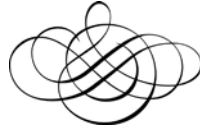


TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Montgomery, Alabama



A COMMENDED DEVOTIONAL
Especially in Light of Acts 14 Sermons
Philippians 2:1–11

This kingdom is a kingdom of the cross. For all of its joy and celebration and for all of its gifts of life and grace, the kingdom of God is a kingdom of sacrifice. The central event in the history of this kingdom is a shocking and unthinkable sacrifice. This moment of sacrifice confounded the followers who were there to see it and has interested theologians ever since. It is at once the most terrible and most beautiful event in the kingdom. It is a sacrifice that makes perfect sense and no sense at all. And this sacrifice forms the operating agenda of the kingdom from that time on.

Jesus, by His bleeding and broken body on the cross, not only gave the kingdom of God its life and hope, but its paradigm for living as well. That history-changing death on the cross is also the life-changing call of Christ to everyone who would follow Him. And as it did on the cross, that willingness to die will always result in life. This kingdom is a kingdom of the cross, and everyone who celebrates that sacrifice is called to drag a cross along with them every day.

~ Paul David Trip

Organized 1891 to the Glory of God

The Lord's Day, April 6, 2014

THE ORDER FOR MORNING WORSHIP

April 6, 2014 ■ 8:30 and 11:00 A.M.

The Silent Meditation upon Entering the Sanctuary

And God, Who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as He did to us, and He made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith.

~ Acts 15:8-9

The Welcome and Announcements [8:25 and 10:55 A.M.]

The Prelude

“Largo”
Cary Albritton, *flute*

G.F. Handel

The Striking of the Hour

† **The Ascription of Praise**

“Come, Thou Almighty King” TRINITY

Come, Thou Almighty King,
Help us Thy name to sing, help us to praise.
Father, all glorious, o’er all victorious,
Come and reign over us, Ancient of Days.

† **The Call to Worship**

Psalm 18:1-3a

Mr. Curles

I love you, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in Whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call upon the LORD, Who is worthy to be praised.

† **The Hymn No. 296**

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!” DIADEMATA

† **The Prayer of Adoration and Invocation**

† **The Lord’s Prayer**

Our Father Which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in 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, for ever. Amen.

† **The Doxology**

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

◀ The minister, as God’s herald, assembles the people for public worship. Our worship does not take place just in this sanctuary; rather by the power of the Spirit, we are joining the on-going worship in heaven, in the very presence of God and Christ (Hebrews 12:22). We come at the Father’s gracious invitation, through Christ, to the banquet of worship.

◀ The minister, as God’s herald, calls the people of God into the presence of God. The people of God respond because they belong to Him. Jesus said, “My sheep hear my voice.”

◀ This initial prayer is one of invoking the presence of God, His help, His favor, His greatness, and our need of His great compassion, eternal love, and infinite mercy.

The Call to Confession, Repentance, and Assurance of Pardon Psalm 130

A SONG OF ASCENTS. Out of the depths I cry to You, O LORD! O Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy! If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared. I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning. O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with Him is plentiful redemption. And He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

The Silent Prayer of Confession

The Assurance of Pardon Psalm 32:1-6a

Child of God, hear the promises of God: *Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to You at a time when You may be found.*

The Morning Prayer

The Hymn No 335 "Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me" REDHEAD
[stanzas 1, 4]

The Morning Offering

The Christian Greeting
The Anthem "My Jesus, I Love Thee" arr. Paul Sjolund
Chancel Choir; Carey Albritton, *flute*
[Words may be found on page 648 in the *Trinity Hymnal*.]

† **The Reading of God's Word** *Acts 15:1-21*
[page 1175 in the Pew Bible]

† The Response

Minister: All men are like grass and all their glory is like the flowers of the field.
People: **The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the Word of our God shall stand forever. Amen.**

◀ We confess to our merciful God the areas in our lives in which we know we have strayed like lost sheep.

◀ We confess our sinful inclinations ~ "prone to wonder, prone to leave the God I love" ~ and cast ourselves on the mercy, grace and love of God.

◀ We are reminded of the redeeming, pardoning grace of our heavenly Father.

◀ Each Christian gives as he is able, with a cheerful heart, according to the standard by which God has prospered Him.

◀ The reading of Scripture is performed by the minister as God's servant. Through it God speaks most directly to the congregation, even more directly than through the sermon. In it God is addressing the people of God.

The Hymn of Preparation

“Wonderful Merciful Savior”

Won - der - ful mer - ci - ful Sav - ior, pre - cious Re -
Coun - se - lor, Com - for - ter, Keep - er, Spir - it we
Al - might - y in - fi - nite Fa - ther, faith - ful - ly

deem - er and Friend, who would have thought that a
long to em - brace, you of - fer hope when our
lov - ing your own, here in our weak - ness you

Lamb could res - cue the souls of men, Oh you
hearts have hope - less - ly lost the way, Oh we
find us fall ing be - fore your throne, Oh we're

res - cue the souls of men.
hope - less - ly lost the way.
fall ing be - fore your throne.

You are the One that we praise, you are the
One we a dore, you give the heal - ing and grace
our hearts al - ways hun - ger for, Oh our
hearts al - ways hun - ger for.

Dawn Rodgers and Eric Wyse. ©1989 Word Music, Inc. / Dayspring Music, Inc.

◀ Children aged four through kindergarten may leave to attend **Children's Church**. Following the worship service, please pick up your children from the Children's Chapel in the Covenant Building (E-100).

◀ It has often been our practice to sing a hymn of preparation in hopes of readying the hearer for the preaching of the Word. Jesus said, "I have told you this so that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."

The Sermon

Mr. McRoberts

SAVED BY GRACE: WORTH DYING FOR

Acts 15:1-21

XXXIX. Exposition of Acts

INTRODUCTION

I. AN ISSUE WORTH DYING FOR ~ 15:1-5

II. THE PUBLIC PROCEEDINGS ~ 15:6-19

A. Peter ~ 15:6-11

B. Barnabas and Paul ~ 15:12

C. James ... James the Just ... James the brother of Jesus ~ 15:13-19

CONCLUSION ~ *Lessons for Today*

† **The Hymn No. 263**

“Lift High the Cross”

CRUCIFER

† **The Benediction**

Minister: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, descend and rest in your hearts until the day breaks and all these shadows flee away.

People: **AMEN!**

† **The Quiet Meditation and Personal Application of the Word**

The Postlude

“Lift High the Cross”

arr. Carolyn Hamlin

† Indicates standing as able

FOR FURTHER STUDY

It was when they reported of the success encountered among the Gentiles that those who belong to “the sect of the Pharisees” stood up and said, “It is necessary to circumcise them and to order them to keep the law of Moses” (Acts 15:5). This is what the unofficial delegates to Antioch had also said: “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved” (Acts 15:1). As Calvin comments on the issue, “Christianity would have come to nothing if Paul had yielded.” To have given ground on the insistence that Gentiles submit to Jewish ceremonies would have made the missionary task well-nigh impossible.

Should the church have yielded at this point for the sake of unity between Jerusalem and Antioch? Of course, no unity would have been forthcoming. One way or another, these two viewpoints were set for collision and division. There can be no unity between light and darkness. Either salvation is of *grace alone*, apart from any consideration of sacramental obedience, or it is not! If the apostles had conceded to the demands of the Pharisaical sect, Christianity would have taken a different direction altogether. Some issues are irresolvable by compromise. This was one of those “Here I stand, I can do no other” moments in church history.

In one sense, the issue had already been settled. James, Peter, and John had already agreed that Paul’s mission to the Gentiles need not insist upon circumcision (Galatians 2:9). This issue had been addressed more than two years earlier. Yet much had occurred since then. Perhaps the reality that the church now consisted of more converted Gentiles than Jews meant that the issue had returned, and some were beginning to change their minds. Perhaps it was believed that the issue needed scrutiny again. It was the elders who had initially discussed the matter with the apostles (Acts 15:12), and later the entire church concurred with the decision that the elders had made (Acts 15:22, “with the church”).

~ Derek Thomas

◀ The worshippers are invited (even encouraged) to turn their palms upward and empty before God as a physical expression of accepting God’s blessing upon them.

CONCLUDING THE LORD'S DAY IN WORSHIP ■ 6:00

PREPARATION • REFLECTION • GREETING • PRAYER

At 5:45 the congregation is invited to gather in the Sanctuary for prelude music. While this time is meant for personal prayer and preparation for worship, it is also a time to greet one another in Christ. Also at 5:45 there is a brief time of prayer in the Westminster Room with the Minister to pray for the worship service. All are invited and welcome to attend.

Opening Medley of Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

Mr. McRoberts

“Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God”

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you; Allelu, alleluia!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you, seek and ye shall find,
Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you; Allelu, alleluia!

“Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder”

John Newton/Laura Taylor

Let us love and sing and wonder Let us praise the Savior's name
He has hushed the law's loud thunder He has quenched Mount Sinai's flame
He has washed us with His blood He has washed us with His blood
He has washed us with His blood He has brought us nigh to God

Let us love the Lord Who bought us Pitied us when enemies
Called us by His grace and taught us Gave us ears and gave us eyes
He has washed us with His blood He has washed us with His blood
He has washed us with His blood He presents our souls to God

Let us sing though fierce temptation Threatens hard to bear us down
For the Lord, our strong salvation, Holds in view the conqu'ror's crown
He, Who washed us with His blood, He, Who washed us with His blood,
He, Who washed us with His blood, Soon will bring us home to God

Let us wonder grace and justice Join and point to mercy's store
When through grace in Christ our trust is Justice smiles and asks no more
He Who washed us with His blood He Who washed us with His blood
He Who washed us with His blood Has secured our way to God

Let us praise and join the chorus Of the saints enthroned on high
Here they trusted Him before us Now their praises fill the sky
Thou hast washed us with Thy blood Thou hast washed us with Thy blood
Thou hast washed us with Thy blood Thou art worthy Lamb of God.

No. 188, “Jesus, I Am Resting, Resting” [stanzas 1-2]

Scripture and Prayer of Praise ~ Psalm 149

Page 668 in the Pew Bible

Anthem, “God Be in My Head”

Richard Shepherd

God be in my head and in my understanding,
God be in mine eyes and in my looking,
God be in my mouth and in my speaking,
God be in my heart and in my thinking,
God be at mine end and at my departing.

Silent Prayer

Evening Prayer

Hymn of Preparation, “The Church’s One Foundation”

Brian Moss/Samuel Stone
Children are dismissed to attend their classes.

Though with a scornful wonder men see her sore oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping, their cry goes up, “How long?”
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

The church shall never perish! Her dear Lord to defend,
To guide, sustain, and cherish, is with her to the end;
Though there be those that hate her, and false sons in her pale,
Against or foe or traitor she ever shall prevail.

Homily

“First Miraculous Catch of Fish”

Luke 5:1-11

IV. The Miracles of Christ

Mr. Howell

Silent Prayer of Application

Benediction

The Closing Response, “Jesus, Let Us Come to Know You”

Michael Card

Jesus, let us come to know You; Let us see You face to face.
Touch us, hold us, use us, mold us. Only let us live in You.

Jesus, draw us ever nearer, Hold us in Your loving arms.
Wrap us in Your gentle presence, When the end comes, bring us home.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK
OUR CHURCH THIS LORD'S DAY, April 6, 2014

The Lord's Day

- 8:30 A.M. Early Morning Worship
9:45 A.M. Sunday School
11:00 A.M. Morning Worship
5:00 P.M. Youth Choir
6:00 P.M. Evening Worship
7:15 P.M. Senior High Fellowship at the Home of the McRoberts

FOR PRAYER AND PARTICIPATION, April 7-11, 2014

Monday, April 7

- 12 Noon Men's Bible Study in the Spires Room

Tuesday, April 8

- 6:45 A.M. Prayer Breakfast in Trinity Hall
7:00 P.M. Association Free Lutheran Bible School Concert Choir
in the Sanctuary

Wednesday, April 9

- 6:30 A.M. Men's *Search the Scriptures* in the John Knox Room
7:00 A.M. Men's Bible Study in the Westminster Room
11:30 A.M. Ministry of Worship-Music in the John Knox Room
4:30 P.M. Ministry of Administration Meeting
5:00 P.M. Ministry to Children in the John Knox Room
5:00 P.M. *Relax* ■ Church Family Supper
5:40 P.M. *Renew* ■ Prayer, Sharing, Singing
6:00 P.M. *Refresh* ■ Something for Everyone
7:00 P.M. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7:00 P.M. Missions Executive Committee in the John Knox Room
7:00 P.M. Ministry to Adults in the Westminster Room

Thursday, April 10

- 9:30 A.M. *Created for a Purpose* Training at Covenant Presbyterian,
65 Old Montgomery Highway, Birmingham
9:30 A.M. Mother2Mother in the Spires Room

Trinity Church Ministry Focus of the Week:

A.C.T.I.O.N. ~ "All Church Things in One Night"
Pray for Midweek at TPC.

Missionary Prayer Focus of the Week:

Faith Radio, Montgomery

WELCOME

All are welcome in the name of Jesus Christ, King and Head of the Church.

If you are new to Trinity, please sign the *Friendship Register* in the pew.

Audio enhancements are available from the ushers.

Please use the Spires Room as an annex for the morning service
when the sanctuary is full,

or if you need to worship in a smaller environment.

Complimentary childcare is available for all services.

VOLUME LXXI, NUMBER 14

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MINISTRY STAFF**

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Senior Minister

Patrick W. Curles

Executive Minister

S. Michael Howell

Minister of Pastoral Care

P. Kurt Cooper

Minister to Youth

Todd Alexander

Director of Music and Organist

Rebecca S. Canerday

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