

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WILLMAR, MN
July 4th, 2021**



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*Please rise as you are able
Please join in speaking/singing **bolded** text

PRELUDE

Prelude Hymn #337 (GG)

“My Country, ‘Tis of Thee

Words by Samuel Francis Smith, Music *Harmonia Anglicana*

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My country ‘tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing:
Lad where my fathers died, land of the pilgrims’ pride,
From every mountainside let freedom ring.

My native country, thee, land of noble free, thy name I love;
I love thy rocks and rills, thy woods and templed hills;
My heart with rapture thrills like that above.

Let music swell the breeze, and ring from all the trees sweet freedom’s song.
Let mortal tongues awake; let all that breathe partake;
Let rocks their silence break, the sound prolong.

Our fathers’ God, to thee, author of liberty, to thee we sing.
Long may our land be bright with freedom’s holy light;
Protect us by thy might, great God, our King.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

PREPARING OUR HEARTS

*Opening Words

God the creator, God of the cross, you show your power
in whirling galaxies and unseen forces.

You show your love
in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Drive out the evils that threaten to break our spirits
and help us to rely on your all-sufficient grace,
for we pray in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

*Opening Hymn #338 (GG)

“O Beautiful for Spacious Skies”

Words by Katherine Lee Bates, Music by Samuel Augustus Ward
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O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw;
Confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law!

O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years
thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears!
America! America! May God thy gold refine
till all success be nobleness and every gain divine!

Prayer of Confession

Threats to life pierce us and cause us to doubt God’s love.
But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.
Let us confess our sins and receive new life.

Holy God, we confess that we do not believe that you have overcome sin and death. We are more in touch with the pangs of our weakness than we are with the power of your love. In fear, we worship idols; in despair, we collapse in hopelessness; in rage, we seek to dominate others. O God of David, forgive us.

**O Son of David, have mercy on us. O Spirit of the Living God, grant us peace.
Send us out with the good news: nothing can withstand the victory of the cross
and resurrection of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

Sisters and brothers, God's grace and mercy are never ending.
Your sins are forgiven, therefore be at peace.

Hymn #838 (GG)

“Standing on the Promises”

Words and Music by R. Kelso Carter

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Standing on the promises of Christ my king,
through eternal ages let his praises ring;
gory in the highest, I will shout and sing, standing on the promises of God.

(Refrain)

Standing, standing,
Standing on the promises of God my Savior;
standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God!

Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
By the living Word of God I shall prevail, standing on the promises of God.

(Refrain)

Standing, standing,
Standing on the promises of God my Savior;
standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God!

Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,
bound to him eternally by love's strong cord,
Overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword, standing on the promises of God.

(Refrain)

Standing, standing,
Standing on the promises of God my Savior;
standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God!

Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
Listening every moment to the Spirit's call,
Resting in my Savior as my all in all, standing on the promises of God.

(Refrain)
Standing, standing,
Standing on the promises of God my Savior;
standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God!

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Children's Message

Prayer Response #701 (GG)

"Sanctuary"

Words & Music by John W. Thompson and Randy Skruggs
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Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.
(repeat)

Scripture Lesson

Mark 6:1-13

Message

"TBD"

Rev. Scott L. Thompson

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

Hymn of Affirmation #610 (GG)

"O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

Words by Charles Wesley, Music by Carl Gotthelf Glaser (arranged by Lowell Mason)
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O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of God's grace!

The name of Jesus charms our fears, and bids our sorrows cease,
Sings music in the sinner's ears, brings life, and health, and peace.

Christ speaks, and listening to his voice new life and death receive;
The mournful waken to rejoice; the poor in heart believe.

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.

To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever given by saints below
And saints above, the church and earth and heaven

Prayers of Intercession

God of heaven and earth, creator of all things seen and unseen, we join with the church through all the ages, praying that you cast out all evil and renew the face of the whole creation.

Grant wisdom and courage to political leaders so that they enact in every nation, for the common good, the justice you command. Grant intelligence and generosity to leaders of business and industry so that they provide dignity and safety for every person and household on the planet. Grant imagination and passion to educators and artists so that they give clear guidance and true vision enabling us to praise you for the wonder and beauty of your world. Grant compassion and skill to healers and caregivers so that the sick and suffering may know your touch as a foreshadowing of the resurrection.

We pray this day for all who are suffering at the hands of the violent and power hungry, the greedy and malicious, the ignorant and misguided, and the powers of evil beyond human control. May each one who is afflicted find comfort in your faith, hope, and love to enable them to overcome despair.

Empower your church with the Holy Spirit to proclaim the gospel with authority, for not even the gates of hell can withstand the grace of Jesus Christ. Complete the renewal you began in raising Jesus from the dead. Then will all creation shout with joy.

Until your kingdom is fully realized, keep us faithful to pray the prayer which Jesus taught us, praying:

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.

Invitation to the Offering

With our tithes and our offerings, we give thanks to the Lord; God's steadfast love endures forever. Let us bless the offerings which we present to God.

Offering Prayer

As we offer our treasure and hearts to you, O God, may they be used to pass on the promise of hope, of peace, of life, of community to all in need of your gifts and presence in their lives. Amen

Celebration of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Jesus said: I am the bread of life.

Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,
and whoever believes in me will never thirst.

This is the Lord's Table.

Our Savior invites those who trust him
to share the feast that he has prepared.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath. *We praise you, O God.*

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future. *We bless you, O God.*

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now. *We thank you, O God.*

The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest,
took bread, and after giving thanks to God,
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:
This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,
shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Take this bread and cup, O God - a feast of grace;
take our hearts and lives - an offering of praise.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Dying you destroyed our death.

Rising you restored our life.

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

#567 Glory to God

We pray for the gift of your Spirit:

In our gathering;

Withing this meal;

Among your people;

Throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God,
through Jesus Christ, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

Amen.

#568 Glory to God.

Communion of the People

Would those serving Communion please come forward?

*Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Family of Faith,
You are invited to come forward to receive Communion.*

*There will be one station up front where a gloved/masked server
will hand you a piece of bread which you can eat, and then a cup of juice which
you can drink before returning to your seat by the side aisles.*

*If you are not comfortable coming forward,
we will serve you where you are seated.*

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God!
Come, for all is prepared.

Prayer after Communion

Holy God, we thank you for this feast of grace and life.
As we have been served, help us to serve our neighbors.
As we have been fed, help us to feed all who are hungry.
As we have been loved, help us to love the world -
because in Christ Jesus you have loved us. Amen.

WE LEAVE TO SERVE

Closing Hymn #339 (GG)

“Lift Every Voice and Sing” verses 1 & 3

Words by James Weldon Johnson, Music by J. Rosamond Johnson

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Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven sing,
ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies;
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of hope that the present has brought us.
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on, till victory is won.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee; lest,
Our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
Shadowed beneath thy hand may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

Charge

Go in peace, trusting even where you have not seen.
May God our guardian protect you,
Christ the healer restore you,
and the Holy Spirit sustain you this day and forevermore.

Benediction
“The Blessing”

words and music by Chris Brown, Cody Carnes, Kari Jobe, and Steven Furtick
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The Lord bless you and keep you,
Make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.
(repeat)

Amen, amen, amen. Amen, amen, amen.

The Lord bless you and keep you,
Make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

POSTLUDE