

Charles Town Presbyterian Church

Sunday, April 25, 2021

10:30am

Prelude

“Here I Am to Worship”

Tim Hughes

(© 2001 and this arr. © 2005 Thank You Music (Administered by EMI Christian Publishing)

arr. Larry Shackley

Welcome and Invocation

Call to Worship

Psalm 100:1-5

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness!

Come into his presence with singing!

**Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!

Give thanks to him; bless his name!

**For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.**

Song

“We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise”

We bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the Lord;

We bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the Lord.

And we offer up to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving;

And we offer up to you the sacrifices of joy! (Repeat)

(Copyright 1984 John T. Benson Publishing Co./ASCAP. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission of Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.)

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

O God, you have called us to love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. You have laid down your life for us and commanded us to lay down our lives for one another. Still, O Lord, we offer empty thoughts and prayers when the world needs our hands and our feet. Still, O Lord, we fail to share our lives with the world, hiding behind a myth of independence. Forgive us, we pray, and by your forgiveness, raise us to new life in you.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon...

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel,

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Sung Response to Confession

“Refiner’s Fire” (vs. 1)

Purify my heart, let me be as gold and precious silver.

Purify my heart, let me be as gold, pure gold.

Refiner’s fire, my heart’s one desire is to be holy, set apart for you Lord.

I choose to be holy, set apart for you my master, ready to do your will.

(© 1990 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing. All rights reserved. International copyright secured. Used by permission)

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer and Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer: 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.

Sung Response *"Blessed Jesus, at Your Word"* (vs. 3)

Glorious Lord, yourself impart, Light of Light, from God proceeding.
Touch our lips and ears and heart; help us by your Spirit's pleading.
Hear the cry your church now raises; hear, and bless our prayers and praises.

(TEXT: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1663; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1858, alt.; MUSIC: Johann Rudolph Ahle, 1664; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach, 18th cent., alt.)

Special Music

"Open My Eyes"

Paul Taylor

(© 2004 Lorenz Publishing Co. a division of the Lorenz Corporation)

based on tune by Clara H. Scott

Scripture

Matthew 13:1-23

Message

"Sowing Seed"

Pastor John

Song

"Open My Eyes, That I May See"

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!

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!

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!

(TEXT and MUSIC: Clara H. Scott, 1895)

Benediction

Brothers and sisters, as the Church of Jesus Christ, go from this place...

**Knowing Christ, growing in God's love, and serving as
the Holy Spirit leads.**

All songs used by permission. Reprinted under OneLicense #A-709478

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONELICENSE #A-736371

All rights reserved.

In-Person Worship Information

No Advance Sign Ups. Even just a few months ago, this would have been a necessary step, but as more and more people get vaccinated, we feel that signing up to come to worship isn't necessary.

Masks are still required. For the same reasons we still wear masks outside our homes, we expect all those worshipping to wear masks in the building.

No singing...yet. The virus is still out there, and it is spread via aerosol, meaning the water droplets that come from our noses, mouths, etc. Even with masks, singing remains a spreader activity. For now, we encourage attendees to speak the words of the songs and hymns we sing. The first moment we can sing without fear of spread, sing we shall! So hang in there, that time is hopefully coming soon!

Seating and social distancing. We are not blocking off pews, nor are we telling people where they can sit or with whom. By now, we should all know how social distancing works. We do ask that worshippers sit at least every other pew. When we serve communion, we will be bringing the bread and the cup to each person, not passing it down the pew. We need will access by way of the pew in front.

Offering. We will have offering plates available at the doors, and we ask that everyone drop their gifts into the plates as they enter. This is to limit contact.

Virtual worship will still stream. We will continue to stream worship services live over Facebook. If you don't feel well or don't yet feel safe, worship with us virtually!

Like we said in the fall, when we last attempted to open, this is a fluid situation. Please be patient. As we are able, we will relax these guidelines, and work our way toward a more familiar experience. Until such a time, we all must patiently work together.

Special note about May 9. Over the past thirteen months, several church members have gone on to glory, and many of their families were not able to have traditional funerals. During our first in-person worship service, we will have a moment during the service to remember the departed. We hope you can join us.

Wednesday Night Bible Study, April 28th, at 7:00pm.

Topic: Charles Town Presbyterian Church Bible Study

<https://zoom.us/j/96202042739?pwd=ZWt5aUhJYlBOVHJobE1RYmFoT2llQT09>

Meeting ID: 962 0204 2739

Passcode: 021517

Congregational Nominating Committee – The CNC for 2021 has begun meeting. They will prayerfully consider nominations for Elders, Deacons, and Trustee for the class of 2024, and at-large members of the congregation for next year's CNC. If you have suggestions for the CNC to consider, please reach out to members of the CNC with your ideas. The 2021 CNC is Kathy Donadio, Matthew Henshaw, Jane Ishman, Henry Christie, and Stephanie Rossi.

Online Giving. Online giving helps you to bring your offering before God. In addition to the no-fee Facebook donations and nominal fee Paypal service, we set up online giving through the Presbyterian Foundation. **Money donated via any of these services gets deposited to our church bank account.** By going through the Foundation, the fee they charge actually helps the mission of their organization, which is to help Presbyterian churches to be excellent stewards of their gifts and resources. The exciting part about working with the foundation is that we are able to use a mobile app that is connected to our account. The app is called Give Plus (created by Vanco) and you can find it at the Google Play Store if you have an android device or you may find the app in the Apple app store by searching for "Give Plus." The great part about the Give Plus app is that you can set up for weekly, monthly or one time giving! If you have any questions, please contact the church office. Thank you.

For electronic giving, please scan here:

