

Gathered together to worship God

Prelude Video
“NYC 2018 preview”

(<https://youtu.be/wlE1gcRJdko>)

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am)

“Come, let us all unite to sing”

(without accompaniment)

1. Come, let us all unite to sing, God is love.
Let heaven and earth their praises bring, God is love.
Let every soul from sin awake,
let every heart sweet music make,
and sing with us for Jesus' sake, for God is love.
refrain: God is love! God is love!
Come let us all unite to sing that God is love.
2. O tell to earth's remotest bound, God is love.
In Christ we have redemption found, God is love.
His blood has washed our sins away,
his Spirit turned our night to day,
and now we can rejoice to say that God is love. (*refrain*):
- 3.
4. How happy is our portion here, God is love.
His promises our spirits cheer, God is love.
He is our sun and shield by day,
our help, our hope, our strength and stay;
he will be with us all the way, our God is love. (*refrain*)

Hymnal #12
words anonymous,
attributed to Howard Kingsbury, 1876
music by Edmund S. Lorenz, 1886

Call to Worship

Rise, now, in body or spirit, and join in our Call to Worship, on the back of your bulletin and projected on the screen.

One: All praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing.

People: God has united us with Christ.

One: We have been adopted into God's family.

People: We have been redeemed by the blood of his Son.

One: God showers us with forgiveness, wisdom, and understanding.

People: God reveals the plans he has for us, and provides an inheritance.

One: We put our faith in Christ. We belong to God. We are sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.

People: Praise God for this glorious grace!

by Carol Kuryrn, interim pastor
East Nimishillen Church of the Brethren
North Canton, Ohio
from Church of the Brethren *Living Word* bulletin
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Announcements

“I will sing of my Redeemer”

1. I will sing of my Redeemer
and his wondrous love to me.
On the cruel cross he suffered
from the curse to set me free.
refrain: Sing, oh sing of my Redeemer,
with his blood he purchased me,
on the cross he sealed my pardon,
paid the debt and made me free.
- ^{2.}
3. I will tell the wondrous story,
how, my lost estate to save,
in his boundless love and mercy,
he the ransom freely gave. *(refrain)*
- ^{4.}
5. I will praise my dear Redeemer,
his triumphant power I'll tell,
how the victory he giveth
over sin and death and hell. *(refrain)*
6. I will sing of my Redeemer,
and his heavenly love to me.
He from death to life hath brought me,
Son of God, with him to be. *(refrain)*

Hymnal #344
words by Philip P. Bliss, 1876
music by James McGranahan, 1877

Opening Prayer

God and Father of all, we praise you today for your amazing, glorious grace. We are blessed to be included in your plans. Thank you for loving us and sending your Son to redeem us, setting us free from sin. We are now forgiven, made whole. We rejoice in our adoption as children into your family. And we are humbled by the knowledge that through our faith in Jesus, you see us as holy. We love you, Lord!

Holy Spirit, lead and guide your children as we worship you today. Fill our hearts with praise. We give you thanks for the glorious grace that has been given to us through Jesus our Lord. *Amen.*

by Carol Kuryn, interim pastor
East Nimishillen Church of the Brethren
North Canton, Ohio
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Please be seated.

Ephesians 1:3-6

P - Today's worship is grounded in a portion of the first chapter in the apostle Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus. Yes, a bit of his epistle to the Colossians is thrown in, since *National Youth Conference* begins in six days, and its theme is based on those words. But this morning we center upon what is essentially a long, run-on sentence of Paul. It's like, as he was trying to put into words the awe and wonder of what God was and is doing, Paul just couldn't stop... If we were to read it aloud as it was originally written, we'd be out of breath by the end – for periods exist in part to give us a chance to pause and breathe. Apparently, Paul was so enthralled by his message that it became his very breath.

As we need to breath, and since most translations divide it into sentences, we will pause as we read. We'll also divide this scripture into three parts and spread the reading of them out in this service of worship. You are needed as readers for this first part. The words will be on the screen. Let's pay attention as we read Paul's message together...

One: *How blessed is God!*

All: *And what a blessing he is!*

One: *He's the Father of our Master, Jesus Christ,*

All: *and takes us to the high places of blessing in him.*

(pause and breathe)

One: *Long before he laid down earth's foundations,*

All: *God had us in mind,*

One: *had settled on us as the focus of his love,*

All: *to be made whole and holy by his love.*

(pause and breathe)

One: *Long, long ago he decided to adopt us into his family through Jesus Christ.*

All: *(What pleasure he took in planning this!)*

(pause and breathe)

One: *He wanted us to enter into the celebration of his lavish gift-giving*

All: *by the hand of his beloved Son.*

from *The Message*

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Returning our Tithes and Offerings

M - Through Jesus we “*enter into the celebration of God's lavish gift-giving.*” We pause now to participate in this gift-giving, returning to God a portion of what we have received, to be used for the ministries of this congregation. Let's pray.

Blessed One, you offer a redemptive inheritance sometimes beyond our imagination. You graciously bestow each of us with your wisdom, grace, forgiveness, and love. Joyously, we share these tithes and offerings. As you call us to give, you remind us to place our hopes and dreams in your love and grace. Thank you, God, for giving us your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ. We pray in His name. Amen.

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Ushers?

Offertory

“More Than Meets the Eye”
NYC 2010 theme song (mp3)

Dedicating our NYC-bound youth and advisors

Colossians 3:12-15 (NRSV) - Theme scripture for NYC

“As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.”

Be thankful. On behalf of myself and the youth group, we are thankful for the support you as a congregation have given us. From the many fund-raising events we’ve had over the last four years to now, we thank you. We are less than a week away from a mountain top experience. National Youth Conference only happens every four years and I know the youth is looking forward to the many things this event has to offer.

For those that do not know, National Youth Conference is held at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado. It will include worship services, workshops, service projects, hiking in the mountains. Also, each youth is assigned to a smaller group of ten to twelve youth for a chance to make new friends, participate in get-to-know-you games, and process their time at NYC. National Youth Conference is an adventure that helps thousands of youth from around the nation experience God in an exciting way. I hope that our youth take in everything that NYC has to offer.

Now, I ask you for your prayers. Pray that all the youth have a great time, but also pay attention to what the worship leaders have to say. Pray also for the advisors that they also learn something from this mountain top experience. I invite you all after worship, especially those who have attended NYC before, to offer the youth some encouragement or words of wisdom to send the youth off on this amazing journey.

(Meghan Knight)

Commissioning

One: Our congregation is excited to send you to National Youth Conference. Be open to new experiences. God will be working all around you, and through you. Be watchful. Listen to God and to God’s people around you. Be expectant of the new clothes God may want to put on you! And, be thankful. Thankful for this opportunity and for those who helped to get you here. Thankful to God for what you will learn.

NYC Goers: May we keep our eyes, ears, and hearts open to see, hear, and experience what God wants to weave into our lives!

Congregation: God, keep these National Youth Conference participants open to seeing Your creation, hearing Your voice, and experiencing Your love. Keep them bound together with You and Your people. Bring them back ready to teach us to grow into Your clothes of compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Amen!

by Carol Elmore
Minister of Nurture and Music
Oak Grove Church of the Brethren
Roanoke, VA

Ephesians 1:7-10

We continue the message written by the apostle Paul for the believers in Ephesus. This time, sit back and just listen...

- 1 - *Because of the sacrifice of the Messiah,*
- 2 - *his blood poured out on the altar of the Cross,*
- 1 - *we're a free people --*
- 2 - *free of penalties and punishments chalked up by all our misdeeds.*
- 1 - *And not just barely free, either.*
- 2 - *Abundantly free!*
- 1 - *He thought of everything,*
- 2 - *provided for everything we could possibly need,*
- 1 - *letting us in on the plans he took such delight in making.*
- 2 - *He set it all out before us in Christ,*
- 1 - *a long-range plan in which everything*
- 2 - *would be brought together and summed up in him,*
- 1 - *everything in deepest heaven,*
- 2 - *everything on planet earth.*

from *The Message*
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Sharing a joy, a concern,
a word of testimony or praise

“Breathe”

A D A D
This is the air I breathe, this is the air I breathe,

A E F#m7 ... E ... D F#m7 E Esus
Your ho-ly pre-sence living in me.

A D A D
This is my daily bread, this is my daily bread,

A E F#m7 ... E ... D F#m7 Esus E
Your very Word spoken to me,

A...E...F#m7...E D...F#m7...E...Esus
And I I'm desp'rate for You.

A...E...F#m7...E D...F#m7...E...Esus
And I I'm lost without You.

(repeat)

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Prayer

Lord God, we thank you for the presence of your Holy Spirit who blows through us like the wind. We breathe in your presence and you invigorate us. Like oxygen in the lungs makes its way to every organ in our body through the circulation of our blood, so your Spirit moves through us, giving strength to every part of our being.

From the beginning, when your Spirit, like a mighty wind “*swept over the face of the waters*” (Genesis 1:2), you have been at work, O God, in this world. We rejoice that you have made us part of your wondrous Creation. We thank you for the hearts and minds of those who, inspired - in-spirited - by you, first spoke then wrote your Word, which we receive through the inspiration of your Holy Spirit. May your Wind blow across the ancient page, and through our minds and hearts today. Inspire, in-spirit us!

As you know us better than we know ourselves, O Lord, you are aware of our doubts and fears, as well as the tangled mess of sin within. Unravel our inner iniquity and keep knitting your salvation through Christ into the depths of our being, so that “forgive us our sins,” may more fully become “as we forgive those who sin against us.”

Move through the lives of those whose names we have just raised. We only know a smidgeon of what they truly need, but know them deeply, and we trust in your care for them. Nudge us to action if we are to be part of your work in their lives. There are others we have not mentioned, as well as so many around this world of whom we are not aware. Keep active, O God, that “your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

This we pray, in the name of your beloved Son, whose sacrifice on the cross has set us free. Amen!

Ephesians 1:11-14

Let's complete this message from the apostle Paul. You have a part. Where it says "One," that's me. The "All" is, of course, you all. Where it says "left," we'll divide down the center aisle, with those on your left (the piano side) reading. Those on the right (your right, the organ side) then read the words designated as "right." Shall we join our voices in this message, listening as we speak?...

One: It's in Christ that we find out who we are
and what we are living for.

All: Long before we first heard of Christ
and got our hopes up,

One: he had his eye on us,

All: he had designs on us for glorious living,

One: part of the overall purpose he is working out
in everything and everyone.

Left: It's in Christ that you,

Right: once you heard the truth and believed it

Left: (this Message of your salvation),

Right: found yourselves home free –

Left: signed,

Right: sealed,

Left: and delivered

Right: by the Holy Spirit.

One: This signet from God is the first installment
on what's coming,

All: a reminder that we'll get everything
God has planned for us,

One: a praising and glorious life.

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Message
"Triptik"

Alleluia

Al - le - lu - ia! the Word of God is liv - ing! Al - le - lu - ia! the
gos - pel is a - mong us! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

by Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan
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Invitation to Communion

All of us who are in love and fellowship in the family of God, who do truly and earnestly repent of our sins, who humbly put our trust in Christ, and who desire his help that we might walk in newness of life, are invited to draw near to God and receive this holy communion to our comfort, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

from *For All Who Minister*, p. 233
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as the bread is distributed
“In Remembrance”

(mp3 embedded in .ppt - https://youtu.be/_G7X3GTxeYA)

3:49m

by Beryl Red and Ragan Courtney
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Thanksgiving Prayer

Blessed are you, God of heaven and earth.
In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him should not perish
but have eternal life.
We give thanks to you for the salvation
you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.
Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

(concluded with the Lord's Prayer)

Hymnal #788
©1978 Lutheran Book of Worship
(pp. 70, 90, 111), c/o Augsburg Fortress.

Eating together

Be blessed as you eat this bread.
His body was broken upon the cross for you.

as the cup is distributed
“Let Us Break Bread Together”

(mp3 embedded in .ppt - https://youtu.be/Egk-pX_1nHg)

2:41m

Drinking together

Be blessed as you eat this bread.
His blood was shed upon the cross for you.

“We are one body”

(mp3 from NYC 2010)

(motion for people to stand)

Chorus:

We are one body, one body in Christ,
and we do not stand alone.

We are one body, one body in Christ,
and he came that we might have life.

1.

I am the Way, the Truth, the Life.

I am the final sacrifice.

I am the Way, the Truth, the Life.

I come to you that you might have life. *(repeat)*

(Chorus)

2.

On the rock of Peter, see my church I build.

Come, receive my Spirit, with my gifts be filled.

For you are my body, you're my hands and feet.

Speak my word of life to ev'ryone you meet. *(repeat)*

(Chorus)

3.

At the name of Jesus every knee shall bend.

Jesus is the Lord and he will come again.

At the name of Jesus every knee shall bend.

Jesus is the Lord and he will come again.

I am the Way, the Truth, the Life.

I am the final sacrifice.

I am the Way, the Truth, the Life.

I come to you that you might have life.

(Chorus, then repeat & end)

written by R. Scallon (adapted)
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Benediction

We are one body in Christ. We never stand alone. As you leave this place, remember that God is with you and has a lot of love to give you. May you be clothed in God's love now and always. Amen.

by Meghan Knight

Postlude

“Blessed For The Journey”
NYC 2014 theme song *(mp3)*

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