

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 21, 2010 ❖ 10:30 AM

Preparation for Worship

I am not going to spend time proving to you the truth that God is sovereign in salvation. For that, too, you already believe. Two facts show this. In the first place, you give God thanks for your salvation. Now why do you do that? Because you know in your heart that God was entirely responsible for it. You did not save yourself; He saved you. Your thanksgiving is itself an acknowledgement that your conversion was not your own work, but His work... There is a second way in which you acknowledge that God is sovereign in salvation. You pray for the conversions of others... When you pray for unconverted people, you do so on the assumption that it is in God's power to bring them to faith... In prayer, then, you know that it is God who saves men; you know that what makes men turn to God is God's own gracious work of drawing them to Himself; and the content of your prayers is determined by this knowledge. Thus, by your practice of intercession, no less than by giving thanks for your conversion, you acknowledge and confess the sovereignty of God's grace.

J. I. Packer, *Evangelism & The Sovereignty of God*

The doctrine of election, like every truth about God, involves mystery and sometimes stirs controversy. But in Scripture it is a pastoral doctrine, brought in to help Christians see how great is the grace that saves them, and to move them to humility, confidence, joy, praise, faithfulness, and holiness in response. It is the family secret of the children of God. We do not know who else he has chosen among those who do not yet believe, nor why it was his good pleasure to choose us in particular. What we do know is, first, that had we not been chosen for life we would not be believers now (for only the elect are brought to faith), and, second, that as elect believers we may rely on God to finish in us the good work that he started (1 Cor. 1:8-9; Phil. 1:6; 1 Thess. 5:23-24; 2 Tim. 1:12; 4:18). Knowledge of one's election thus brings comfort and joy.

J. I. Packer, *Concise Theology: A Guide to Historic Christian Beliefs*

Pastoral Welcome

The Rev. John R. McCracken

Prelude

"Consolation"

arr. Dave Leeman

***Call to Worship**

Isaiah 55:1-3

The Rev. Patrick Poteet

Minister: Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat!

People: **Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.**

Minister: Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

People: **Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live;**

Minister: and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

***Hymn of Adoration**

"I Will Arise and Go to Jesus"

Spiritual

I will a-rise and go to Je - sus, He will em-brace me in his arms.
In the arms of my dear Sav - or oh, there are ten thou-sand charms.

1. Come ye sin - ners poor and need - y, weak and wound - ed sick and sore:
(Men) 2. Come ye thirs - ty come, and wel - come, God's free boun - ty glo - ri - fy;
(Women) 3. Let not con - science make you lin - ger, nor of fit - nes fond - ly dream;
(All) 4. Come, ye wea - ry heav - y la - den, lost and ru - ined by the fall;

Je - sus read - y stands to save you, full of pit - y, love and power.
true be - lief and true re - pent - ance, ev - ery grace that brings you nigh.
all the fit - ness he re - quir - eth is to feel your need of him.
if you tar - ry till you're bet - ter, you will nev - er come at all.

***Prayer of Adoration**

Mr. Poteet

***Hymn of Praise No. 469**

"How Sweet and Awesome Is the Place"

ST. COLUMBA

Stanzas 1-4, 6

***Affirmation of Faith**

Mr. McCracken

Minister: What does the Bible teach about the character of God?

People: **"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"**

Isaiah 6.3

Minister: What does the Bible teach about the fallen condition of man?

People: **"None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks God... For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."** Romans 3.11, 23

Minister: How, then, can sinful man be reconciled to a holy God?

People: **"But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it - the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the**

redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith." Romans 3.21-26

Minister: Who gets the credit for our salvation?
People: "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is the gift of God, not as a result of works, that no one should boast...* We love *because he first loved us.*" Ephesians 2.8-9 & 1 John 4:19

Silent Praise & Adoration

Hymn of Assurance No. 471 "Tis Not That I Did Choose Thee" AURELIA

Prayers for Christ's Church and the World Mr. Rocky Freeman, *Ruling Elder*

The Mercy Moment Mr. Tom Lindsey, *Deacon*
Once a month, Trinity collects an offering to aid people in financial need both inside and outside our church family. This collection is a response to Jesus' command to care for our neighbors. We ask that this collection be above your regular tithe. There is a special blue envelope for the Mercy Fund that you may find in the black friendship pad on the left end of your row. If you write a check, please indicate "Mercy Fund" on the memo line. The white envelopes are giving designated to the General Fund, from which we fund all the missionaries and ministries of this church.

The Collection of Tithes and Offerings

The Musical Offering "Bring It to Jesus" Derrick Lee & Bob Bailly
Jenay Puckett & Dave Leeman, Duet

The Offering Consecration

*The Doxology DUKE STREET
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.

The Ordination & Installation of Mr. Mike Bottoms as Deacon

The Charge to Mr. Bottoms Mr. McCracken
Ordination Vows & Congregational Vow
Prayer of Ordination

*The Passing of the Peace Mr. McCracken
Minister: The peace of Christ be with you.
People: And also with you.

***Service of Friendship**

Mr. McCracken

Children between the ages of 4 through 1st grade may now be dismissed for Celebration Chapel, Room 101. At this time, please locate the black Friendship pad at the left end of your row, fill it out and pass it back to the beginning of the row.

***The Prayer for Illumination**

Mr. McCracken

***Scripture Reading**

Romans 9:6-23
ESV Pew Bible, page 945

The Morning Sermon

"Why I Believe in Election"

From the sermon series: "Romans: The Church Under Grace"

A sermon outline is available on page ABC.

***Hymn of Response**

"A Debtor to Mercy"

text, Augustus Toplady, 1740
tune, Bob Kauflin

1. A debt - or to mer - cy a - lone, — of cov - e - nant mer - cy I sing. I
 2. The work which your good - ness be - gan, — the arm of your strength will com - plete. Your
 3. My name from the palms of your hands — e - ter - ni - ty will not e - rase. Im -

come with your right - eous - ness on, my hum - ble of - fit - ting to bring — The judg - ments of your ho - ly
 prom - ise is yes, and a - men, and ne'er was for - feit - ed yet. — The fu - ture or things that are
 pressed on your heart it re - mains, in marks of in - del - i - ble grace. — Yes, I to the end will en -

law with me can have noth - ing to do. My Sav - ior's o - be - dience and blood hide all my trans -
 now, no pow - er be - low or a - bove, can make you your pur - pose fore - go, or sev - er my
 dure, un - til I bow down at your throne, for - ev - er and al - ways se - cure, a debt - or to

gres - sions from view. —
 soul from your love. — (last time only)
 mer - cy a - lone. — for - ev - er and al - ways se - cure, a debt - or to

mer - cy a - lone. — mer - cy a - lone. —

***The Benediction**

Mr. McCracken

Minister: Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. Romans 11:33-36

People: (singing)
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end, Amen, Amen.

***Postlude**

Douglass McFarland, organist

*indicates to please stand, if able.

In last week's sermon from Romans 9:1-5 we learned about those who were spiritually privileged in many ways, but did not join those spiritual privileges with a true, living, growing, obedient faith. We called this the problem of Nominalism. It's still with us.

Today's sermon focuses the question: are God's promises reliable and trustworthy? After all, God promised salvation to Israel, yet many Israelites reject Jesus as Messiah. So has the promised of God, therefore, failed to be realized? And if so, doesn't this call into question the reliability of God's promises and character? We will unpack Paul's answer to this question in this morning's sermon.

"Why I Believe in Election"
Sermon Outline | Romans 9:6-26

The sovereign mercy of God: God keeps his promise by making Christians where and when he chooses.

(1) God chooses (or elects) Christians (vv.6-13)

(2) No one deserves to be chosen (vv. 14-18)

(3) This mercy overflows to unlikely people (vv.19-26)