

Divine Worship

1 John 2.1-10 "Walking in the New Day"

Preparation

For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

Silent Meditation

Ephesians 5.8-10

Call to Worship

Leader:

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

2 Peter 1 (selections)

People:

His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue.

Leader:

Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for...so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Hymn of Praise

"Shout, for the Blessed Jesus Reigns!" vv. 1-4, by Benjamin Beddome

Shout, for the blessed Jesus reigns;
through distant lands His triumphs spread;
and sinners, freed from endless pains,
own Him their Savior and their Head.

He calls His chosen from afar;
they all at Zion's gates arrive;
those who were dead in sin before
by sov'reign grace are made alive.

Gentiles and Jews His laws obey;
nations remote their offerings bring,
and unconstrained their homage pay
to their exalted God and King.

O may His holy church increase,
His Word and Spirit still prevail,

while angels celebrate His praise,
and saints His growing glories hail.

Invocation and Call to Confession

Leader:

O Lord Jesus, You have made us, who were dead in our trespasses and sins, alive from the grave; and now we reign on high with You in glory! We thank You and praise You, Lord Jesus, and ask You to draw us near to You in this time of worship, that we might celebrate Your praise and sing our loud hallelujahs to You in the fullness of Your everlasting love. As we come to You today, Lord Jesus, we know that sin still lingers within us, still strives to gain the mastery over our soul, and still threatens to hinder our prayers and obstruct our worship. So we come to You now in silence, to confess our sins and be cleansed and renewed by Your Spirit. **Hear our silent confessions, Lord:**

Silent Confession

All

Word of Assurance

Leader:

We say "Hallelujah!" to You, Lord Jesus, for You have overcome sin, death, and the grave, and have seated us in the heavenly places with You, to rule together with You in the new day of salvation to which You have brought us. Thank You for forgiving our sins. **Receive our praise, O Lord!**

All (singing together v. 5 of "Shout, for the Blessed Jesus Reigns!"):

Loud hallelujahs to the Lamb,
from all below and all above!
In lofty songs exalt his name,
in songs as lasting as his love.

Prayers of Thanksgiving

All

Leader:

Let us offer our thanksgiving for the many blessings of the Lord. Our hymn provides some words to guide our prayers of thanksgiving, including, "freed from endless pains", "chosen", "made alive", "His laws", and "His Word and Spirit".

At the end, let the Leader lead the people in **praying the Lord's Prayer**.

Hymn of Thanksgiving

Psalm 105.1-5

(Warrington: [*Give to Our God Immortal Praise*](#))

Give thanks unto the Lord Most High;
call on His Name, before Him cry!
Make known His deeds in every land;
sing praise for all the works of His hand.

Glory in God, rejoice in heart,
all you who seek His holy part.
Him and His strength and presence seek;

His works proclaim, His judgments speak.

Offerings to the Lord

Leader:

Let us now bring our offerings of praise and honor to the Lord: a passage of Scripture which has been particularly helpful; a brief word of praise for some grace of God bestowed; an observation from creation which revealed the glory of the Lord; a word of appreciation for some aspect of the beauty, goodness, or truth of the Lord. When all have shared, the Leader shall pray:

Receive these our offerings, O Lord, and be glorified among us, as we rejoice together in Your goodness and love. We give You thanks and praise, O Lord, and offer our confession of faith together **(all together, reading 1 Corinthians 15.3-10, edited)**;

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received:
that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,
and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,
and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.

After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once,
of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep.

After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles.

Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle...

But by the grace of God I am what I am,
and His grace toward me was not in vain...

The Doxology

All

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!
Amen!

The Ministry of the Word

1 John 2.1-10

The Leader will read the passage for today, or ask another to read it.

Leader:

The Scriptures often speak of the day of salvation, which Jesus inaugurated in His resurrection and ascension, as a "new day." The new day has dawned, Peter declares, and we have the Word of God as the light for our path (2 Pet. 1.19). We have come into the light of a new day, Paul explained, and this means we must learn to walk in the light as Jesus is in the light. And he promises that, as we do, Jesus will give us light to guide us in all His ways (Eph. 5.8-14).

1. Why are "light" and "day" such excellent ways of thinking about the salvation we have in Jesus?

Jesus has ascended to the right hand of God, where, John tells us, He advocates for us, that we may not sin, and that even when we do, our sins may be forgiven as we confess and repent of them (1 Jn. 2.1, 2; 1.8, 9). We have been born again into the light of a new day; we no longer have to walk in the darkness of sin. Now we are the light of life in Jesus Christ.

But we must endeavor by every means to affirm and confirm our calling to the light of the new day. And John says this means walking as Jesus walked, according to the commandments of God.

2. Why are the commandments of God, and all His Law, such a good resource for helping us to walk in the light of the new day?

Would someone please read John 13.34, 35? John – following Jesus (Matt. 5.17-19) – did not intend to replace the Old Law, but to clarify and enlarge on it with a new law of love. The new commandment – to love as Jesus loves us (Jn. 13.15) – teaches us how to read the Old Law, so that we may walk in its light amid the sin and unbelief of a dark world.

3. How should having the love of Jesus as our guide help us in reading and obeying the Law of God?
4. What does John say about those who object to keeping the Law of God (1 Jn. 2.3-6)?
5. What is the effect on the sinful world when those who have been born into the light of the new day walk according to the light of God's Law (1 Jn. 2.8-10)?

God's Law is not burdensome, John says (1 Jn. 5.1-3). Rather, it liberates us (Jms. 2.12) from having to invent our own standards for living in the Kingdom of light, and frees us into the truth that is in Jesus Christ (Jn. 8.32).

We have been born again into a new day of light and love, and the path we walk is illuminated by the Old Law of God's commandments, as understood in the New Law of Jesus' love.

Meditate in silence on the teaching of 1 John 2.1-10.

All (sharing):

Summarize in one thought what God wants us to learn from this meditation.

Hymn of Commitment

(Warrington: [*Give to Our God Immortal Praise*](#))

Psalm 105.45

So let us all in our Savior confide,
and in His holy Law abide.
Let us observe His glorious Word,
and praise our sovereign, faithful Lord!

Benediction

Leader:

The darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining. Walk as children of light!

Divine Worship: 1 John 2.1-10: "Walking in the New Day"

All:

We will walk as Jesus walked, and may His holy Name be praised.

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