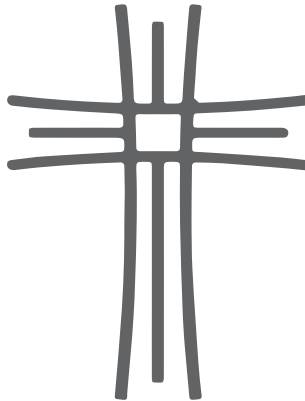


CHRIST CHURCH BELLINGHAM

Sunday April 28, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Eastertide



NOTE TO PARENTS

Nursery: *Babies and toddlers ages 6 months through 2 years are welcome to be brought to the nursery in the TCS Fellowship Hall at any time.*

9:00 am service: *An age-appropriate Bible lesson is available for children ages 3-7. Children are dismissed to Children's Ministry after the Gloria Patri.*

11:00 am service: *Drop-in childcare for ages 6 months through 5 years is available in the TCS fellowship hall anytime during the service.*

Children are always welcome to remain in either service for the entire time. The foyer and nursing mother's room are available if you need to step out to calm your child.

Welcome

LITURGY TELLS A STORY

Everyone is telling a story about themselves and the world.

Our worship service does the same thing. Every week, we reenact what the Bible says is the true story of the world:

GOD THE CREATOR

Song of Approach: For the Beauty of the Earth

Call to Worship: Psalm 104

Song of Praise: This Is My Father's World

LOVED THE FALLEN WORLD

Confession: Proverbs 12

Assurance of Pardon: Isaiah 40

Gloria Patri

Song of Ascent: I Will Wait For You

THROUGH CHRIST THE REDEEMER

Sermon: Femininity (Proverbs 31:10-31)

Profession of Faith

Congregational Life

Offering: Luke 6

Song of Response: Wonderful, Merciful Savior

BY INVITING US TO HIS TABLE

The Lord's Supper

AND SENDING US, BY HIS SPIRIT, TO LOVE THE WORLD

Doxology

Benediction

We tell this story through what's called "liturgy," a series of worshipful movements that orient us to who God is, what he has done, and who we are in him. While some of the ways we worship might be foreign to you, we encourage you to try them on for a while and see if you can't benefit from them.

Song of Approach

FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

Lyrics: Folliot Sandford Pierpoint, 1864; music: Conrad Kocher, 1838

For the beauty of the earth
For the glory of the skies
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies

*Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise*

For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon, and stars of light

Refrain

For the joy of ear and eye
For the heart and mind's delight
For the mystic harmony
Linking sense to sound and sight

Refrain

For the joy of human love
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above
For all gentle thoughts and mild

Refrain

For each perfect gift of thine
To our race so freely given
Graces human and divine
Flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n

Refrain x2

Call to Worship

Bold words read aloud in unison

PSALM 104:14-20, 24, 27

L: You cause the grass to grow for the livestock
and plants for man to cultivate,
that he may bring forth food from the earth
and wine to gladden the heart of man,
oil to make his face shine
and bread to strengthen man's heart.

A: O Lord, how manifold are your works!

L: The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly,
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.
In them the birds build their nests;
the stork has her home in the fir trees.
The high mountains are for the wild goats;
the rocks are a refuge for the rock badgers.

A: O Lord, how manifold are your works!

L: He made the moon to mark the seasons;
the sun knows its time for setting.
You make darkness, and it is night,
when all the beasts of the forest creep about.
The young lions roar for their prey,
seeking their food from God.

**A: O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom have you made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.**

Song of Praise

THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD

Lyrics: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1901; music: Terra Beata

This is my Father's world
And to my list'ning ears
All nature sings and round me rings
The music of the spheres
This is my Father's world
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas
His hand the wonders wrought

This is my Father's world
The birds their carols raise
The morning light, the lily white
Declare their Maker's praise
This is my Father's world
He shines in all that's fair
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass
He speaks to me ev'rywhere

This is my Father's world
O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong
God is the Ruler yet
This is my Father's world
The battle is not done
Jesus Who died shall be satisfied
And earth and heaven be one

Prayer of Confession

PROVERBS 12:18

The words of the reckless pierce like swords,
but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

Merciful Father,

**We confess that we have abused the power of our tongues.
What you made for healing we use for war, forging our tongues into weapons.
We curse when we should bless,
lie when we should confront,
speak when we should be silent.
We are rash and vain with our speech,
and we let loose many wild and angry thought.**

**Give us hearts of wisdom, that we would restrain our tongues.
Give us love for all people, that we would use our words to bless.
Give us humility before you, that we would not be so arrogant as to curse
what you call good.**

Our words condemn us, but yours bring pardon and comfort.

**Help us to be a people who speak like Jesus,
our gentle, loving, healing Savior.**

Amen

Take a moment to confess your sins silently to the Lord.

Assurance of Pardon

ISAIAH 40:1-2

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her at her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

Gloria Patri

Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Ghost; As it was in

the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A - men, a - men.

The image shows a musical score for the Gloria Patri. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system begins with the lyrics 'Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Ghost; As it was in'. The second system continues with 'the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A - men, a - men.' The music is in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat).

9:00 am service: Children ages 3-7 please meet your teacher in the foyer. Parents receive their children from the TCS building in the time after the sermon and before the Lord's Supper.

Song of Ascent

I WILL WAIT FOR YOU

Out of the depths I cry to you
In darkest places I will call
Incline your ear to me anew
And hear my cry for mercy, Lord

Were you to count my sinful ways
How could I come before your throne?
Yet full forgiveness meets my gaze
I stand redeemed by grace alone

*I will wait for you
I will wait for you
On your word, I will rely
I will wait for you
Surely wait for you
'Til my soul is satisfied*

So put your hope in God alone
Take courage in his power to save
Completely and forever won
By Christ emerging from the grave

Refrain

Now he has come to make a way
And God himself has paid the price
That all who trust in him today
Find healing in his sacrifice

Refrain x2

SERMON

Femininity

PROVERBS 31:10-31

Pastor Nate Walker

- 10 An excellent wife who can find?
She is far more precious than jewels.
- 11 The heart of her husband trusts in her,
and he will have no lack of gain.
- 12 She does him good, and not harm,
all the days of her life.
- 13 She seeks wool and flax,
and works with willing hands.
- 14 She is like the ships of the merchant;
she brings her food from afar.
- 15 She rises while it is yet night
and provides food for her household
and portions for her maidens.
- 16 She considers a field and buys it;
with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.
- 17 She dresses herself with strength
and makes her arms strong.
- 18 She perceives that her merchandise is profitable.
Her lamp does not go out at night.
- 19 She puts her hands to the distaff,
and her hands hold the spindle.
- 20 She opens her hand to the poor
and reaches out her hands to the needy.
- 21 She is not afraid of snow for her household,
for all her household are clothed in scarlet.
- 22 She makes bed coverings for herself;
her clothing is fine linen and purple.
- 23 Her husband is known in the gates
when he sits among the elders of the land.
- 24 She makes linen garments and sells them;
she delivers sashes to the merchant.
- 25 Strength and dignity are her clothing,
and she laughs at the time to come.
- 26 She opens her mouth with wisdom,
and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

- 27 She looks well to the ways of her household
and does not eat the bread of idleness.
- 28 Her children rise up and call her blessed;
her husband also, and he praises her:
- 29 “Many women have done excellently,
but you surpass them all.”
- 30 Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,
but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.
- 31 Give her of the fruit of her hands,
and let her works praise her in the gates.

Bold words read aloud in unison

ISAIAH 40:8

L: The grass withers,
and the flower fades.

**A: But the word of our God
will stand forever.**

We encourage you to bring your Bible with you to worship so you can follow along during the sermon. If you don't own a Bible, after the service you can get one from the Connect Desk.

Profession of Faith

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

Question 123. What does the second petition mean?

A. “Your kingdom come” means: Rule us by your Word and Spirit in such a way that more and more we submit to you. Preserve your church and make it grow. Destroy the devil’s work; destroy every force which revolts against you and every conspiracy against your holy Word. Do this until your kingdom fully comes, when you will be all in all.

Question 124. What does the third petition mean?

A. “Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven” means: Help us and all people to reject our own wills and to obey your will without any back talk. Your will alone is good. Help us one and all to carry out the work we are called to, as willingly and faithfully as the angels in heaven.

Prayer

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Please join in the Lord’s Prayer when directed.

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.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Missionaries of the Month: Robbins Family, Malawi. Pray for Daniel and Bethany, who are focusing on leadership development through theological education (Daniel) and training lay trauma counselors (Bethany). Praise God for rain! Pray for Dan and Bethany as they make some big decisions for Luzzy’s schooling next year. Pray for the Lord to be renewing and liberating the Robbins family after a hard last month: car accident, firing a guard who was stealing, attacks on their cats, family stress, administrative failures at the seminary, etc./ Pray for rest and deep connections in the midst of busyness.

Need Prayer? Submit your requests to prayer@christchurchbellingham.org. Please indicate if your request can be made public.

Congregational Life

PRAYER FOR THE WALKERS

Please join us in praying over the Walkers, as this is Pastor Nate's last Sunday with us before his sabbatical. Our church's policy is that a pastor is given a sabbatical every seven years, and Nate's next sabbatical begins this week on May 1st. Please keep the Walkers in your prayers over the next several months, that God would grant them a restful, connective, and refreshing time over Nate's sabbatical. Pastor Matt will be preaching regularly throughout the summer, with Jon Brodhagen leading liturgy most weeks as a candidate for ordination in our presbytery.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hymn Sing, Tonight at 6:30. Join us here in the sanctuary as we begin learning our next hymn of the month, The King of Love My Shepherd Is.

Women's Gathering, May 4th. Does your Bible reading taper off during the summer months? Or maybe you don't know where to start in developing a habit of daily Bible reading. Let's gather for coffee, tea, and light refreshments and dive into this topic—May 4 from 10-11:30 at Andrea Oneschak's home. We'll talk about practical ways to do this, have options for accountability, and hear a testimony from Rosemma Weston as well. Come and be spurred on to keep God's word as your daily bread all summer long. Please RSVP by April 30 at bit.ly/ccbmay4.

Newcomers' Lunch, May 5th. We'd love to see you at our next gathering for people exploring our church. Learn more and sign up at bit.ly/ccbnewcomers.

Feast, June 2nd. Set aside your Sunday afternoon for our annual church celebration. More details soon to follow.

VBS, July 8-12. Save the date! We will be putting on another week of VBS this year. More details soon to follow.

GET CONNECTED

Help us get to know you by stopping by our Connect Desk before or after service. We would like to welcome you to the church, answer any questions you have, and help you meet one of our pastors. **Additionally, you can go to bit.ly/cbcconnect and fill out a brief form, and someone will reach out to you soon.**

We are glad you are here.

Offering

LUKE 6:37-38

Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.

You may give in person, by mail, or online at: bit.ly/giveccb

Song of Response

WONDERFUL, MERCIFUL SAVIOR

By Selah, 2001

Wonderful, merciful Savior,
Precious redeemer and friend
Who would have thought that a Lamb could
Rescue the souls of men?
Oh you rescue the souls of men

Counselor, Comforter, Keeper,
Spirit we long to embrace
You offer hope when our hearts have
Hopelessly lost the way
Oh, we've hopelessly lost the way

*You are the one that we praise
You are the one we adore
You give the healing and grace our
Hearts always hunger for,
Oh our hearts always hunger for*

Almighty, infinite Father
Faithfully loving your own
Here in our weakness you find us
Falling before your throne
Oh, we're falling before your throne

Refrain x2

The Lord's Supper

Jesus invites you to his table to serve you and commune with you because he enjoys you. Communion is for all baptized Christians who put their trust in the saving work of Jesus Christ. All baptized children are required to make a profession of faith to the elders of the church before coming to the Lord's Table. If you have come to faith in Christ and have not been baptized, our pastors would love to baptize you.

We invite you to use the prayers below to guide you in prayerful meditation, especially if you are not partaking in the meal.

PRAYER FOR THOSE SEARCHING FOR TRUTH

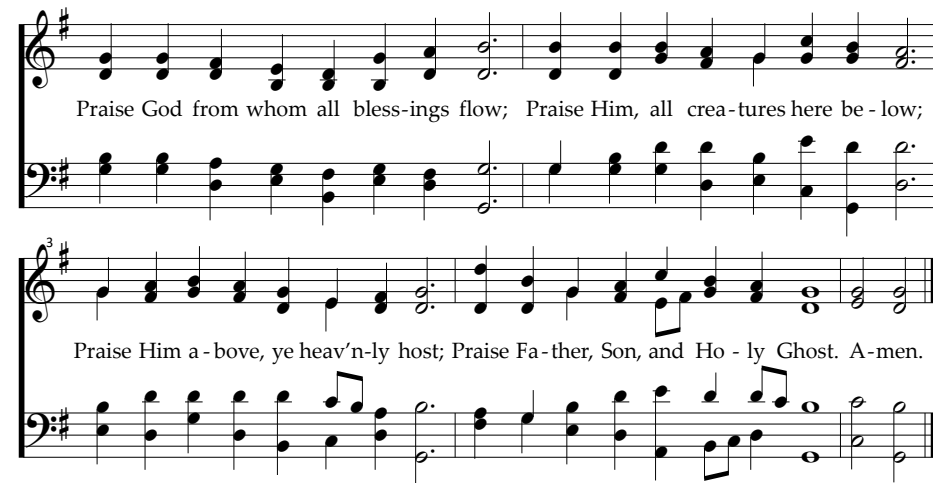
Lord Jesus, you claim to be the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Please give me courage and hope as I consider both the reasons and cost for following you. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent and convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

PRAYER OF BELIEF

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking the punishment I deserved so you could offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Sending Song

DOXOLOGY



Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here be - low;
Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n-ly host; Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Benediction

Give Us Seven

Worship is the heartbeat of our life together. To get to know us better, we ask that you “give us seven.” Join us for seven Sundays over the course of a couple months. In doing so, you’ll come to learn who we are and what we believe, and experience the mission to which God has called us: to proclaim the excellencies of God.

Say Hi!

Especially if this is one of your first times attending, please stick around and say hi. We would love to meet you.

Home Group Questions

1. Was there anything new, interesting, or challenging for you in the sermon?
2. How does the gospel make submission a positive thing in the life of a Christian?
3. How have you experienced that the woman is “the glory of man” (1 Cor. 11:7; i.e. “the glory of the glory”)?
4. In what ways should we think of Proverbs 31 as a model for women? In what ways should we think of Proverbs 31 as a picture of the church?

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*The mission of Christ Church Bellingham is to
proclaim the excellencies of God in Bellingham and
throughout the world through worship, disciple-
making, deeds of love, and church planting.*



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