

ORDER OF SERVICE

July 26, 2020

Next Week

August 2, 2020

CHRIST CHURCH | 10:00 AM

FIELDHOUSE | DOUG WILSON

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ORDER OF SERVICE

ANNOUNCEMENTS & MEDITATION

- CALL TO WORSHIP -

+ ADORATION

Minister: Grace, mercy, and peace to you, from

God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Congregation: And also to you.

+ SCRIPTURE

Psalm 113:1-2

Minister: Lift up your hearts!

Congregation: We lift them up to the Lord!

+ PRAYER

+ HYMN

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name......336(292)

- CONFESSION -

EXHORTATION

PSALM

CONFESSION OF SIN

Congregation is invited to kneel if able.

Psalm 51:3-5

+ ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Psalm 51:7-12

Minister: Your sins are forgiven through Christ.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

+CONFESSION OF FAITH: APOSTLES CREED

Minister: Christian, what do you believe?

Congregation: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Ghost, and born of the virgin, Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hades. On the third day He rose again from the dead, ascended into Heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

+ PSALM 134 - ABBREVIATED RESPONSE

Minister: Behold, bless ye the Lord,

Congregation: All ye servants of the Lord,

Minister: Who by night stand in the house of the Lord.

Congregation: Lift up your hands in the sanctuary,

Minister: And bless the Lord.

Congregation: The Lord that made heaven and earth

Minister: Bless you out of Zion.

+ PSALM

- CONSECRATION -

- COMMUNION -

THE BREAD + SCRIPTURE READING The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want......45(38) Joshua 24:14-25; 1 Corinthians 8:1-6 Reader: The Word of the Lord. Congregation: Thanks be to God! THE WINE Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart......451(362) **NEW MEMBERS** Josh Edgren Family (CC 1st) - COMMISSIONING -HYMN + CLOSING DOXOLOGY Psalm 134. 269 CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER **CHARGE & BENEDICTION** Opening: Psalm 117:1-2 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abun-Thanksgiving: Psalm 118:1 dantly above all that we ask or think, according to Petitions: Psalm 116:1 the power that works in us, to Him be the glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, for-+ HYMN ever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3: 20-21. The Law of God Is Good and Wise.....418(375)

SERMON

CC: The Mines of Difficulty (Doug Wilson)

PRAYER

+ OFFERTORY

Prayer

Who is on the Lord's Side? 519

NEXT WEEK

CC: Doug Wilson

SCRIPTURE READING: Judges 16:23-31; Hebrews

11:30-40

MUSIC: 350(348), 80(74), 239(162), 155(120), 474, 725(411), 722(407), 193(142), 336(292), 269

"MAY I COME TO THE LORD'S TABLE?"

The Lord's Supper is observed every Lord's Day at Christ Church. We warmly invite to the Lord's table all those who are baptized disciples of Jesus Christ, under the authority of Christ and His body, the Church. By eating the bread and drinking the wine with us as a visitor, you are acknowledging that you are a sinner, without hope except in the sovereign mercy of God, and that you are trusting in Jesus Christ alone for salvation. You also acknowledge to the elders of this congregation that you are in covenant with God, being active in a congregation which is covenantally bound to the triune God through Word and sacrament. If you have any doubt about your participation, please speak to the elders before or after the service. 3

CC: THE MINES OF DIFFICULTY

INTRODUCTION

The second stanza of an old Isaac Watts hymn asks quite a reasonable question. It is a question that we—accustomed as we are to many creature comforts—should be willing to ask ourselves.

Must I be carried to the skies
On flowery beds of ease,
While others fought to win the prize
And sailed through bloody seas?

THE TEXT

"Wherefore when we could no longer forbear, we thought it good to be left at Athens alone; And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith: That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto. For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know. For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain" (1 Thess. 3:1–5).

SUMMARY OF THE TEXT

After mentioning how dear the Thessalonians were to him, Paul then says that when he couldn't stand it anymore, he thought it best for him to be left in Athens alone (v. 1). He commissioned Timothy to go back to Thessalonica in order to establish and comfort them (v. 2). This was a significant move because Timothy was important to Paul also. Timothy was Paul's brother and fellow-worker, as well as a minister or servant of God (v. 2). The reason for sending Timothy was because the Thessalonians were going through afflictions at the hands of their own countrymen, as he mentioned in the previous chapter, and he wanted to ensure that they were taught well enough when it came to such afflictions. He didn't want any man to be moved by them (v. 3), and he wanted to remind them that as believers we are *appointed* to them (v. 3). Paul had predicted it beforehand, when he was still with them. He told them what was going to happen. We are going to suffer tribulation, he had said, and sure enough it came to pass (v. 4). The Thessalonians had seen it come to pass with their own eyes. That was the reason why Paul was beside himself with concern. When he couldn't

take it anymore, he sent Timothy to them to find out if the tempter had followed up the affliction with temptation, and in such a way as to unwind all of Paul's labors there (v. 5). Notice that there are two elements that Paul is concerned about. The first is the trial itself, and the second is the devil's interpretation of it. The real concern is the spin the devil puts on it. But remember what a liar he is.

THE UNBELIEVERS' INTENTION FOR BELIEVERS

In the previous chapter, Paul had reminded the Thessalonians that the Jews in Judea were "contrary to all men." They were full of malice and hostility. They did not want Gentiles to be saved. They murdered the Lord Jesus. They had killed their own prophets. They persecuted the apostles. Paul knew the heart of man, and he knew the inevitable reaction whenever renewed hearts come into contact with unregenerate hearts. There is nothing you can do that will prevent this reaction from happening.

The thing you *can* do is teach Christians what to expect. Far too many Christians think the negative reaction is the result of them being a poor testimony. The idea that it is because they have had a good testimony scarcely occurs to them. Did Jesus have a poor testimony? Is that why He was killed?

GOD'S INTENTION FOR BELIEVERS

But God governs all things, and this means that God must have a purpose or intention for us in our afflictions. What is *He* up to?

"And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch, confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:21–22).

"And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us" (Rom. 5:3–5).

We glory in tribulations, not because we are masochistic, but because we know that it is the pathway to the great city. But we sometimes look at the landscape, which can be pretty grim, instead of looking at what is really happening. And what is really happening is what we are becoming. The hard path fits us for the glory to be found at the end of that road. What is this difficulty? *Look* at it with the eyes that Paul wanted the Thessalonians to have. It is the love of God, shed abroad in your heart.

OUR OWN INTENTION

We must learn wisdom. This means we must *reject* the purpose that unbelievers have for our afflictions, and yet we must also *embrace* the purpose that God has for those same afflictions. We know that God does not tempt any man (Jas. 1:13), but we also know that the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted (Matt. 4:1). And we are instructed to pray that God lead us not into temptation (Matt. 6:13). This is not a contradiction. The same event can be a *trial* and a *temptation*, and the same Greek word is used for both. The event that is assigned to us by God—"to which we were appointed"—is an event that has different intentions on either side of it. God uses it to strengthen you, and the devil wants to use it to weaken you.

So we must learn to walk straight, which means that we must first learn to *think* straight. The way into the kingdom of God is fraught with difficulty. But that does not mean that just because something is difficult that it must be the way into the kingdom. Remember that wrath was coming upon the unbelieving Jews "to the uttermost." The destruction of Jerusalem was difficult, but that is the only thing that it was. "Good understanding giveth favour: But the way of transgressors is hard" (Prov. 13:15).

The diamonds of the promise can only be found in the mines of difficulty—and some of those mines go deep. But there are other mine shafts that are filled with nothing but useless rocks.

The check on your heart should be this: Are you pursuing Christ and His kingdom? Is that what you want? Is that what you want regardless? Then the diamonds are most certainly there. Seek first His kingdom.

Are you visiting today?

If so, welcome!

Please take a moment and fill out our visitor card.



All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

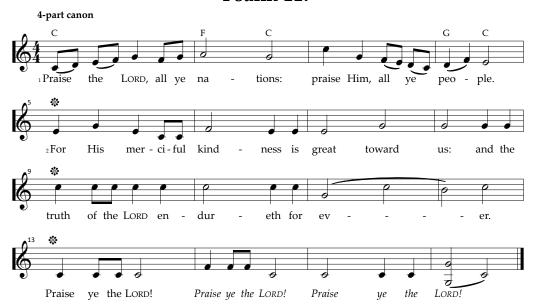


Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God



Music: Johann Anastasius Freylinghausen, 1704; arr. Harold W. Gilbert, 1958 © Text: Holy Bible, King James Version, 1611

Psalm 117



Music: David R. Erb, 2005 ©

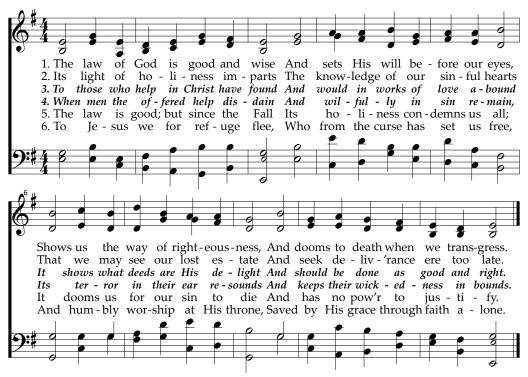
Text: Holy Bible, King James Version; alt.

Be Thou My Vision



Music: Irish traditional melody; harm. Martin Shaw, 1925; alt. Text: Ancient Irish; tr. Mary Byrne, 1927; vers. Eleanor Hull, 1927 SLANE 10 10. 9 10.

The Law of God Is Good and Wise



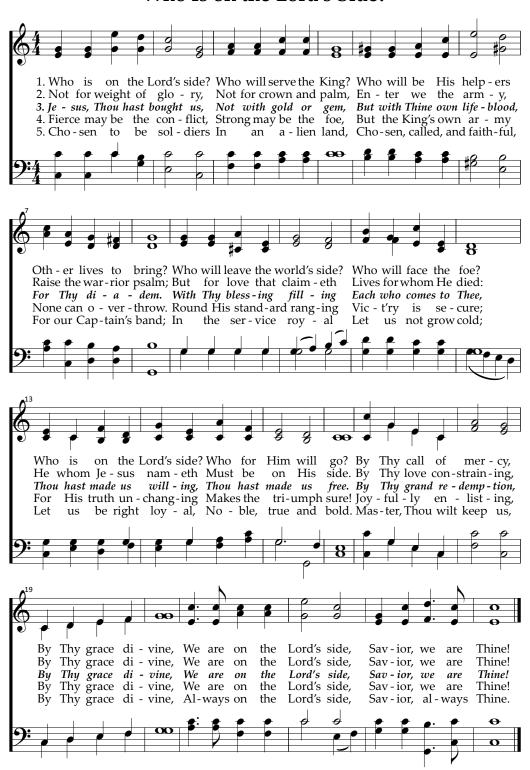
Music: Joseph Klug's *Geistliche Lieder*, Wittenburg, 1535 Text: Matthias Loy, 1863 ERHALT UNS, HERR 8 8. 8 8.

The Lord's Prayer



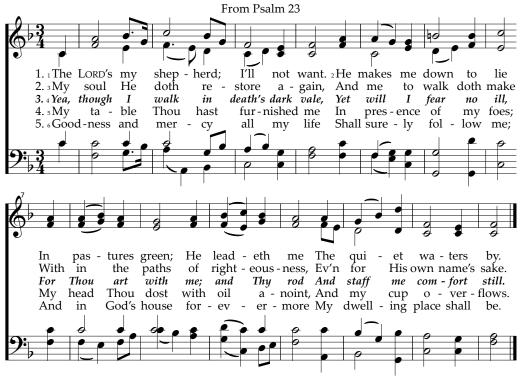
Text: Holy Bible, King James Version, 1611

Who Is on the Lord's Side?



Music: German melody, arr. John Goss, 1871 Text: Frances Ridley Havergal, 1877

The LORD's My Shepherd



Music: Jessie Seymour Irvine, 1871; arr. Thomas C. L. Pritchard, 1929; alt. Text: *The Psalter*, 1912

CRIMOND 8 6. 8 6.

Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart



Music: Bernhard Schmid's *Orgelbuch*, Strasbourg, 1577; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750) Text: Martin Schalling, c. 1567; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; alt.

HERZLICH LIEB HAB' ICH DICH 8 8 7. 8 8 7. 8 8. 8 8. 4 8 8.



Psalm 134

A Song of Ascents.



Music: David R. Erb, 2007 ©

Text: Holy Bible, New King James Version, 1982 ©