

LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD
WITH ALL YOUR HEART
AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL
AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.

Matthew 22:37

Worship Theme:

Being the Church of Grace for the People who will be Grace

PRELUDE - 'Harmonies du Soir' – Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We are called to be the people of God's kingdom.

People: In God's realm we will find healing and hope.

Leader: We are called to be people who love as God has loved us.

People: In God's world, we will reach out with God's love to all God's people.

Leader: We are called to be those who would serve.

People: Lord, be with us as we serve you by helping those in need. Amen.

HYMN #116 The God of Abraham Praise

1. The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above; Ancient of Everlasting Days, and God of love; Jehovah, great I AM! by earth and heaven confessed; I bow and bless the sacred name forever blest.

2. The great I AM has sworn; I on this oath depend. I shall, on eagle wings up-borne, to heaven ascend. I shall behold God's face; I shall God's power adore, and sing the wonders of God's grace forevermore.

3. The heavenly land I see, with peace and plenty blest; a land of sacred liberty, and endless rest. There milk and honey flow, and oil and wine abound, and trees of life forever grow with mercy crowned.

4. The God who reigns on high the great archangels sing, and "Holy, holy, holy!" cry, "Almighty King! Who was, and is, the same, and evermore shall be: Jehovah, Lord, the great I AM, we worship thee!"

Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus, you command us to remember that the first commandment is to love God with all that we are, our hearts, souls, minds and spirits. The second is equal to this in that this love is to be extended to our neighbors. We are to love as we wish to be loved. Help us to internalize these commandments so that when we encounter times of difficulty, we are again reminded of your everlasting love for us. Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH, #881 The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic** church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI, #70

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen

Hymn #118 The Care the Eagle Gives Her Young

1. The care the eagle gives her young, safe in her lofty nest, is like the tender love of God for us made manifest.
2. As when the time to venture comes, she stirs them out to flight, so we are pressed to boldly try, to strive for daring height.
3. And if we flutter helplessly, as fledgling eagles fall, beneath us lift God's mighty wings to bear us, one and all.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the Lord showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar. The Lord said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants’; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.” Then Moses, the servant of the Lord, died there in the land of Moab, at the Lord’s command. He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigor had not abated. The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended. Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the Lord had commanded Moses. Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face. He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that the Lord sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

PSALM LESSON Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17

Lord, you have been our refuge

from one generation to another.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.

You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Go back, O child of earth."

For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night.

You sweep us away like a dream;
we fade away suddenly like the grass.

In the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.

Return, O Lord; how long will you tarry?
be gracious to your servants.

Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;
so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

Make us glad by the measure of the days that you afflicted us
and the years in which we suffered adversity.

Show your servants your works
and your splendor to their children.

May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us;
prosper the work of our hands;

prosper our handiwork.

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.

EPISTLE LESSON 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been

approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

HYMN #408 The Gift of Love

1. Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire, and have not love, my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.
2. Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess, but not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.
3. Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole. Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 22:34-46

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet"'? If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Pastor: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

SERMON "The Greatest Commandments"

Pastor Margaret Clemons

CLOSING HYMN #117 O God, Our Help in Ages Past

1. O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home!
2. Under the shadow of thy throne, still may we dwell secure; sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.
3. Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame, from everlasting, thou art God, to endless years the same.
4. A thousand ages, in thy sight, are like an evening gone; short as the watch that ends the night, before the rising sun.
5. Time, like an ever rolling stream, bears all who breathe away; they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.
6. O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come; be thou our guide while life shall last, and our eternal home.

BENEDICTION

*God's love is sending us forth into the world in
ministries of peace and justice.
We have received forgiveness and been showered with
God's gracious love.
Go in peace, bringing hope to this hurting and angry world. Amen.*

POSTLUDE – 'Postlude on St. Anne' – Healey Willan (1880-1968)

