

NOVEMBER 21, 2021
Crosscreek Baptist Church

Gathering

Prelude

Welcome and Opportunities to Connect

Centering

A Blessing of Peace

Chiming of the Hour and Lighting of the Christ Candle

Lord's Prayer & Call to Worship Litany—Lamar Bradley

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Call to Worship

(by Beth Merrill Neel)

(Light print read by leader; **bold print read by congregation.**)

We gather today to worship the One who created us,

The One who calls us,

The One who equips us,

The One who loves us without end. With joyful hearts, let us worship God.

Hearing

Hymn of Praise: 310—Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee,
Op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Singing bird and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in Thee.

A Reading from the New Testament: Colossians 1:15-20—Sophia Hudson

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

This is the word of the Lord...

Thanks be to God.

A Moment for Children—Amy Oliver

A Time of Reflection

“Humility is the only virtue that no devil can imitate. If pride made demons out of angels, there is no doubt that humility could make angels out of demons.”

~ John Climacus

Invitation to Generosity

(Offertory by Kaye Slanker)

Worship in Song: “You Say”—Donna Fitch

A Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures: Isaiah 9:1-7—Brad Jeffcoat

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

This is the word of the Lord...
Thanks be to God.

Hymn of Devotion: 690—Worthy of Worship

Worthy of worship, worthy of praise.
Worthy of honor and glory.
Worthy of all the glad songs we can sing,
Worthy of all the offerings we bring.
You are worthy, Father, Creator. You are
worthy, Savior, Sustainer. You are worthy,
worthy and wonderful;
Worthy of worship and praise.

Worthy of reverence, worthy of fear,
Worthy of love and devotion;
Worthy of bowing and bending of knees,
Worthy of all this and added to these.

You are worthy, Father, Creator. You are
worthy, Savior, Sustainer. You are worthy,
worthy and wonderful;
Worthy of worship and praise.

Almighty Father, Master and Lord,
King of all kings and Redeemer,
Wonderful Counselor, Comforter, Friend,
Savior and
Source of our life without end.
You are worthy, Father, Creator.
You are worthy, Savior, Sustainer.
You are worthy, worthy and wonderful;
Worthy of worship and praise.

Sermon—Brandon Hudson
“King of Hearts”

Responding

Silence and Meditation

“Most of us understandably start the journey assuming that God is ‘up there,’ and our job is to transcend this world to find ‘him.’ We spend so much time trying to get ‘up there,’ we miss that God’s big leap in Jesus was to come ‘down here.’ So much of our worship and religious effort is the spiritual equivalent of trying to go up what has become the down escalator. I suspect that the ‘up there’ mentality is the way most people’s spiritual search has to start. But once the real inner journey begins—once you come to know that in Christ, God is forever overcoming the gap between human and divine—the Christian path becomes less about climbing and performance, and more about descending, letting go, and unlearning. Knowing and loving Jesus is largely about becoming fully human, wounds and all, instead of ascending spiritually or thinking we can remain unwounded.”

~ Richard Rohr

Hymn of Response: 58—Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

(Additional lyrics by Kevin D. Washburn)

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious,
the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious,
Thy great name we praise.

All grace and all mercy you freely impart;
Your love ever reaching
to capture our hearts.

You call and equip us to sever the chains
of bondage, injustice, and prideful disdain.

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
Great I AM, Jehovah, and our El Shaddai!
The Word in the flesh,
and the One Eternal,

we praise and adore Thee, oh, Emmanuel!

Benediction and Blessing

Hymn of Parting: An Old Irish Blessing

(Words & music may be found in the back of the hymnal.)

Postlude