

*Service for the Lord's Day*  
*Crossnore Presbyterian Church*  
*Sunday, September 20, 2020*



**Welcome and Announcements**

**Choral Call to Worship # 37 *Let All Things Now Living*, verse one**

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1939; Music: Welsh folk melody

**\*Hymn of Praise # 396 *Brethren, We Have Met to Worship*, all verses**

Text: George Atkins, 1819; Music: Columbian Harmony, 1825

**<sup>1</sup>Brethren, we have met to worship and adore the Lord our God;  
Will you pray with all your power, while we try to preach the Word?  
All is vain unless the Spirit of the Holy One comes down;  
Brethren, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.**

**<sup>2</sup>Sisters, will you join and help us? Moses' sister aided him;  
Will you help the trembling mourners who are struggling hard with sin?  
Tell them all about the Savior, tell them that He will be found;  
Sisters, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.**

**<sup>3</sup>Is there here a trembling jailer, seeking grace, and filled with fears?  
Is there here a weeping Mary, pouring forth a flood of tears?  
Brethren, join your cries to help them; sisters, let your prayers abound;  
Pray, oh, pray that holy manna may be scattered all around.**

**<sup>4</sup>Let us love our God supremely, let us love each other, too;  
Let us love and pray for sinners, till our God makes all things new.  
Christ will call us home to Heaven, at His table we'll sit down;  
Christ will gird Himself and serve us with sweet manna all around.**

**Call to Confession**

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation—the old has gone, and the new has come. Yet we often have difficulty living in that new reality, clinging to the old ways that have passed. When we confess our sin, we make room for God's truth to dwell in us, clearing the path for a new way of life. Before God, with the people of God, let us confess our faults and our failings.

**Unison Prayer of Confession:**

**God, your faithfulness is for all generations, yet we often have a hard time living with you in *this* generation. We love to look back, idolizing the past while forgetting we wear rose-colored glasses. We love our anxiety about the future, fretting about our individual long term security. We love our ideas about you, our lofty words and abstract concepts that do not affect our everyday lives. We confess that it is rare for us to trust, to love, to follow with our whole heart, mind, soul, and strength. Forgive us when we trap you in our memories or our intellects. Forgive us when we forget that you are also right here, right now, with a calling and a promise for us in this time and this place. Gracious God, speak into our wilderness again, that we may learn to be your people (moment of silent confession). In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon:**

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. From before the beginning until long beyond our imagination, God's love endures. Know that we are forgiven, loved and free.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Response to God's Grace and Mercy # 314 Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness, verse one

Text and Music: Bernadette Farrell, 1993

**<sup>1</sup>Longing for light, we wait in darkness.**

**Longing for truth, we turn to you.**

**Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.**

Refrain: **Christ, be our light!**

**Shine in our hearts.**

**Shine through the darkness.**

**Christ, be our light!**

**Shine in your church gathered today.**

**First Lesson: Isaiah 55:6-9**

Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

**Second Lesson: Matthew 20:1-16**

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

**Sermon: “It's Good! Its Just Too Good!”**

**Roger Wise**

**\*Affirmation of Faith: A Portion of the Brief Statement of Faith**

**In life and in death we belong to God.**

**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,**

**and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,  
whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in Jesus Christ,**

**Fully human, fully God.**

**Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:**

preaching good news to the poor  
and release to the captives,  
teaching by word and deed  
and blessing the children,  
healing the sick  
and binding up the brokenhearted,  
eating with outcasts,  
forgiving sinners,  
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.  
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,  
Jesus was crucified,  
suffering the depths of human pain  
and giving his life for the sins of the world.  
God raised this Jesus from the dead,  
vindicating his sinless life,  
breaking the power of sin and evil,  
delivering us from death to life eternal.

**\*Hymn of Meditation # 175 *Seek Ye First*, all verses**  
Text and Music: Karen Lafferty, 1971

<sup>1</sup>Seek ye first the kingdom of God  
And His righteousness;  
And all these things shall be added unto you.  
Allelu, Allelujah!

<sup>2</sup>Ask, and it shall be given unto you;  
Seek, and you shall find.  
Knock, and it shall be opened unto you.  
Allelu, Allelujah!

<sup>3</sup>You shall not live by bread alone,  
But by every word  
That proceeds out from the mouth of God.  
Allelu, Allelujah!!

**Prayers of the People**

**Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings**

**\*Traditional Doxology # 606**  
Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him all creatures here below;  
Praise him above ye heavenly hosts;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

**\*Unison Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:**

For the blessings of this and all our days, we thank you, gracious God. Accept, we pray, not just this money but also our lives freely offered in gratitude for all you have done for us. Use them both, in this place and wherever you might take us. Amen.

**\*Closing Hymn # 744 *Arise, Your Light Is Come!*, all verses**

**Text: Ruth Duck, 1974; Music: William H. Walter, 1894**

**Arise, your light is Come! The Spirit's call obey;  
show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.**

**Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;  
proclaim the captives' liberty, good tidings to the poor.**

**Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,  
bind up the broken-hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.**

**Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!  
rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.**

**\*Charge and Benediction**