

Straight from the "Hart"

Worship Service from July 04, 2021

Independence Day



Welcome

Good morning, welcome to our worship service on Independence Day...

Apostle's Creed

Pledges Please remain standing as we say three pledges, to America, to the Christian flag, and to the Bible and the hymn that follows.

I pledge allegiance to the flag
of the United States of America,
and to the Republic for which it stands:
one nation under God, indivisible,
with liberty and justice for all.

I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag
and to the Savior for whose Kingdom it stands.
One Savior, crucified, risen, and coming again
with life and liberty to all who believe,
uniting all humanity in service and in love. *

I pledge allegiance to the Bible,
God's Holy Word,
I will make it a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path
and will hide its words in my heart
that I might not sin against God.

* There is no "official pledge" to the Christian flag,
this is a blend of a couple of the more popular pledges...

Battle Hymn Intro

Julia Ward Howe came from a wealthy New York family, was married to prominent Boston philanthropist and humanitarian, Dr. S.G. Howe. They were both crusaders for political and moral issues of the day. She was a leader in women's rights and a zealous opponent of slavery.

In 1859, John Brown was hanged for attempting to lead an insurrection of slaves at Harper's Ferry, West Virginia. In 1861, during the darkest days of the Civil War, the Howes visited Washington DC and Julia, with her pastor, toured a nearby Union Army Camp on the Potomac. The soldiers were singing a tribute to John Brown. One of the phrases was, "John Brown's body 'lies a-mold'ring in the grave". The music was rousing, but it needed more verses and improved words. Julia's pastor asked her to give it a try. Through the night as she lay still, the words arranged themselves in her brain, and once completed, she arose and wrote them down before she forgot them. The result was the Battle Hymn of the Republic, which was published in *The Atlantic Monthly* the next year for five dollars. As a tribute to the king of glory, the Lord [who is] strong and mighty in battle (Psalm 24:8), and in honor of our nation's birth, the men of the summer singers are going to come to the sound of a drum and sing this hymn.

Special Music Battle Hymn

"Wisdom to the mighty, honor to the brave, the world becomes Christ's footstool and the soul of wrong will become enslaved". The song calls us to get our priorities straight and not get caught up -- and caught on the wrong side -- chasing immediate earthly values rather than being transfigured, (transformed) by God's love. Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, too, reminds us of this same thing.

Responsive Reading (L: - Lay Reader C: - Congregation)

B: Don't keep hoarding for yourselves earthly treasures that can be stolen by thieves. Material wealth eventually rusts, decays, and loses its value. Instead, stockpile heavenly treasures that cannot be stolen and will never rust, decay, or lose their value.

C: ... our hearts always pursue what we value most as our treasure.

L: The eyes of your heart allow God's light to enter into your being, providing light for your life. When your eye is healthy, (if your heart is unclouded),

C: then our whole body is filled with light.

L: But when your eye is unhealthy, (if your eyes are focused on money), the light cannot penetrate, and darkness takes its place. If the light of truth cannot enter, if the light you *think* you have is actually darkness,

C: then how profound will be the darkness within us.

L: No one can serve two masters. How could you worship two gods at the same time? You will have to hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other.

C: You can't worship the true God while enslaved to the god of money!"

L: This is why you should never worry about your life, for all that you need will be provided, such as food, water, clothing—everything your body needs.

C: Our life is more than a meal. Our body is more than clothing.

L: Consider the birds—do you think they worry about their existence? They don't plant or harvest or store up food, yet your heavenly Father provides them each with food.

C: We are much more valuable to our Father than they are.

(Inspired by Matthew 6:19-26 (TPT, NLT))

Theme/Act of Centering

How many of you have heard of Stephen Covey? He was an educator and life strategist, popular especially in business and organization circles. He talks about the rule of the farm. The essence of this rule is that there is a proper time to do everything on the farm. (Some of you know about that!) At a certain time of the year you prepare the soil, then you seed the soil, then you nurture the seed and soil, through weeding, watering, or whatever you happen to do on your particular farm, and then at a certain time, you harvest the reward of all that work. Covey takes this principle and applies it all to life. For example, schooling. If you want to really learn something, you have to put in the time and the work at the proper time. Many students, older students especially; have this idea about "cramming", which is not a properly timed way to study. These students tend to postpone studying and then shortly before an exam begin to cram -- it would be the equivalent of trying to prepare, seed, nurture, and harvest all at the same time. But we fool ourselves with cramming because we may well pass the test, sometimes with flying colors – but down the road of time, in the real world, when that knowledge needs to be applied, does what we crammed actually stay with us? Not for most of us. I'm thinking about adding a personal example. Church history – there is too much of it! I crammed and crammed and crammed, and do you think I know anything about church history now? Not much. Only broad strokes.

Some people treat their spiritual life like that. They pay no attention to it until they realize that some sort of "test is coming". Can their soul be prepared and nurtured to face such tests? Not for most of us. If we really want to learn knowledge, if we really want to develop a skill, if we really want to grow a mature spirit, we have to put in the effort in a way we can absorb the teaching, the motor skills, the spiritual growth, like soil absorbs rain. We can't do it all at once or we get? Flooding, and

that's not good for plants, or our brain or spirit. It is an ongoing process of dreaming what we want to harvest (the goal), and intentionally plan opportunities and timing for that growth, turning down and setting distractions, those weeds that would pull us away, so that we can get what where we need to go. In this next moment of silence, while Donna plays, think about where you think God wants you to be headed, what distractions might need to be emptied from your life, what activities might need to be added. Ponder your spiritual journey and how we can ask Jesus to help us, when she finishes we will then sing that song together.

Prayer Music

Sanctuary (2x)

Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary,
 pure and holy, tried and true;
 with thanksgiving,
 I'll be a living sanctuary, for you.
 (repeat)

Pastoral Prayer Lord, everything you do is praiseworthy. It is good and right for your faithful to lift up your name. for everything we see speaks to the glory of your kingdom and your power -- so clearly that all people who look will see your mighty actions. Your strong and loving rule endures through all generations. You are trustworthy in all your promises and faithful in all you do. You lift us up when we struggle and even when we fall. As we lean on you, you provide for us in your proper time. You satisfy our deepest needs as we truly call on you. As we strive to be pure, to have undistracted hearts, we realize it is not wise for us to say "no" to you and at times we fail to do good and seek you. Yet you seek to offer us mercy and grace us with your presence and call us your own and offer to be our refuge, restoring us, and filling us with joy. (Psalm 145:10-18, Ps 14)

Intercession And Lord, we come before you today as our predecessors have in times gone by, celebrating our history, and reveling in all the great things that our country has achieved. On this day we rejoice in the favor you have graciously given us. We thank you for the blessings of liberty, and for each generation, past present and future / that -- guided by you -- made, is making, and will make this country what it is yet becoming. We thank you for all those who have bravely given their lives in the defense of freedom and justice. Your gracious hand has given us so much. Yet as a nation and people we have not always chosen the right way. Our land needs you as much now as we always have. We do not presume on your grace for us or for our country. So listen to our cries for mercy, for we cannot not stand if you keep record of our sins. It is only because of your great love that we

are not consumed, for your compassions never fail.

And that is why we continue to pray for others, --- Pat and Bruce Harton's requests for * Larry - stroke * Linda - hand surgery * Patti - cancer * Bruce - test results * Jan Martin - for grandson Kyle and two other engineers who are on a cannonball trip from NT to LA, CA in a solar car – for their safety and wisdom. * Thanks for the prayers from Vivian Lemon's brother, retired pastor Richard Youells, he loved the prayer quilt which we gave him a week ago Thursday, and today we prayer for his family and friends as he passed away this Thursday. We also lift up * Jeff and Laura Walker requests prayers for Laura's mom Sandy struggling with COPD in this high heat. * and for Tony who can begin to heal after his leg was amputated above the knee * and for Brent who is out of the hospital but still needs to take care while his 5 broken ribs begin to heal. * and for the joy of the Kirkpatricks, birth of grandson Aida Annika Kirkpatrick to son Cliff and wife Emma (in Helsinki Finland. All doing well),

and finally, Lord, we pray again for Jill Dunn who is in hospice, and for whom we dedicated a quilt earlier but was lost in a house fire when she lost everything, and so today we re-dedicate this new quilt for her...

Quilt Dedication Dear Lord, today we ask from you a special blessing on Jill Dunn. We pray for your loving arms to enfold her with your strength to give her faith and endurance throughout this difficult journey towards you. In the quiet times, as she wraps this quilt around her, let your peace reign within her, and your spirit calm her.

Throughout each day, let the love and prayers of this church bring comfort to her heart, and rest to her body. Even in the darkest of nights, remind her that you are there, always awake, keeping watch, holding her close, sharing her innermost thoughts. Our Heavenly Father, you are with us each moment of every day... holding a special place in his heart for each one of us and reminding us that we are never alone. We pray this prayer for Jill Dunn, and for the blessing on this quilt from the One who stays right beside us, celebrating all of our joys and enduring with us all of our sorrows. We ask these things in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Now Lord, in the familiar words of the Bible, help us to hear anew what you would speak to us this day. For your word is always fresh, a message of life and hope for those who seek to know and do your will according to the prayer you taught us to pray. **Lord's Prayer**

Bible Reading Introduction and Reading

Today we are talking about the how the central focus of our lives affects the whole of our life. Luke is giving his version of what we heard in the responsive reading. He quotes Jesus saying our lives should not be consumed by people or tangible things (or their loss), for they do not have power over our souls. What we should be concerned about is the One who does have power over our life and soul. Then we should take comfort because God cares for even the sparrows -- and knows how many hairs are on your head -- because he values and loves us more than sparrows or anything else in this world.

Jesus had moved on to other topics, but apparently this idea of personal provision settled into someone's mind. That he completely missed Jesus' point is clear when he suddenly calls out from the crowd, demanding that Jesus force his brother to share his inheritance with him. Jesus replied that he was not his judge or arbiter, then circled back to that topic and warned against greed and that life was more than possessions. And since the man had not got it the first time, and maybe others too,

Jesus then gave them this illustration:

(Brief Pause)

“A wealthy land owner had a farm that produced bumper crops. Every year the harvest was so great it filled his barns to overflowing! He thought, ‘What should I do now that every barn is full and I have nowhere else to store more? I know what I’ll do! I’ll tear down the barns and build one massive barn to hold all my grain and goods. Then I can just sit back, surrounded with comfort and ease. I’ll enjoy life with no worries at all.’ “God said to him, ‘What a fool you are to trust in your riches and not in me! This very night the messengers of death will demand to take your life. Then who will get all the wealth you have stored up for yourself?’ The same thing will happen to all those who fill up their lives with everything but God.”

And then he repeats in a different way our need to not be anxious about tangible things because our life is more than what we eat and wear and repeats God's care for the birds again, who by the way, don't build storehouses. Much later, Jesus' disciple John writes, giving us the proper perspective of heavenly treasure, of what treasure to pursue He writes.

Beloved, we are God's children right now; however, it is not yet apparent what we will become. But we do know that when it is finally made visible, we will be

just like him, for we will see him as he truly is. And all who focus their hope on him will always be purifying themselves, just as Jesus is pure. [Luke 12:16-21](#), [1 John 3:2-3 \(TPT\)](#)

(Brief Pause)

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Will Thompson learned what it means to make Jesus central, Let's sing Jesus is All the World to Me

Music (vv 1,2,3) Jesus is All the World to Me

Sermon Pure Priorities Lead to Pure Results

Max Lucado wrote that he once lived in very hot Rio de Janeiro. One day he was leaving his apartment for an extended period of time and realized he had left his ham radio plugged in. He ran back in the house and yanked the plug out, and then went on his journey. When he returned a few weeks later, he discovered he had actually pulled the plug on his freezer. This event inspired a parable entitled -- What is the best way to clean out a rotten interior?

He applied strong cleansers and scouring pads to the OUTSIDE of the appliance. It got really nice and shiny, but when he opened the door, it was still revolting.

Maybe the freezer needed supportive FRIENDS. He threw a party and invited all the appliances from neighborhood. The apartment filled up with refrigerators, stoves, microwaves, and washing machines. It was a great party. Everyone played pin the plug on the socket and laughed about limited warranties. Surely this social interaction would cure the freezer, but when the door was opened, the stench was even worse.

Maybe the freezer needed STATUS. He put a Mercedes sticker on its door and painted a paisley tie down the front. It was classy, stylish... cool. [pun intended, I guess] He opened the door, expecting it to shine, but it was still putrid, stinky and repulsive inside.

Maybe the freezer needed some high-voltage PLEASURE. He bought it some copies of appliance catalogs, illustrated with open-doored appliances. He tried to set up a date with the freezer next door, but it gave him the cold shoulder. A few days of supercharged, after-hours entertainment, surely now it would be clean and happy. He opened the door, and nearly got sick.

Lucado interprets his parable. Who in their right mind would concentrate on the outside when the problem is on the inside? Too many of us. We have something spiritually empty or distorted inside. Therefore, we try new haircuts, new outfits,

new exercise programs, we try to become more popular, we try different entertainments, different hobbies, different music styles, new possessions... Not that there is anything wrong with these things, they may even be helpful in their proper place. But if it is an attempt to substitute for something spiritual that is missing or rotten inside, then it will only distract us from what is not getting cleaned. The only solution to inner spoilage is inner cleansing.

(Adapted/Abridged from *Applause of Heaven*)

This is why these descriptions of the full and deep joy associated with God's transformation that we've been talking about, the transformation of we who are receptive to God's work includes what [Jesus continued] to teach them. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Say it with me: **Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.** Mt 5:2,8 (NIV)

It is not the emphasis in the Beatitudes, but it does line up with scripture - that pure hearts lead to pure actions...

A pure heart leads to pure action
--

Jesus said it is what flows out of the heart that makes us be what we are and do what we do (Mark 7:14-23). We heard John tell us (in the bible reading) that those who want to be like Jesus and see Jesus will purify themselves as he is pure (1 John 3:2-3).

James describes *pure* and faultless religion as one that goes beyond avoiding evil, but one that proactively participates in a wider social concern, which, in his original readers context, meant to look after orphans and widows in their distress and then adds -- to keep oneself from being polluted by the world (James 2:14-25, 1:22-26).

When we hear the word purity, it is usually only that last phrase from James that we focus on and think about. All those things that we're *not supposed to do* to keep from being polluted by the world. But the Bible and Jesus' life demonstrate that purity goes far beyond avoiding evil, but also includes actively loving - doing good for others, especially for those who are less fortunate.

When John the Baptist sent a message asking if Jesus was really the One (God's chosen representative and Son), Jesus replied as proof, 'The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, [and normally, in Biblical language, the last thing in a list is the most important thing of the list, and Jesus concludes his list by saying: *and the good news is preached to the poor.* (Luke 7:18-23)

A pure faith strives to demonstrate in action a compassion for the needy. At the end, people will ask Jesus, "When did we see you hungry, thirsty, a stranger, or in need of clothes?" And he will answer, "Whatever you did (or did not) do for the least of these, you did (or did not do) for me." (Matthew 25:34-45 NIV))

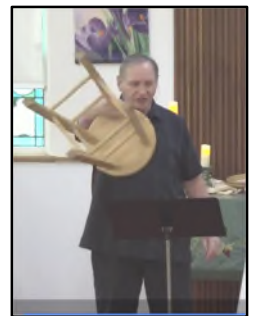
On the other hand, we have to be careful and not say that purity is only about avoiding evil or even about doing good -- for then we have moved a faith of Love and Grace to a faith of Law and Works, and we don't want to go back there.

Perhaps we will get a little closer to the beatitude's emphasis by talking

A pure heart leads to pure priority / focus

about a purity -- not of performance, but of priority. If you want to see God, you must have a pure prioritized focus -- purely, (clearly) a cut above every other emphasis in our life.

Experienced animal trainers take a whip and a stool with them when they enter the lion's cage. The whip is mostly for show -- it is the stool that does the important work. When the trainer holds the stool with the legs extended toward the lion's face, the animal sees four equal legs and doesn't know what to attack - and so it waits, paralyzed because it doesn't know what to choose of what seems to him to be multiple, equal options. I wouldn't test that -- I'd stay on the other side of the bars.



But the point is: a divided focus works against you. If we cannot clearly prioritize God's will in our life, then we will be paralyzed with every critical temptation and choice in our life. You cannot serve both God and Mammon / or money / or material things. (Matthew 6:24) Our version today said "money", but it is really much more than that, it is anything earthly. If you try to catch two rabbits at once, you will not likely catch either either. You have to choose one thing - and pursue it.

Matthew illustrates the concept clearly. If you want to experience the light of God, you can't focus on earthly things, for what you treasure is what you focus on and react to and work for. I've illustrated this text at least once before, but I'll run through it again quickly.

See God's creation all around you, imagine it in your heads. How much creation can you see? Now put two dimes in front of your eyes -- now what can you see? Can't see anything of God's creation. Or another way to phrase it when we talk about that text in Matthew we read about -- the clothes and birds and all the rest; and so picture our hears on one side, and God is out there on the other side, and

we see him clearly. But then we start putting in front of that clothes, and there is money, and there is lunch, and the Lions, and maybe the Tigers, and the Bears! No, I can't say that one here, can I? 😊 --- and we just start seeing all these other things, and we can't see through to see God. Blessed are the pure in heart, the pure in focus, for the can see, they will see, God.

And it isn't that we don't have to deal with money and clothes and food and material things -- we have to do all of that. But there can only be one *primary* driving force in our life. If we try to have more than one driving force, then when they conflict, it will be like you are in a driver's ed car and you are trying to go one way, and the instructor is turning the other with his steering wheel – it doesn't work... cars can't divide themselves in half and go two ways. If we try, we will have this constant battle within us and we will struggle with knowing what to do. Jesus calls us to clearly focus on him, trust in him, put his kingdom and his values first, and everything else in your life will fall into place. You need not worry because you are treasured by God who provides for you, and when his will and ethics are your driving force, you will have the peace of knowing what is the right thing to be and do in any given situation, or at least we will be moving towards that as we grow in Christ toward maturity. Temptation and inner conflict -- to desire to do wrong or to not do right (because we have allowed all these other priorities to compete with God's will) will not have the same kind of power if we clearly put God first above those things. (See Matthew 6:19-34).

Those who trust God to cleanse and clarify their vision (Jesus says), will see God -- fully when we get

Pure in heart will see God

to heaven, but in ways, even now - a vision of God is already the experience of his true lovers on earth. We see him in his creation, we see him in nature, we see him in his love for us in Christ, we see him in the love that we have for each other - and that love is permanent.

A boy walked into a photo shop with a framed picture of his girlfriend. He wanted the picture duplicated. To do that they had to take the picture out of the frame. The studio owner noticed the inscription on the back of the picture. This is what it said: "My dearest Tim, I love you with all my heart. I will love you more and more each day. I will love you forever and ever. I am yours for all eternity. Diane." Isn't that beautiful? Then, beneath that beautiful sentiment, she added, "P.S. If we ever break up, I want this picture back."

There is no P.S. in God's love for us. He will never break up with us. We are His. We belong to Him. So, we become like Him by allowing him to purify our life, our focus, our vision of who He is and what He is doing in our world and in our hearts.

True purity is not supposed to be a legalistic burden to bear, but rather, a liberating experience. It is not a set of hurdles to overcome but a freedom to be embraced. Too often we see purity as something that cramps our style and weighs us down. We see “purity” as desirable temptations that we must now avoid, or burdensome duties that we must now fulfill, or as a focus that goes beyond what we are capable of consistently envisioning.

Jesus does not say that God will purify the hearts of his children so they will be burdened by that. If we take on the burden of attempting

**Attempt a pure heart ourselves
- lose focus and gain confusion**

a to create our own pure heart, that is how it becomes burdensome. We will lose focus, we will lose clarity, and gain confusion. What Jesus says is that they will find a clearer vision of God, and they will be happy, fortunate, whole, joyful, and blessed – that is what that word “blessed” means. Blessed are those whose focus is pure. If purity is not liberating and refreshing, then maybe we are not quite grasping what Jesus is trying to get at.

It may become clearer if we review these opening statements of the sermon, the beatitudes, and express them first in the burden that comes by saying it the opposite way that Jesus said. So listen to this:

Given the premise that we all fall short of God's perfect glory, how unblessed we will be if we fail to recognize that we are poor in spirit, because then we will be forced to try (unsuccessfully) to *earn* our way into God's kingdom. How unhappy we will be if we do not mourn our sin; for we will receive no comfort because we will continue to struggle with the power of sin in our life. How incomplete we will be because we cannot receive the inner strength, the meekness, to graciously inherit the earth; but will have to constantly fight for what we think is our piece of it. How unsatisfied we will feel if we continue to fill our spiritual lack with the wrong things, for we will never be satisfied. Then we will take out our frustration on others in competitive and envious judgment rather than offering mercy. And with all *that* going on in our life, we may not want to face -- to see – God, the Holy God. For we know he knows, to use Lucado's parable, what we are hiding behind the shiny doors of our heart. So we divert our eyes, our time, our focus, and our prioritization away from him and away from his will, and when we do that, we cannot see God.

**Let God purify us, - find focus
and gain clarified priorities**

Now let's review it positively, the way Jesus spoke it (paraphrased): When we recognize we can't save ourselves, we are gifted the heavenly kingdom, and when we mourn not just consequences, but sin itself -- the battles will become settled within and we will find comfort; even when we don't succeed -- for we will have a growing inner strength and we will patiently and gently grow into inheriting the earth in his time. More than anything else, we will hunger and thirst for a right relationship with God and we will constantly be satisfied even as we seek him more and more. From this humble, confident position, we are able to show mercy even as God has shown mercy to us; and we will love to see God because (to use Lucado's parable) we can stand before him with the doors of our heart wide open. We can stand before him with no pretense, nothing hidden -- complete honest transparency, allowing him to work on the *inside* of us, where we need his work to be done.

How happy, how fortunate, how whole, how blessed are those who don't try to hide from God; but they can lay their lives before Him with all of its successes and skills and with all its sins and shortcomings -- knowing that with all of our best bits and with all of our worst bits, he still loves us and accepts us -- and that confidence enlivens our vision of him, and of others, and of ourselves, and how refreshing and cleansing it is to take on that nature of openness before Him,

Communion – Invitation and the sacrament of Communion can be one of those intimate moments between God and his people, and his people with their God. Communion is an expression of our covenant relationship with our heavenly Father. It expresses what the holy God has done for us in Christ -- to cleanse and purify our hearts so that we can be in relationship with him. It is also an expression of our devotion to him, our relationship with him; and as we grow with him and he with us, our vision of him will become clearer, we are become more pure -- like he is pure. All who desire this pursuit of purity are welcome to participate in the Communion table. Let's pray.

Confession Creator God, you come to us to make all things fresh, new and pure. Yet we try so hard to prove our worth to you and to others by the standards of our culture rather than your kingdom values and teachings. You tell us that our actions are an indicator of our heart; yet it is the heart that really matters. It is not how purely we perform, but how honestly we open ourselves to you that is the crux of life. Forgive us when we live compartmentalized, divided, conflicted, and hidden

lives rather than live openly and honestly under your grace. Help us to live in love. Give us the joy that comes with your cleansing liberation through Christ. A life filled with grace and gratitude, forgiveness and freedom; a transparency leading to a clearer vision of you.

Assurance Assure us that we are forgiven and can be at peace as we offer our lives to you in whom we will live and move and have our being. In Jesus name, we pray, Amen. And because we are forgiven,

Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.** It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you. Father Almighty, Creator of all that is. You offer us an abundant, meaningful life. We turn from you, but your love never fails, and from the day we faltered you had already put into place the mission of saving us and putting before us the restored way of life through your Son Jesus, And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn. **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ... who emptied himself of every blessing to become one of us and show us the way back to him. It is through his life, his teachings, his death and resurrection that we are offered a renewed relationship with you, Father, and a new eternal covenant that leads to everlasting life, and receive the promises of your presence with us always through the power of your word and Holy Spirit.

... And so, in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, proclaiming the mystery of faith. **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Now pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and at home, and on the gifts of bread and cup. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood, and empowered to live so that All honor and glory is yours, almighty Father God, now and forever. Amen.

In order to continue preparing our hearts for Communion, the Summer Singers are going to sing from right where they are in their seats, so they are going to help you sing, and you are going to help them sing this song that you are familiar with.

Special Music Feed Me Lord Receiving the Bread and Cup

On the night the Lord was betrayed and gave himself up for us, he gathered his disciples into an upper room where he took the bread and he lifted it up and he gave thanks to the Father, and he broke it, and he gave it to his disciples , and said, “This is my body, broken for you, as often as you eat it, eat it in remembrance of me.” Take and eat.

And when the supper was over, he took the cup, and he lifted it up, and he gave thanks for it, and he offered it to his disciples, saying, “This is my blood, the blood of the new covenant, shed for your sins and the sins of the world, as often as you drink it, drink it in remembrance of me.” Take and drink to the nourishment of your soul.

Lord, the hope of an abundant, full, eternal life, even as we live on this earth is why that we have come and worshipfully offered ourselves fully to you in this Communion. Continue to be with us, that the passions of our heart will be given and shaped by *you*, that you may make in us and through us a mark on your earth, leaving it better than we found it, by living for you, who sends us out from this table with your blessings. Amen.

We'll close with one more song of our devotion to Jesus.

Music (1,2,Ref) Living for Jesus

Blessing Everything good comes from God's hand. He fills our minds and hearts with his love. Love him in all things and above all things. Desire to please him. Receive the joy he has prepared for you. Amen.