

# WORSHIP OF THE LIVING GOD

JANUARY 23, 2022

## GATHERING TO WORSHIP

### Prelude

### Welcome and Announcements

Ben Phillips, Pastor of Ministries

The Song of Ascent

*God's people sang together as they gathered and traveled together up to Jerusalem to worship God.*

### Congregation

*All Hail, King Jesus*

All hail, King Jesus, All hail, Emmanuel:

King of kings, Lord of lords, Bright Morning Star.

And throughout eternity I'll sing His praises,

And I'll reign with Him throughout eternity

© 1974, 1978 Leonard E. Smith, Jr./New Jerusalem Music, ARR/UBP ccli#184884

## ADORATION OF GOD

### Call to Worship:

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. -Revelation 1.5b-

6

### Quieting of Hearts, Confession of Sin and Invocation

#### Declaration of Truth:

Colossians 1.15-20

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. <sup>16</sup>For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preminent. <sup>19</sup>For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup>and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

#### *Gloria Patri*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end, Amen, Amen.

The Gloria Patri's first line was sung in the church as early as the 2nd century to affirm that God is Triune. The second line was added in the 4th century to emphasize the eternal Deity of Jesus, refuting the Arian heresy that Jesus was not eternally God

### Hymn of Praise

*When Morning Gilds the Skies*

#167

When morning gilds the skies my heart awakening cries:

May Jesus Christ be praised.

Alike at work and prayer to Jesus I repair:

May Jesus Christ be praised.

When sleep her balm denies, my silent spirit sighs:

May Jesus Christ be praised.

When evil thoughts molest with this I shield my breast:

May Jesus Christ be praised.

Does sadness fill my mind? A solace here I find:

May Jesus Christ be praised.

Or fades my earthly bliss? My comfort still is this:

May Jesus Christ be praised.

In heav'n's eternal bliss the loveliest strain is this:

May Jesus Christ be praised.  
The pow'rs of darkness fear when this sweet chant they hear:  
May Jesus Christ be praised.

Let earth's wide circle round in joyful notes resound:  
May Jesus Christ be praised.  
Let air and sea and sky from depth to height reply:  
May Jesus Christ be praised.

Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine:  
May Jesus Christ be praised.  
Be this th'eternal song, Through all the ages on:  
May Jesus Christ be praised.

## **CMPC MISSION AND FAMILY LIFE**

### **Mission Moment**

#### **Pastoral Prayer**

### **OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

**The Gift of Music** *Be Unto Your Name*

#### **Receiving God's Tithes and Our Offering**

#### *The Doxology and Prayer of Thanksgiving*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below.  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**Hymn of Testimony** *God, the Uncreated One (King Forevermore)*  
*(Children ages three through third grade may be escorted to Children's Church)*

God, the uncreated one  
The author of salvation  
Who wrote the laws of space and time  
And fashioned worlds to his design  
The one whom angel hosts revere  
Hung the stars like chandeliers  
Numbered every grain of sand  
Knows the heart of every man  
He is king forever He is king forever He is king forevermore

God, our fortress and our strength  
The rock on which we can depend  
Matchless in his majesty  
His power and authority  
Unshaken by the schemes of man  
Never-changing, Great I AM  
Kingdoms rise and kingdoms fall  
He is faithful through it all  
Crown him king forever Crown him king forever Crown him king forevermore

Mighty God in mortal flesh  
Forsaken by a traitor's kiss  
The curse of sin and centuries  
Did pierce the lowly prince of peace  
Oh lifted high, the sinless man  
Crucified, the spotless lamb  
Buried by the sons of man  
Rescued by the father's hand  
To reign as king forever Reign as king forever Reign as king forevermore

King eternal, God of grace  
We crown you with the highest praise  
Heaven shouts and saints adore  
"You're holy, holy, holy, Lord!"  
What joy in everlasting life  
All is love and faith is sight  
Justice rolls and praises rise  
At the name of Jesus Christ  
King of kings forever King of kings forever King of kings forevermore

© 2016 Common Hymnal Publishing (ASCAP), 10000 Fathers (ASCAP), Thankyou Music (PRS) (admin by CapitolCMGPublishing.com), Getty Music Songs, LLC ASCAP Publishing Designee (ASCAP) (admin by Music Services). CCLI 184884.

## **PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD**

### **Reading of God's Word**

Revelation 1.1-3

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, 2 who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. 3 Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.

**All: The grass withers, the flowers fade, but the word of our God will stand forever.**

### **Prayer of Illumination**

#### **Sermon**

*Why Study Revelation Now?*

Pastor John

*Series: Strength for Today, Hope for Tomorrow: The Book of Revelation*

## **OUR RESPONSE**

### **Prayer of Application**

#### **Hymn of Response**

*God of the Ages*

God of the ages, history's Maker,  
planning our pathway, holding us fast,  
shaping in mercy all that concerns us:  
Father, we praise you, Lord of the past.

God of this morning, gladly your children  
worship before you, trustingly bow;  
teach us to know you always among us,  
quietly sovereign-- Lord of our now.

God of tomorrow, strong overcomer,  
princes of darkness own your command:  
what then can harm us? We are your people,  
now and forever kept by your hand.

Lord of past ages, Lord of this morning,  
Lord of the future, help us, we pray:  
teach us to trust you, love and obey you,  
crown you each moment, Lord of today!

### **The Benediction and Threefold Amen**



## Chestnut Mountain Presbyterian, PCA

cmpca.org

CMPC Sermon Notes for January 23, 2022

- **Series:** Strength for Today, Hope for Tomorrow: The Book of Revelation
- **Message:** “*Why Study Revelation Now?*”
- **Text:** Revelation 1:1-3

### Introduction to *The Revelation*

- *Apocalypse*- Greek word for Revelation
- A letter
- A book with pictures
- God rules in and over history and is guiding it to the day when King Jesus triumphs and returns- when the new Jerusalem descends from heaven and we will be forever with the Lord.
- Revelation gives us strength to live in this world today and hope for tomorrow as it unfolds for us the triumph of King Jesus.

### Preliminaries

- The Basics
  - Who? Written by John the apostle
    - So well-known to the seven churches John the apostle needs no further introduction
  - When? @95
  - Where from? Isle of Patmos, off the west coast of Turkey. It had a prison for Rome’s prisoners.
  - Who to? Seven churches in Turkey/Asia Minor near Ephesus
    - Seven churches- the number of completeness; hence, this letter is for the whole church
    - All churches in all times
    - Roman province of Asia is western Turkey
    - John did live in Ephesus
  - Why? To prepare his servants for what must soon take place
- What Revelation is Not
  - A puzzle to be figured out
  - A book that obscures its message
  - A book to be charted out
  - A detailed explanation of how everything works out
- Not to be Millennial Pictures Looking for Support
  - Pre- Millennial including a rapture - Christ comes back both before and after the millennium and secretly takes out the church either at the beginning or middle of a seven year tribulation period preceding the millennium during which Christ reigns
  - Historic Pre-Millennial (no rapture)
  - Amillennial- no literal millennium
  - Post-millennial- Christ returns after the millennium as things progressively improv

### Views of Interpretation:

- Preterist: this requires John to write it before the year 70 & understand most of it as already being fulfilled Jerusalem’s fall & the subsequent destruction of the Roman Empire (obviously not the last chapters)
- Futurist: all fulfillment is near the second coming of Christ
- Historicist: setting out the history of western Europe until the second coming of Christ; Revelation 6-19 is in chronological order.
- Idealist (Repeated Pattern View) ... represents the eternal conflict of good and evil which persists in every age.
- Eclectic- a little bit of each. No view works all the way through the book. There is a future crisis; there is application now; the battle of good versus evil does repeat itself; the world’s empires do fall; God wins

## Revelation is...

- “The things that you have seen,” 1:9-20; “Those that are,” 2:1-3:22; “Those that are to take place,” 4:1-22:5
- Shows us scenes in heaven we don’t normally see
- Communicates via symbols (1.3), “make it known”, means to communicate by symbols. Symbols surprise us
  - Has symbols that are unfamiliar
  - Has common apocalyptic symbols understood in the 1<sup>st</sup> century
  - Has symbolism that requires knowing the Old Testament
  - As one writer puts it, Any time you read Revelation, it is like stepping out of reality and into a carnival of mirrors. Only those mirrors do not, or should not, reflect our own faces, so much as they reflect the prophets of the Old Testament, whose faces were reflected the glory of God’s Son.
  - Has symbols that are multifaceted, not to be decoded
- Has illustrations that grab our attention
- Has a promise of blessing in 1.3: notice reads aloud/hears/ keeps

## The Big Ideas

- God is involved with us
- God rules history
- God brings history all together in Jesus
- God wins
- The majesty of Christ/the glory of God
- We can understand
- We can be prepared
- The Revelation always speaks to God’s people
- The Revelation always speaks to and encourages the persecuted church

## 1.1-3 Prologue

- Revelation- unveiling
- Show- not conceal
- Soon take place- preparing for 70AD? Or God’s “soon”?
- The revelation of Jesus Christ
  - As the source?
  - As the content?
  - Probably source
- Soon
  - Inaugurated by Christ’s resurrection, Acts 2.16-17
  - This is the last hour, I John 2.18
- Daniel 2.45: A great God has made known to the king what shall be after this.
- The message is... the word of God and the testimony of Christ...
  - Testimony/witness is a theme in Revelation because of persecution
- From God the Father....
  - Given to Jesus Christ...
    - Made known to John through an angel
      - John writes it down and all are encouraged to read and hear it
    - A promise of blessing: In the context, reading aloud in the worship of the church
- Prophecy
  - Of what is to take place
  - A form of witness
- Keeps- takes it to heart

## So What About Us?

- “A prophetic poem unsurpassed in sacred or profane literature in either the grandeur of its poetic imagery, or the superb sweep of its prophetic vision.” (B. B. Warfield)
- Read it!
- Keep it: Strength for today, hope for tomorrow