

Pre-service Song

Christ Our Wisdom

Christ our wisdom, we are humbled
when You hide Your ways from us;
You have purposes unnumbered,
each one good and glorious.
Help us trust when we grow weary,
free us from our anxious thoughts;
give us grace to see more clearly;
You are God and we are not.

Christ our wisdom, be our gladness
when we fail to understand;
You ordain all joy and sadness
to fulfill Your perfect plan.
Help us know You rule with power
over ev'ry raging flood;
in our most uncertain hour,
You are God and we are loved.

Christ our wisdom, we will follow
though the way ahead is veiled;
as we journey through the shadows,
grant us faith where sight has failed.
Help us cling to Your commandments,
strengthened by Your faithful Word;
we will never be abandoned;
You are God and we are Yours.

Christ our wisdom, we adore You
for the beauty of the cross;
once in foolishness we scorned You,
but Your blood has ransomed us.
Help us sing the endless mercies
of Your humble heart to save;
Christ our wisdom, Christ our glory,
You are God, forever praised.

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of Your humble heart to save;
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By Bob Kauflin, Jonathan Althoff, and Nathan Stiff
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Call To Worship

We confess the supremacy of God in Christ through both responsive reading and song.

Our Spoken Call to Worship

Psalm 46:1-3, 8-11 (ESV)

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

**Therefore we will not fear
though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved**

**into the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.**

Come, behold the works of the Lord,
how he has brought desolations on the earth.
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth,
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the chariots with fire.

**“Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!”**

**The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

Our Sung Call to Worship

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

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.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish—but naught changeth Thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!

Words by Walter Chalmers Smith Music Welsh Hymn Tune
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Confession

We confess our need for mercy through both responsive reading and song.

Our Spoken Confession

Psalm 51:1-4, 7-9 (ESV)

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!

**For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
Against you, you only, have I sinned**

**and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you may be justified in your words
and blameless in your judgment.**

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

**Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.**

**This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ,
our crucified and risen Lord. Amen.**

Time of silent confession.

Our Sung Confession

Have Mercy (Psalm 51)

Have mercy on me, O God.
Have mercy on me, O God.
I am calling on Your kindness
In accordance with Your love.
Have mercy on me, O God.

I know, God, that I have sinned.
It's You I have sinned against.
Would You blot out my transgressions?
Would You come now and forgive?
I know, God, that I have sinned.

Oh, a broken, contrite heart You will not turn away.
Oh, Lord, open up my lips that I might sing Your praise.

God wash me as white as snow,
And carry Your lost child home.
Come create in me a clean heart,
Come and break this heart of stone.
God, wash me as white as snow.

Oh, a broken, contrite heart You will not turn away.
Oh, Lord, open up my lips that I might sing Your praise.

Restore to me the joy of my salvation,
Renew in me a willing heart,
And I will sing in praise of Your redemption,
and I will sing of Your mercy God. (Repeat)

Have mercy on me, O God.
Have mercy on me, O God.
I am calling on Your kindness
In accordance with Your love.
Have mercy on me, O God.

By Caroline Cobb Smith
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Assurance and Peace

We profess our assurance of salvation and peace in Christ through both responsive reading and song.

Remember the Gospel

Romans 5:1, 8-11

Remember the Gospel!

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**God shows his love for us
in that while we were still sinners,
Christ died for us.**

Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood,
much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

**For if while we were enemies
we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son,
much more, now that we are reconciled,
shall we be saved by his life.**

More than that, we also rejoice in God
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Our Sung Profession of Assurance

There is One Gospel

There is one Gospel on which I stand for all eternity.
It is my story, my Father's plan, the Son has rescued me.
Oh, what a Gospel, oh what a peace.
My highest joy and my deepest need.
Now and forever, He is my light.
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

There is one Gospel to which I cling, all else I count as loss.
For there, where justice and mercy meet, He saved me on the cross.
No more I boast in what I can bring,
No more I carry the weight of sin.
For He has brought me from death to life.
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

There is one Gospel where hope is found, the empty tomb still speaks.
For death could not keep my Saviour down, He lives and I am free.
Now on my Saviour I fix my eyes,
My life is His and His hope is mine.
For He has promised I too, will rise.
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

And in this Gospel, the church is one, we do not walk alone.
We have His Spirit as we press on to lead us safely home.
And when in glory still I will sing
Of this old story that rescued me.
Praise to my Saviour, the King of life.
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

And when in glory still I will sing
Of this old story that rescued me.

Praise to my Saviour, the King of life.
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
Praise to my Saviour, the King of life.
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

By Jonny Robinson and Rich Thompson
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Thanksgiving and Petition

We Give Thanks in Prayer and Offer Petitions to God

We express our gratitude to God our Father for Christ's work on the cross for us and bring our requests before him. In bringing our requests, we confess that we believe God truly is a good father, who cares about our needs and gives us what he knows is best.

We Give Thanks by Giving

We give financial offerings to support the work of the church because of our gratitude to God. By giving we confess we are trusting in God's provision for us as well.

You may give electronically at gabcame.org/giving/ or place your offering in the boxes at the back of the sanctuary or send a check in the mail.

Scripture Reading

James 3:13-18 (ESV)

¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. ¹⁵ This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

This is the word of the Lord.

**The grass withers and the flower falls
but the word of the Lord endures forever.**

Sermon

James 3:13-18 - "Wisdom From Above" - Pastor Dean VanEvery

Sermon Discipleship Questions

1. What encouraged you?
2. What convicted you?
3. Is there anything in your life that needs to change?

There is A Fountain (Distribution Song)

There is a fountain filled with blood
Drawn from Immanuel's veins;
And sinners, plunged beneath that flood,
Lose all their guilty stains:
Lose all their guilty stains,
Lose all their guilty stains;
And sinners, plunged beneath that flood,
Lose all their guilty stains.

The dying thief rejoiced to see
That fountain in his day;

And there may I, though vile as he,
Wash all my sins away:
Wash all my sins away,
Wash all my sins away;
And there may I, though vile as he,
Wash all my sins away.

Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood
Shall never lose its pow'r
Till all the ransomed Church of God
Be saved, to sin no more:
Be saved, to sin no more,
Be saved, to sin no more;
Till all the ransomed Church of God
Be saved, to sin no more.

E'er since by faith I saw the stream
Thy flowing wounds supply,
Redeeming love has been my theme,
And shall be till I die:
And shall be till I die,
And shall be till I die;
Redeeming love has been my theme,
And shall be till I die.

Words by William Cowper, Music Early American Melody
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Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Sending

Having heard and confessed the Gospel, we are sent into the world on mission in Christ, which we express in both song and spoken word.

Sending Song

Christ Our Wisdom

Christ our wisdom, we are humbled
when You hide Your ways from us;
You have purposes unnumbered,
each one good and glorious.
Help us trust when we grow weary,
free us from our anxious thoughts;
give us grace to see more clearly;
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Blessing

Hebrews 13:20-21 (ESV)

Now may the God of peace
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
the great shepherd of the sheep,
by the blood of the eternal covenant,
equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight,
through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

Amen.

Scripture text for next Sunday: James 4:1-10