

Worship Service

BY BURT L. BURLESON

Call to Worship

As we turn aside from all else...

Speak Lord, your servants are listening.

As we declare our faith...

Speak Lord, your servants are listening.

As we acknowledge our need...

Speak Lord, your servants are listening.

As we search for wisdom...

Speak Lord, your servants are listening.

As we listen for your call...

Speak Lord, your servants are listening.

As we lift up our hearts...

Speak Lord, your servants are listening.

Chiming of the Hour

Silent Meditation

Prayer is then not just a formula of words, or a series of desires springing up in the heart—it is the orientation of our whole body, mind, and spirit to God in silence, attention, and adoration. All good, meditative prayer is a *conversion of our entire self to God*.

Thomas Merton (1915-1968) †

Introit Hymn

“When Gathered Saints in Common Praise”

When gathered saints in common praise
their litanies of thanksgiving raise,
the closed and burdened soul is freed
by prayer transcending lesser need.

Familiar clasp and faithful knees
 are altars of compassion's pleas;
 a kindness sent in Jesus' name
 is prayer that's shared to heal the pain.

To see the truth, to name the sin,
 the broken ways confessed again,
 that meet redemption in a place
 where prayer can know abiding grace.

By wordless love in silence found,
 by presence stilled in Being's ground,
 a timeless Word will play its part
 through prayer God speaks into the heart.

Burt Burleson (2009)

Tune: GATHERED SAINTS, Kurt Kaiser (2009)
 (pp. 51-53 of this volume)

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

**We praise you, our God,
 for your love revealed to us in Jesus Christ
 and brought near to us by your Holy Spirit.**
**We praise you, our God,
 for bringing us from bondage into freedom
 and making of us one body in Christ.**
**We praise you, our God,
 for calling us to this place of prayer.**
Make our worship worthy of your love toward us. Amen.

Hymn of Confession

Please pause for silent confession between stanzas

"Just as I Am"

Just as I am, without one plea,
 but that thy blood was shed for me,
 and that thou bidst me come to thee,
 O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
 sight, riches, healing of the mind,
 yea, all I need in thee to find,
 O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

Charlotte Elliott (1835)
Tune: WOODWORTH

Praying with the Psalmist (based on Psalm 80)

Hear us, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead us like a flock;
you who are Holy and Other;
light the way before us.
Awaken your might;
come and save us.
Restore us, O God,
and cause your face to shine upon us.

Pastoral Prayer

Almighty and merciful God,
we join our hearts and lift them to you now in prayer for one another.
**Restore us, O God,
and cause your face to shine upon us.**
For those who have wandered away from you we pray...
**Restore us, O God,
and cause your face to shine upon us.**
For those who are in need of healing we pray...
**Restore us, O God,
and cause your face to shine upon us.**
For those whose homes are broken we pray...
**Restore us, O God,
and cause your face to shine upon us.**
For those who are confused and lonely we pray...
**Restore us, O God,
and cause your face to shine upon us.**
We pray through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Offering

The Reading of Scripture: Hebrews 4:14-16

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

The Word of the Lord for God's people.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn of Preparation

"Blessèd Jesus, at Your Word"

Blessèd Jesus, at your Word
we are gathered all to hear you;
Let our hearts and souls be stirred
now to seek and love and fear you,
by your teachings sweet and holy,
drawn from earth to love you solely.

All our knowledge, sense and sight
lie in deepest darkness shrouded,
till your Spirit breaks our night
with the beams of truth unclouded.
You alone to God can win us;
you must work all good within us.

Brightness of the Father's face,
Light of Light, from God proceeding,
make us ready in this place;
ear and heart await your leading.
Fill with life and inspiration
every prayer and meditation.

Tobias Clausnitzer, 1663; translations of vv. 1 and 2 by Catherine Winkworth, 1858; of v. 3 by Robert A. S. Macalister (1870-1950), altered.

Tune: LIEBSTER JESU

Sermon

Departing Confession: Hebrews 10:19-25

Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain and since we have a great priest over the house of God,

let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith,
with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience
and our bodies washed with pure water.

Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess,
for he who has promised is faithful.

And let us consider how to spur one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some,

but encouraging one another,
and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

NOTES

† Thomas Merton, *Thoughts in Solitude* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1958), 40.



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