

# Worship Service

B Y B U R T L . B U R L E S O N

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## *Chiming of the Hour*

### *Call to Worship: Psalm 100 (NIV)*<sup>1</sup>

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness;  
come before him with joyful songs.

**Know that the LORD is God.**

**It is he who made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him and praise his name.

**For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;  
his faithfulness continues through all generations.**

## *Silent Meditation*

*Acedia* is a soul-sickness, a loss of any connection with spiritual things. Practices mean nothing. Boredom is too weak a word. Perhaps aversion or repulsion regarding the spiritual dimensions of life and living better describe the effects of *acedia*.

The chief benefit of facing *acedia* can be to purify my motivation. It can cause me for the first time to start doing spiritual exercises for the right reasons rather than for subtle self-gain.

*Mary Margaret Funk, O.S.B.*<sup>2</sup>

## *Hymn of Gathering*

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Come, thou Fount of every blessing,  
tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,  
mount of thy redeeming love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer;  
hither by thy help I'm come;  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,  
safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
wandering from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger,  
interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor  
daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,  
bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
seal it for thy courts above.

*Robert Robinson (1758), alt.*

*Tune: NETTLETON*

### *Morning Prayer of Gratitude*

O God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,  
we gather to worship you.

You are the source of every good and perfect gift.

We thank you for this Sabbath time designed for us  
to enjoy the goodness of your creation,  
to honor and praise you,  
and to rest in your presence.

We pray that we will be present to one another and to you  
as you are present with us.

When our hearts are overflowing with joy,  
the others here amplify our song;

When our hearts are too heavy for song,  
they sing for us.

Thank you for bringing us together in this place  
and drawing us into your life and light.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit  
we pray and worship. Amen.

### *Hymn of Confession*

“I Lift My Prayer to Thee”

Lord, in this darkened place  
I lift my prayer to thee,  
in hope that I, by healing grace,  
may ever awakened be.

Lead me beyond despair,  
where clouded souls all sleep,  
to sacred purpose, holy life,  
where deeper truth calls to deep.

Forgive my noonday sin,  
dreaming thy time away;  
fill me with care to do thy will,  
to love, to serve, to stay.

Guide me that I may be  
faithful in every way,  
to see, to hold, and then to share  
the blessings of every day.

Lord, in this darkened place,  
joyfully I will sing  
of life, of gift, of time, of faith,  
of every sacred thing.

*Burt L. Burlison (2013)*  
*Tune: TRENTHAM*

### *Silent Prayers for Healing*

Pray first for those you know  
who are sad, depressed, and without purpose,  
who have lost passion,  
who need a new vision.

*(Members offer silent petitions.)*

For these we pray:  
**Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy.**

Pray now for your own need  
for healing of spirit,  
for renewal of calling,  
for strength to be faithful.

*(Members offer silent confessions.)*

For ourselves we pray:

**Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy.**

Hear now these words of assurance:

“You who live in the shelter of the Most High,  
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,  
will say to the LORD, ‘My refuge and my fortress;  
my God, in whom I trust.’

“Those who love me, I will deliver;  
I will protect those who know my name.  
When they call to me, I will answer them;  
I will be with them in trouble,  
I will rescue them and honor them.” **Amen.**

*Psalm 91:1-2, 14-15*

*Old Testament Reading: Psalm 30:1-3 (NIV)*

I will exalt you, Lord,  
for you lifted me out of the depths  
and did not let my enemies gloat over me.  
Lord my God, I called to you for help,  
and you healed me.  
You, Lord, brought me up from the realm of the dead;  
you spared me from going down to the pit.

*New Testament Reading: Colossians 3:23-24 (NIV)*

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord,  
not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance  
from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

*Gospel Reading: John 16:33 (NIV)*

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this  
world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

The Word of the Lord for God’s People.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Offering*

## *Song of Preparation*

“Break Thou the Bread of Life” (v. 3)

Oh, send thy Spirit, Lord, now unto me,  
that he may touch my eyes and make me see:  
show me the truth concealed within thy Word,  
and in thy Book revealed I see the Lord.

*Alexander Groves* (1913)

*Tune: BREAD OF LIFE* (Sherwin)

## *Sermon*

### *Benediction* (based on *Ephesians 3:20-21*)

And now to God  
who by the power at work within us  
is able to do far more than we can ask or imagine,  
to God be the glory  
in Christ Jesus  
and in his Church  
and in each one of us  
forever and ever. Amen.

## **NOTES**

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2 Mary Margaret Funk, O.S.B., *Thoughts Matter: The Practice of the Spiritual Life* (New York: Continuum, 1998), 107 and 99.

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