

Prelude: *Come, All Christians, Be Committed* – Jeff Bennett

Welcome

Meditation: *Let All Things Now Living* – Douglas E. Wagner

Introit #681 verse 1. This is the Day the Lord Hath Made

Call to Worship

O come, let us sing to the Lord and shout with joy to the rock of our salvation!

**Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving,  
singing joyful songs of praise.**

Prayer of the Day

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires, known, and from whom no secrets are hid:  
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love  
you and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hymn #644 verses 1-4. Give Heed O Christian People

Call to Confession

The proof of God's amazing love is this: While we were sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence. In faith and penitence, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.** (Pause for a time of silent confession.) Let all God's children say, **Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Special Music #16 verses 1,2,4. O That I Had a 1000 Voices

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Old Testament Lesson. Psalm 99

<sup>1</sup>The Lord is king; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

**<sup>2</sup>The Lord is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples.**

<sup>3</sup>Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is he!

**4Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.**

5Extol the Lord our God; worship at his footstool. Holy is he!

**6Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel also was among those who called on his name. They cried to the Lord, and he answered them.**

7He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud; they kept his decrees, and the statutes that he gave them.

8O Lord our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their wrongdoings.

**9Extol the Lord our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the Lord our God is holy.**

Epistle Lesson. 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

1

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

2We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly 3remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. 4For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, 5because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake.

6And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, 7so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. 8For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. 9For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, 10and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

Gospel Lesson. Matthew 22:15-22

15Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. 16So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. 17Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” 18But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? 19Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. 20Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” 21They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” 22When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord. who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge**

**the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Hymn #542 verse 1 & 3. God Be with You Til We Meet Again

Benediction

Postlude: *Praise Him! Praise Him!* – Jeff Bennett