

Opening Songs

“Here I Am to Worship”

Light of the world, You stepped down into darkness,
Opened my eyes let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore You;
Hope of a life spent with You.

So here I am to worship;
Here I am to bow down;
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely,
Altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me

King of all days, Oh so highly exalted,
Glorious in heaven above.
Humbly You came to the earth You created,
All for love's sake became poor.

So here I am to worship;
Here I am to bow down;
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely,
Altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me

And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross.
And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross.

So here I am to worship;
Here I am to bow down;
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely,
Altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me

“He Will Hold Me Fast”

When I fear my faith will fail,
Christ will hold me fast.
When the tempter would prevail,
He will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold
Through life's fearful path,
For my love is often cold.
He must hold me fast.

He will hold me fast;
He will hold me fast,
For my Savior loves me so.
He will hold me fast.

Those He saves are His delight;
Christ will hold me fast.
Precious in His holy sight;
He will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost;
His Promises shall last.
Bought by Him at such a cost;
He will hold me fast.

For my life He bled and died;
Christ will hold me fast.
Justice has been satisfied;
He will hold me fast.
Raised with Him to endless life;
He will hold me fast.
Till our faith is turned to sight
When He comes at last.

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Prayer of Confession

Lord, we feel a darkness and wonder what will happen. We come with some uncertainty, looking for hope. We too easily have trouble trusting you in the midst of our anxieties. We wonder whether we may be blind to some of the realities of our world. We wonder and worry about our leadership and what will happen next. We wonder if we, like the Pharisees, are so sure of our way of seeing things that we don't

see what you are doing. Forgive our blindness to your will, your ways and your presence. Help us see how your Spirit leads us in our way forward. Bring healing. Lord, open our eyes to what you are doing, our hearts to your love, and our minds to your will. Let your light shine in our world that we may recognize all that is good and right and true, and all that is pleasing to you, our Lord.

(silent confession and personal reflection)

Assurance of Pardon

Response to Forgiveness

“By His Grace”

By His grace I am redeemed,
By His blood I am made clean;
And I now can know Him face to face.
By His power I have been raised,
Hidden now in Christ by faith;
I will praise the glory of His grace.

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Congregational Prayer Time and The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

Following each prayer request, please respond:

One: Lord, in your mercy,
All: Hear our prayer.

HEARING GOD'S WORD FOR OUR TIME AND PLACE

Scripture Readings

First Lesson 1 Samuel 16:1-13
Second Lesson Ephesians 5:8-14

Special Music

“By Our Love”
Praise Team

Brothers, let us come together, walking in the Spirit, there's much to be done.
We will come reaching, out from our comforts, and they will know us by our love.
Sisters, we were made for kindness; we can pierce the darkness as He shines through us.
We will come reaching, with a song of healing, and they will know us by our love.

The time is now; come Church, arise. Love with His hands, see with His eyes.
Bind it around you; let it never leave you, and they will know us by our love.

Children, you are hope for justice; stand firm in the truth now; set your hearts above.
You will be reaching long after we're gone, and they will know you by your love.

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Gospel

John 9:1-41

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One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“Spiritual Blindness”

Pastor Norman Fowler

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Silent Reflection

*Sermon Response

“Come Live in the Light”

Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom
of the city of God.
We are called to act with justice;
we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.

Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless
so hatred and violence will be no more.
We are called to act with justice;
we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.

Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other
as sisters and brother united in love.
We are called to act with justice;
we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.

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Offering

*Song of Gratitude (Doxology)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below.
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Dedication of our Tithes and Offerings

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*Closing Hymn

“My Shepherd Will Supply My Need”

My shepherd will supply my need
Jehovah is his name
In pastures fresh he makes me feed
Beside the living stream
He brings my wandering spirit back
When I forsake his ways
And leads me for his mercy's sake
In paths of truth and grace

When I walk through the shades of death
Your presence is my stay
A word of your supporting breath
Drives all my fears away
Your hand in sight of all my foes
Does still my table spread
My cup with blessings overflows
Your oil anoints my head

The sure provisions of my God
Attend me all my days
O may your house be my abode
And all my work be praise
There would I find a settled rest
While others go and come
No more a stranger or a guest
But like a child at home

Isaac Watts, 1719
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*Charge and Blessing

*Postlude

“This is My Father’s World”

arr. Mark Hayes



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