Pre-service Song

How Beautiful the Mystery

How beautiful the mystery:
Th'Eternal Word comes down
To live and love and die and rise,
To claim His victor's crown.
Content we find Him cradled there
Amongst the filth and beasts.
Who would believe that He will be
Our guide from death to peace!

Chorus
How beautiful the mystery:
Th'Eternal Word came down;
The Servant-King has set us free
To live for His renown.

By angry swords and dark decree
He's driven from His land.
But still He humbly bows His head
To trust His Father's hand.
The spotless Lamb lays down his life,
A curse upon a cross.
Then lives that He might guarantee
That no sheep will be lost. (Chorus)

How beautiful the mystery:
The Word shall come again
To raise His own to live with Him,
Set free from death and sin.
O, may our hearts grow ever fond
Of Mary's precious boy:
Our Christ, our hope, our heart's desire,
Our King and Sov'reign joy! (Chorus)

By Eric Schumacher, David L. Ward and Jeff Bourque
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Call To Worship

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

Advent Reading and Candlelighting

Isaiah 11:1-6, 10 (ESV)

There shall come forth a shoot
from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him—
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,

and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;
and a little child shall lead them.

In that day the root of Jesse,
who shall stand as a signal for the peoples —
of him shall the nations inquire,
and his resting place shall be glorious.

We light this candle as a sign of the hope of Christ.

Our Sung Call to Worship

How Beautiful the Mystery
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To live and love and die and rise,
To claim His victor's crown.
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Confession

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

Our Spoken Confession
Isaiah 53:1-6 (ESV)

Who has believed what he has heard from us?
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at this,
and no beauty that we should desire him.

He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

Time of silent confession.

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

Remember the Gospel
Titus 3:3-7 (ESV)

Remember the Gospel!

For we ourselves were once foolish,
disobedient, led astray,
slaves to various passions and pleasures,
passing our days in malice and envy,
hated by others and hating one another.

But when the goodness and loving kindness
of God our Savior appeared, he saved us,
not because of works done by us
in righteousness,
but according to his own mercy,
by the washing of regeneration
and renewal of the Holy Spirit,
whom he poured out on us richly
through Jesus Christ our Savior,

so that being justified by his grace
we might become heirs
according to the hope of eternal life.

Our Sung Profession of Assurance

The Goodness of Jesus

Come you weary hearts now to Jesus.
Come you anxious soul now and see
There is perfect love and comfort in your tears.
Rest here in His wondrous peace.

Oh the goodness, the goodness of Jesus,
Satisfied He is all that I need.
May it be, come what may,
that I rest all of my days in the goodness of Jesus.

Come find what this world cannot offer.
Come and find your joy here complete.
Taste the living water, never thirst again,
Rest here in His wondrous peace.

Oh the goodness, the goodness of Jesus,
Satisfied He is all that I need.
May it be, come what may,
that I rest all of my days in the goodness of Jesus.

Come and find your hope now in Jesus.
He is all He said He would be.
Grace is overflowing from the Savior's heart.
Rest here in His wondrous peace.

Oh the goodness, the goodness of Jesus,
Satisfied He is all that I need.
May it be, come what may,
that I rest all of my days in the goodness of Jesus.

Oh the goodness, the goodness of Jesus,
Satisfied He is all that I need.
May it be, come what may,
that I rest all of my days in the goodness of Jesus.

May it be, come what may,
that I rest all my days in the goodness of Jesus.

By Fioan Aghajanian, Harrison Druery, Michael Farren, Jaywan Mawell, Jonny Robinson, 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 gabcames.org/giving/ or place your offering in the boxes at the back of the sanctuary or send a check in the mail.

Scripture Reading

Psalm 63

A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah.

1 O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
2 So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.
3 Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.
4 So I will bless you as long as I live;
in your name I will lift up my hands.
5 My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food,
and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips,
6 when I remember you upon my bed,
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;
7 for you have been my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy.
8 My soul clings to you;
your right hand upholds me.
9 But those who seek to destroy my life
shall go down into the depths of the earth;
10 they shall be given over to the power of the sword;
they shall be a portion for jackals.
11 But the king shall rejoice in God;
all who swear by him shall exult,
for the mouths of liars will be stopped.

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

Sermon

Psalm 63 (ESV) - A Love Better Than Life - Pastor Michael Felkins

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

Before the Throne of God Above (Distribution Song)
Before the throne of God above,
I have a strong and perfect plea
A great High Priest whose name is Love,
Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands.
My name is written on His heart.
I know that while in heav'n He stands,
No tongue can bid me thence depart,
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair,
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see Him there,

Who made an end to all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died,
My sinful soul is counted free.
For God, the Just, is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me,
To look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there, the risen Lamb!
My perfect, spotless righteousness.
The great unchangeable I AM,
The King of Glory and of Grace.
One with Himself, I cannot die.
My soul is purchased by His blood.
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ, my Savior and my God,
With Christ, my Savior and my God.

One with Himself, I cannot die.
My soul is purchased by His blood.
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ, my Savior and my God,
With Christ, my Savior and my God.

By Charitie Lees Bancroft and Vicki Cook
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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
10,000 Reasons
Chorus
Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul,
Worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul,
I'll worship Your holy name.

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning;
It's time to sing Your song again.
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me,
Let me be singing when the evening comes. (Chorus)

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger,
Your name is great and Your heart is kind;
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing,
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find. (Chorus)

And on that day when my strength is failing,
The end draws near and my time has come;
Still, my soul will sing Your praise unending,
Ten thousand years, and then forevermore.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul,
Worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul,

I'll worship Your holy name. (Repeat)

I'll worship Your holy name.
Lord, I'll worship Your holy name.

By Matt Redman and Jonas Myrin
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Blessing
Romans 11:36 (ESV)

For from him and through him
and to him are all things.
To him be glory forever.

Amen.

Scripture text for next Sunday: Psalm 64