

First Baptist September 17, 2023

Prelude & Quiet Meditation (suggested reading Genesis 50:15-21)

Call to Worship (from Psalm 103:1-4)

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me:

Bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget what God has done for us;

Bless God's holy name.

God is the one who forgives us, who heals and restores us;

Bless God's holy name.

God crowns us with steadfast love and mercy,

Bless God's holy name.

Come, join our hearts in worship, in prayer and praise,

And may we bless God's holy name.

"Bless His Holy Name" #4

Chorus

Bless the Lord oh my soul

And all that is within me

Bless His holy name

Verse

He has done great things

He has done great things

He has done great things

Bless His holy name

Psalm 103:8-13

The LORD is merciful and gracious,

slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹ He will not always accuse,

nor will he keep his anger for ever.

¹⁰ He does not deal with us according to our sins,

nor repay us according to our iniquities.

¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love towards those who fear him;

¹² as far as the east is from the west,
so far he removes our transgressions from us.

¹³ As a father has compassion for his children,
so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.

Prayer of Invocation

“Think About His Love” #57

“The Steadfast Love” – Chorus (21590)

Chorus

Think about His love
Think about His goodness
Think about His grace
That's brought us through
For as high as the heavens above
So great is the measure
Of our Father's love
Great is the measure
Of our Father's love

1.How could I forget His love
How could I forget His mercy
He satisfies He satisfies
He satisfies my desires

2.Even when I strayed away
His love has sought me out
And found me
He satisfies He satisfies
He satisfies my desires

Chorus

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases
His mercies never come to an end
They are new every morning
New every morning
Great is Thy faithfulness O Lord
Great is Thy faithfulness

Unison Prayer of Confession

Loving God, we confess that we struggle to forgive, and we struggle to create space for forgiveness to happen. We're quick to excuse the harmful speech and actions of others as a way of hiding instead of honestly naming the hurt we have experienced. We expect others to pardon our faults without also attending to our own need to repent. We demand forgiveness from others instead of recognizing forgiveness as a gift that we give to one another and that we receive from you. We wield forgiveness as a weapon instead of a bridge that brings us back together. Forgive us, we pray, and free us to joyfully extend mercy and grace to one another, to set and respect boundaries with one another, and to receive from you the love and wisdom we need to grow as the community of Christ. Amen.

Assurances of Pardon

"Praise My Soul the King of Heaven" #82

1. Praise my soul the King of heaven
To His feet your tribute bring
Ransomed healed restored forgiven
Evermore his praises sing
Alleluia Alleluia
Praise the everlasting King

2. Praise Him for His grace and favour
To all people in distress
Praise Him still the same forever

Slow to chide and swift to bless
Alleluia Alleluia
Glorious in His faithfulness

3.Father-like He tends and spares us
All our hopes and fears He knows
In His hands He gently bears us
Rescues us from all our foes
Alleluia Alleluia
Widely as His mercy flows

4.Angels help us to adore Him
You behold Him face to face
Sun and moon bow down before Him
All who dwell in time and space
Alleluia Alleluia
Praise with us the God of grace

Passing the Peace

Ministry Opportunities, Celebrations & Concerns

“We are Called to Be God’s People” #580

1.We are called to be God's people
Showing by our lives His grace
One in heart and one in spirit
Sign of hope for all the race
Let us show how He has changed us
And remade us as His own
Let us share our life together
As we shall around His throne

2.We are called to be God's servants

Working in His world today
Taking His own task upon us
All His sacred words obey
Let us rise then to His summons
Dedicate to Him our all
That we may be faithful servants
Quick to answer now His call

3.We are called to be God's prophets
Speaking for the truth and right
Standing firm for godly justice
Bringing evil into light
Let us seek the courage needed
Our high calling to fulfill
That we all may know the blessing
Of the doing of God's will

Prayer of Dedication

Romans 14:1-12

WHAT ARE WE WORKING FOR?

Prayer of the People

“They’ll Know We Are Christians” #595

1.We are one in the Spirit
We are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit
We are one in the Lord
And we pray that all unity
May one day be restored

Chorus

And they'll know we are Christians
By our love by our love
Yes they'll know we are Christians By our love

2. We will walk with each other
We will walk hand in hand
We will walk with each other
We will walk hand in hand
And together we'll spread the news
That God is in our land

3. We will work with each other
We will work side by side
We will work with each other
We will work side by side
And we'll guard each man's dignity
And save each man's pride

4. All praise to the Father
From whom all things come
And all praise to Christ Jesus
His only Son
And all praise to the Spirit
Who makes us one

Benediction