

Divine Worship

Hebrews 10.19-25
“Agents of Grace”

Preparation: Proverbs 27.17

As iron sharpens iron,
So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.

Silent Meditation

Call to Worship

Leader:

Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and *having* a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Hebrews 10.19-22

Hymn of Praise

“[We Are God’s People](#)” vv. 1-3

Fred Brock

We are God's people, the chosen of the Lord,
Born of His Spirit, established by His Word;
Our cornerstone is Christ alone,
And strong in Him we stand:
O let us live transparently
And walk heart to heart and hand in hand.

We are God’s loved ones, the Bride of Christ our Lord,
For we have known it, the love of God outpoured;
Now let us learn how to return
The gift of love once given:
O let us share each joy and care,
And live with a zeal that pleases Heaven.

We are the Body of which the Lord is Head,
Called to obey Him, now risen from the dead;
He wills us be a family,
Diverse yet truly one:
O let us give our gifts to God,
And so shall his work on earth be done.

Invocation and Call to Confession

Leader:

Lord Jesus, how can it be that we, who were once Your enemies, are now Your friends and people? How amazing is Your grace, O Lord, that You should choose, redeem, call, save, indwell, and sanctify us as Your own heritage and flock! We come before You with praise and thanksgiving, bringing ourselves and our lives to worship and proclaim You in all our ways. Yet we know ourselves, Lord, and we know that in Your presence, no one is holy or pure. So we come with praise, and we come with confession, that we may be cleansed and renewed to worship You in Spirit and in truth. **Hear our silent confessions, Lord.**

Silent Confession

All

Word of Assurance

Hebrews 10.22 (adapted)

Leader:

We thank You, Lord Jesus, that by Your blood You have sprinkled our hearts from an evil conscience, and You have washed our bodies with the pure water of Your Holy Spirit.

People:

Thanks be to God!

Hymn of Assurance

“We Are God’s People” v. 4

Fred Brock

We are a temple, the Spirit’s dwelling place,
Formed in great weakness, a cup to hold God’s grace.
We die alone, for on its own
Each ember loses fire:
Yet joined in one the flame burns on
To give warmth and light, and to inspire.

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Psalm 141.2

All may offer prayers of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord. **The Leader shall close by leading the people in this prayer of thanksgiving from Psalm 141.2: “Let us join our voices together as we pray...”**

All:

Let my prayer be set before You *as* incense,
The lifting up of my hands *as* the evening sacrifice.

Offerings to the Lord

Leader:

Let us now bring our offerings to honor the Lord and edify one another by His Word: 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**:

We give You thanks and praise, O Lord, and offer our confession of faith together (**all together, saying 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 Ghost,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again 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 Ghost,

the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

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!

Prayers of the People

All may offer prayers of intercession or supplication, seeking mercy and grace to help in our time of need. **At the end, let the Leader lead the people in praying the Lord's Prayer.**

The Ministry of the Word

Hebrews 10.19-25

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

None of us is an island. Each of us is involved in a network of relationships, some near and dear, others more occasional, casual, or occupational. All the people in our lives are image-bearers of God. This means that, among other things, they have vast potential for increasing in the knowledge of God, becoming more like Jesus, and being an agent of grace and goodness in a world where these are sorely lacking.

But none of us can realize this great and vast potential on our own. We need the grace of the Lord to move and empower us for good works; and it pleases God to channel that grace to us, at least in part, through the other people in our lives. And more to our point today, it pleases God to use us as agents of grace to the people He sends us to each week.

How can we fulfill this high and holy calling? The writer of Hebrews offers some very helpful guidelines.

First, we must continually present ourselves before the Lord Jesus (vv. 19-22).

1. Why must we start here in fulfilling our calling as agents of grace to the people in our lives?
2. What should be the goal of the time we spend in the presence of Jesus?

Second, we need to make sure our "confession" is firm and at the ready (v. 23).

3. What does the writer mean by "the confession of our hope"?
4. What can we do to keep that hope "unwavering"?

Third, the writer calls us to "consider one another" (v. 24).

5. When should we do that?
6. *How* should we consider one another?

7. What should be our goal in considering one another?
8. How does gathering together in worship help us to fulfill this important role of considering others to stimulate them to love and good works?

The grace of God travels throughout the world in the relationships we have with the people to whom God sends us each day. The goal of all our relationships must be good works done in love. For this is what our Father did in sending Jesus; and this is what Jesus did in dying for our sins and rising again to give us life. We are most like Jesus when, cleansed of our sins, thinking ahead in prayer, and going to others as agents of grace, we manage to encourage, affirm, and help others increase in love and good works.

What's the most important insight you've gained from this study today?

Hymn of Commitment

Psalm 28.6-9

(Angel's Story: [O Jesus, I Have Promised](#))

Blessed be the Name of Jesus, for He will hear our prayer.
His strength protects and shields us with mercy and with care.
In You our heart rejoices; You help us by Your Word.
To You we raise our voices to praise and thank You, Lord.

Our strength are You, O Savior, our strong defense and sure.
Anointed with Your favor, we rest in You secure.
Save us, and bless us, Jesus, upon us turn Your face.
With shepherd's care, Lord, keep us forever in Your grace.

Benediction

Hebrews 10.23 (adapted)

Leader:

Hold fast your confession, then, and go in the grace of Jesus, to be an agent of grace to the people in your world, considering and stimulating them for love and good works in the Name of the Lord.

All:

Amen.

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