



**July 4, 2021**

# Traditional Service – 8:30 am

## Scripture for Meditation

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.  
(Romans 15:7)

## Prelude

### I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord Forever

(arr. Mark Hayes)

## Welcome and Call to Worship

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you all

People: And also with you

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made.

**People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

## Introit

### God Bless America

(Irving Berlin)

While the storm clouds gather far across the sea,  
Let us swear allegiance to a land that's free.  
Let us all be grateful for a land so fair,  
As we raise our voices in a solemn prayer.

God bless America, land that I love.  
Stand beside her and guide her  
Thru the night with a light from above.  
From the mountains, to the prairies, to the oceans white with foam.  
God bless America, my home sweet home.  
God bless America, my home sweet home.

## Announcements

## Opening Hymn

### God of the Ages

#281

God of the ages, whose almighty hand  
Leads forth in beauty all the starry band  
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies:  
Our grateful songs before Thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past;  
In this free land by Thee our lot is cast;  
Be Thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay;  
Thy word our law, Thy paths our chosen way.

From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,  
Be Thy strong arm our ever sure defense;  
May true religion in our hearts increase,  
Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh Thy people on their toilsome way;  
Lead us from night to never ending day;  
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine;  
All glory, laud, and praise be ever Thine.

### **Psalm Response**

### **Psalm 135:1-3, 5-7; 19-22**

Praise the LORD. Praise the name of the LORD;  
praise him, you servants of the LORD,  
**You who minister in the house of the LORD,  
in the courts of the house of our God.**  
Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good;  
sing praise to his name, for that is pleasant.

**I know that the LORD is great,  
that our Lord is greater than all gods.**  
The LORD does whatever pleases him,  
in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths.  
**He makes clouds rise from the ends of the earth;  
he sends lightning with the rain  
and brings out the wind from his storehouses.**  
All you people of God, praise the LORD;  
You who fear him, praise the LORD.  
Praise be to the LORD from Zion,  
to him be glory forever. Praise the LORD.

### **Call to Confession**

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. (2 Chronicles 7:14)

### **Prayer of Confession (Unison)**

We thank you for our freedoms and the many blessings we have received in this country, in which we live by your will alone. We confess that it is still all too easy for us to sacrifice our convictions for convenience; your standards for status; your principles for promotion; your absolutes for our ambition; our souls for shallow and unsatisfying success. How easily we are seduced by power, prestige, pleasure, or possessions; seduced into violating our integrity or harming our fellowship with you. Forgive us our half-hearted devotion and our double-minded spirit. In the name of him who refused to save himself we pray.

*(People silently offer their personal confessions to God.)*

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Pastor: Friends, believe the Good News:  
People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

**Response****Glory Be to the Father**

#961

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.

**Scripture Reading****James 2:1-13**

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon****Who Are God's Favorites?****Offertory****Let There Be Peace on Earth**

(Sy Miller & Jill Jackson)

(Offerings are received weekly via mail and online giving at  
<https://villagechurchnorthbrook.org/give/>. Those attending live worship can  
 leave their donations in the offering plates in the Narthex.)

**Doxology****Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
 Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
 Praise Him, above ye heavenly hosts;  
 Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

**The Lord's Supper****Invitation to the Table****Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer****Words of Institution****Communion of the People****Communion Meditation****Love Divine**

(Malcolm Archer)

**Affirmation of Faith****The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
 Creator of heaven and earth

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
 Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and was born of the virgin Mary.  
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.  
 He descended into hell.  
 The third day he rose again from the dead.  
 He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
 From there he will come to judge the living 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.

## **Closing Hymn**

## **O Beautiful for Spacious Skies**

O beautiful for spacious skies; For amber waves of grain;  
For purple mountain majesties; Above the fruited plain;  
America, America, God shed His grace on thee.  
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for pilgrim feet; whose stern impassioned stress;  
A thoroughfare for freedom beat across the wilderness  
America, America, God mend thine ev'ry flaw;  
Confirm thy soul in self-control, Thy liberty in law.

O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife;  
Who more than self their country loved; And mercy more than life;  
America, America, may God thy gold refine;  
Till all success be nobleness and ev'ry gain divine.

O beautiful for patriot dream; That sees beyond the years;  
Thine alabaster cities gleam; Undimmed by human tears;  
America, America, God shed His grace on thee;  
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

## **Benediction**

## **Postlude**

## **Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**

(arr. John Carter)

**Scan the QR Code to connect to Realm.**



# Contemporary Service - 10:00 am

## Scripture for Meditation

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.  
(Romans 15:7)

## Prelude

## Welcome

## Call to Worship

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made.

**People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

## Praise and Prayer

### Alive and Breathing

CCLI #7138680 | Elle Limebear and Matt Maher  
© 2019 Be Essential Songs (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC),

## Prayer of Confession

### Who You Say

CCLI #7102401 | Ben Fielding and Reuben Morgan  
© 2017 Hillsong Music Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

## Announcements

## Scripture Reading

### James 2:1-13

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## Sermon

### Who Are God's Favorites?

## Offering

(Offerings are received weekly via mail and online giving at  
<https://villagechurchnorthbrook.org/give/> . Those attending live worship can  
leave their donations in the offering plates in the Narthex.)

### At the Cross

Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Jonas Myrin, Matt Armstrong, and Matt Redman  
CCLI #7017786; © Countless Wonder Publishing

## **The Lord's Supper**

**Invitation to the Table**

**Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

**Words of Institution**

**Communion of the People**

## **Affirmation of Faith**

## **The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and was born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living 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.

## **Closing Song**

## **Spirit of the Living God**

CCLI #7035191 | Jacob Sooter and Mia Fieldes  
© 2014 HBC Worship Music, Sony/ATV Cross Keys Publishing

## **Blessing**

## **Postlude**

### **WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

Welcome, Prayers & Sermon  
Director of Music  
Scripture Readers

Pianist (8:30)  
Soloist (8:30)  
Worship Band (10:00)

Guest Pianist (10:00)  
Audio/Visual Team

Rev. Greg Buell  
Ruth G. Heald  
Sandy Mauk (8:30)  
Lois Morris (10:00)  
Sharon Peterson  
Steve Taylor  
Carl Tobias (guitar); Christine Cheung (synthesizer)  
Ellen Westel & Matt Parks (vocals)  
Greg Smith  
Ed Burton, Kyle Johnston, Barunka Szamaranszky

All Music done by permission CCLI license #1582552

# Reflection Questions

## Connecting with One Another

- Who do you perceive is the favorite sibling in your family?
- Describe a time when you were on the receiving end of favoritism?
- Describe when you favored someone over another?

## Listening and Acting upon the Text

### Read James 2: 1-13

**Background:** James is the head of the church in Jerusalem and writing this letter to the scattered Christians who are facing hardship, suffering, illness, and persecution for their belief in Christ. He is providing them guidance and wisdom to endure in the faith and they are open to the advice from a trusted leader to persevere in the faith. In this section of chapter 2, James is lifting the challenge of the church to show favor to those who are already favored from a worldly standpoint.

- What are some of the examples of favoritism given by James in vs. 1-2?
- Who are the people you pay attention to in your life? To what degree does this reflect what you value in life?
- Why do you suppose God favors those who have little material wealth rather than those who have much?
- What is at stake when the poor are not lifted up? Also, what is at stake when we honor the rich? (vs. 5-7)
- What happens when we live out this new way of favoritism?
- What are some of the ways the rich can use the system of justice for their benefit?
- How do laws provide freedom in a society that continually says regarding ethics, “What is good for you, is good for you?” Is there an objective standard by which we understand what is right or wrong? If not, then what drives our decisions?
- When have you benefited from mercy over judgement? (vs. 13)
- **Bonus:** Jesus’ “royal law” is the great commandment from Jesus as stated in the Gospels. “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind and strength and love your neighbor as yourself.” In contrast, the royal law of Moses is the Ten Commandments. Look up Exodus 20 and read the 10 commandments. Reflect and consider whether you prefer Jesus royal law or Moses law, the Ten Commandments? Consider how Jesus summarizes and emphasis the commandments in a more universal manner.

## Talking with God

Spend some time asking God to reveal to you how to better live out Jesus’ command to “love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind and strength and your neighbor as yourself.” Pay special attention to the poor, those in need, and helpless. Ask God to reveal to you one way in which you can help the poor this week.