



# Gathered together to worship God

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am)

## “To God be the glory”

#102

1. To God be the glory, great things he hath done,  
so loved he the world that he gave us his Son,  
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,  
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.  
*Refrain:* Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
let the earth hear his voice!  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
let the people rejoice!  
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,  
& give him the glory, great things he hath done.
2. Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,  
to every believer the promise of God.  
The vilest offender who truly believes,  
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives. *(refrain)*
3. Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,  
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son,  
but purer, and higher, and greater will be  
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. *(refrain)*

Hymnal #102

Words by Fannie Crosby

Music by William H Doane, 1875

## Announcements

## Prelude

# Call to Worship

- Pastor:** We are the body of Christ!
- Leader:** *The hand clapping, toe tapping, heart pumping,  
arms embracing...*
- Pastor:** Justice seeking, hymn singing, loving,  
bread breaking, risk taking...
- Pastor/Leader:** *Body of Christ!*
- Pastor:** Baptized by one Spirit,  
we are members of one body.
- Leader:** *Many and varied in gender, color, sexuality,  
age, class and ability,*
- Congregation:** **We are members  
of Christ’s beautiful body.**
- Leader:** *None of us can say to another,  
“I have no need of you.”*
- Congregation:** **For only together can we find wholeness.**
- Pastor:** None of us can say to another,  
“I will not care for you.”
- Congregation:** **For we are connected  
like muscle and bone.  
If one suffers; we all suffer.  
If one rejoices, we all rejoice!**
- Leader:** *Thanks be to God who in Christ has made us one.*
- All:** **Let us worship God as one whole people!**

by Ann B. Day, adapted, found in  
**Shaping Sanctuary, Proclaiming God's Grace in an Inclusive Church,**  
editor Kelly Turney, printed by permission.

Hymn #6

## “Here in the Place”

1. Here in this place, new light is streaming,  
now is the darkness vanished away.  
See, in this space, our fears and our dreamings,  
brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in - the lost and forsaken,  
gather us in - the blind and the lame.  
Call to us now, and we shall awaken,  
we shall arise at the sound of our name.
2. We are the young - our lives are a mystery,  
we are the old - who yearn for your face.  
We have been sung throughout all of history,  
called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in - the rich and the haughty,  
gather us in - the proud and the strong.  
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly,  
give us the courage to enter the song.
3. Here we will take the wine and the water,  
here we will take the bread of new birth.  
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,  
call us anew to be salt for the earth.  
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,  
give us to eat the bread that is you.  
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion  
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.
4. Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
not in some heaven, light years away,  
but here in this place, the new light is shining;  
now is the Kingdom, now is the day.

Gather us in - and hold us forever,  
gather us in - and make us your own.  
Gather us in - all peoples together,  
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Hymnal #6, by Marty Haugen  
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CCLI #1347096

## Opening Prayer

O wondrous God,  
on this holy day,  
we have gathered together once again  
to celebrate your presence among us,  
to praise you, and to thank you  
for all you have given us.  
May this time of worship  
strengthen and refresh us,  
and fill us with such joy  
that we cannot help but share it  
with everyone around us.  
Though we are very different people,  
with many different talents and gifts,  
make us one in your Spirit,  
that we may be your ministers  
in the world. Amen.

by Joanne Carlson Brown  
pastor at Tibbetts United Methodist Church in West Seattle  
from [ministrymatters.com](http://ministrymatters.com)

# Nehemiah 8:1-10

P - *By the time the seventh month arrived, the People of Israel were settled in their towns. Then all the people gathered as one person in the town square in front of the Water Gate and asked the scholar Ezra to bring the Book of The Revelation of Moses that God had commanded for Israel.*

G - *So Ezra the priest brought The Revelation to the congregation, which was made up of both men and women—everyone capable of understanding. It was the first day of the seventh month. He read it facing the town square at the Water Gate from early dawn until noon in the hearing of the men and women, all who could understand it. And all the people listened—they were all ears—to the Book of The Revelation.*

P - *The scholar Ezra stood on a wooden platform constructed for the occasion. He was flanked on the right by Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah, and on the left by Pedaiah, Mishael, Malkijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam.*

G - *Ezra opened the book. Every eye was on him (he was standing on the raised platform) and as he opened the book everyone stood.*

P - **Indeed, let everyone gathered here this morning stand. (congregation does so)**

G - *Then Ezra praised God, the great God, and all the people responded, “Oh Yes! Yes!” with hands raised high.*

P - **Indeed, let everyone gathered here this morning raise your hands and repeat, “Oh Yes! Yes!” (congregation does so)**

G - *And then they fell to their knees in worship of God, their faces to the ground.*

P - **Indeed, let everyone gathered here this morning ... well ... sit down.**

G - *Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, and Pelaiah, all Levites, explained The Revelation while people stood, listening respectfully.*

P - **Indeed, let everyone gathered here this morning stand up again.**

G - *They translated the Book of The Revelation of God so the people could understand it and then explained the reading.*

P - *Nehemiah the governor, along with Ezra the priest and scholar and the Levites who were teaching the people, said to all the people,*

G - *“This day is holy to God, your God. Don’t weep and carry on.”*

P - *They said this because all the people were weeping as they heard the words of The Revelation... He continued,*

G - *“Go home and prepare a feast, holiday food and drink; and share it with those who don’t have anything: This day is holy to God. Don’t feel bad. The joy of God is your strength!”*

P - **Indeed, let everyone gathered here this morning say, “The joy of the Lord is our strength!” (congregation does so)**

## Responding with Offerings

- G - Be seated. *(pause)* “The joy of the Lord is our strength!”  
Some of us remember those words as a song for children.
- P - This encouragement comes from a season in the Bible of rebuilding a broken-down city,
- G - and specifically a day of listening and responding to what God had long ago revealed to Moses.
- P - This holy day - this holiday - was not a time to mourn over brokenness,
- G - but rather a time to rejoice in the loving-kindness of the Lord. It was a celebration.
- P - And the invitation of Nehemiah and Ezra and the priests was to enjoy a thanksgiving feast.
- G - In the process, God’s people were to joyfully share what they had with those who needed, so that all would be fed.
- P - With that in mind, we take time this morning...
- G - a day for listening to what God might reveal through Word and Spirit...
- P - we pause just now to share our offerings.
- G - As we do so, we remember, “The joy of the Lord is our strength!”
- P - Ushers?

## Offertory

Sharing a joy, a concern,  
a word of testimony or praise

Hymn #311

## “The Church’s one foundation”

- 1  
The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord.  
She is his new creation by water and the word.  
From heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride;  
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
- 2  
Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,  
her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.  
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.
- 3  
Though with a scornful wonder the world sees her oppressed,  
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,  
yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up: "How long?"  
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.
- 4  
'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,  
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore,  
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are bless'd,  
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.
- 5  
Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three-in-One,  
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.  
Oh, happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,  
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee

Hymnal #311  
words by Samuel J. Stone, 1866  
music by Samuel S. Wesley, 1864

Prayer

# I Corinthians 12:12-31

G - *For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.*

P - *For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.*

G - *Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say,*

P - *“Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,”*

G - *that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say,*

P - *“Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,”*

G - *that would not make it any less a part of the body.*

P - *If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be?*

G - *If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?*

P - *But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.*

G - *If all were a single member, where would the body be?*

P - *As it is, there are many members, yet one body.*

G - *The eye cannot say to the hand,*

P - *“I have no need of you,”*

G - *nor again the head to the feet,*

P - *“I have no need of you.”*

G - *On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable,*

P - *and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor,*

G - *and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this.*

P - *But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another.*

G - *If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.*

P - *Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.*

G - *And God has appointed in the church first apostles,*

P - *second prophets,*

G - *third teachers;*

P - *then deeds of power,*

G - *then gifts of healing,*

P - *forms of assistance,*

G - *forms of leadership,*

P - *various kinds of tongues.*

G - *Are all apostles?*

P - *Are all prophets?*

G - *Are all teachers?*

P - *Do all work miracles?*

G - *Do all possess gifts of healing?*

P - *Do all speak in tongues?*

G - *Do all interpret?*

P - *But strive for the greater gifts.*

G - *And I will show you a still more excellent way.*

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Message

“ ”

Rusty Curling

Hymn #307

“Will you let me be your servant”

1. Will you let me be your servant,  
let me be as Christ to you?  
Pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

2. We are pilgrims on a journey,  
we are trav'lers on the road.  
We are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.

3. I will hold the Christ-light for you  
in the nighttime of your fear.  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
speak the peace you long to hear.

4. I will weep when you are weeping,  
when you laugh I'll laugh with you.  
I will share your joy and sorrow  
till we've seen this journey through.

5. When we sing to God in heaven,  
we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together  
of Christ's love and agony.

Hymnal #307  
by Richard Gillard  
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## Benediction

(by preacher)

## Postlude