.

Unclog our ears so we can hear you more clearly

Our hearts are hard, O God –

Soften them with your love.

Our hands are clenched, O God –

Open them with your grace.

Our feet are planted too firmly, O God –

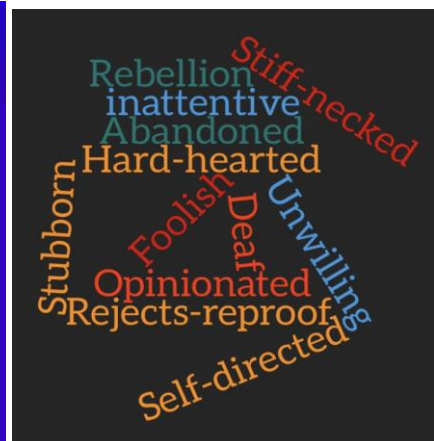
Invite us to dance with you.

Our lives are not our own, we know –

Let us live and move and have our being in you, O God. Amen.

Sermon

תקשׁוּבָה Shema; Gods definition of Listen Tabitha



Offering

Holy God, giver of blessings, we thank you for the mercies we know, and ask your forgiveness when fail to acknowledge you as the source of all good.

When we hoard your gifts,

When we say, “that’s mine,”

When we ignore the bounty around us,

When we are blind to the good,

Forgive us. Help us to share, to see, to live gratefully.

Through Christ we pray. Amen.

Commissioning

Artist of souls,
you sculpted a people for yourself
We ask that you stir the pool of our lives that we would never become stagnant.
Bring anything to the surface that we have been holding onto that keeps us from growing,
loving, and serving you. We claim your promises, we trust in your infinite love, mercy and grace that
spans all universes,
We live in the mystery, the awe of your goodness. Amen.

Hymn VU 560 Oh Master Let me Walk with Thee

1 O Master, let me walk with thee
in lowly paths of service free;
tell me thy secret, help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.

2 Help me the slow of heart to move
with some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.

3 Teach me thy patience; still with thee ,
in closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sure and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong,

4 in hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broadening way,
in peace that only thou canst give,
with thee, O Master, let me live.

Blessing

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.

Postlude: Hallelujah! What a Savior! By Philip P Bliss ARR Victor Labenske