

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: We do not gather in vain,
for God is working in our hearts

All: The love of Jesus Christ calls us together

One: Our worship strengthens and empowers us
to share the gospel

All: The love of Jesus Christ shines in our lives

One: Proclaim the good news with boldness

All: The love of Jesus Christ is at work in the world!

Gathering Song: A Mighty Fortress is Our God

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper, He amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He, Lord Sabaoth His name,
From age to age the same, and He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him; His rage we can endure,
for lo! His doom is sure, one little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sideth;
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also; the body they may kill,
God's truth abideth still, His kingdom is forever.

Frederick Henry Hedge and Martin Luther**

PRAISING

Prayer of Adoration

Let us come to the Lord together in the prayer of adoration. We lift our voices to you in one accord, for you are the God who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and everything in them. Before the foundations of the world were laid, you were there; and when the empires of this world have faded into dust, you will remain.

We adore you as the true Source of all authority and the Author of peace. On this President's Day weekend, we praise you that your throne is higher than any earthly seat of power. While we honor those who have led our nation, we worship You as the King of kings and Lord of lords.

We marvel at your providence—that even when the nations rage and the rulers of the earth take counsel together, nothing happens outside of your holy will. We praise you for the "Cornerstone," Jesus Christ, in whom we find our firm foundation and our only hope. Holy Spirit, fill this place and our hearts with your majesty, that we might see your glory as the early church did, and respond with lives of joyful praise. To the only wise God be glory, majesty, dominion, and power, now and forever. Amen.

Song of Adoration: Christ Our Hope in Life and Death

What is our hope in life and death? Christ alone, Christ alone.

What is our only confidence? That our souls to Him belong.

Who holds our days within His hand? What comes, apart from His command?

And what will keep us to the end? The love of Christ, in which we stand.

Refrain: O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal!

O sing hallelujah! Now and ever we confess Christ our hope in life and death.

What truth can calm the troubled soul? God is good, God is good.

Where is His grace and goodness known? In our great Redeemer's blood.

Who holds our faith when fears arise? Who stands above the stormy trial?

Who sends the waves that bring us nigh unto the shore, the rock of Christ? *Refrain*

Unto the grave, what will we sing? "Christ, He lives; Christ, He lives!"

And what reward will heaven bring? Everlasting life with Him.

There we will rise to meet the Lord, then sin and death will be destroyed,

and we will feast in endless joy, when Christ is ours forevermore. *Refrain*

Keith Getty, Matt Boswell, Jordan Kauffin, Matthew Merker and Matt Papa**

BELONGING

Kids on the Steps

Call to Confession: Trinity Song

Holy Father, Son and Spirit, Holy Communion, Three in One.

Come with Your peace, with Your invitation, bind us together in Holy Love.

Sandra McCracken**

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Forgiveness

Merciful God, we confess that we often reject the very Stone you have made the cornerstone. We build our lives on the shifting sands of our own comfort and the approval of others, rather than on the name of Jesus Christ.

We admit that we are often silenced by fear. Like the council of old, we sometimes try to "warn" others away from the radical demands of the Gospel because it disrupts our status quo. We have failed to speak of what we have seen and heard.

Forgive us, Lord. Realign our hearts to the truth that there is salvation in no one else. Break our silence and embolden our witness. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear the Good News: "There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among your people by which we must be saved." In the name of Jesus Christ, the Cornerstone who was rejected but is now exalted, your sins are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God!

STEWARDING

Invitation to Offering

Offering Song: Speak, O Lord

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You to receive the food of Your holy word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us; shape and fashion us in Your likeness.
That the light of Christ might be seen today in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us all Your purposes, for Your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience, holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes in the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see Your majestic love and authority.
Words of power that can never fail; let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds; help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time, that will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises; and by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built and the earth is filled with Your glory.

Keith Getty and Stuart Townend**

FORMING

Sermon: Acts 4:1-31

New International Version

Peter and John Before the Sanhedrin

4 The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. 2 They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. 3 They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. 4 But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand.

5 The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. 6 Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family. 7 They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"

8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! 9 If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, 10 then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. 11 Jesus is

"the stone you builders rejected,

which has become the cornerstone.'[a]

12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

13 When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. 14 But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. 15 So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together.

16 "What are we going to do with these men?" they asked. "Everyone living in Jerusalem knows they have performed a notable sign, and we cannot deny it. 17 But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn them to speak no longer to anyone in this name."

18 Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John replied, "Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! 20 As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

21 After further threats they let them go. They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened. 22 For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old.

The Believers Pray

23 On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. 24 When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. 25 You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David:

"Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?

26

The kings of the earth rise up
and the rulers band together
against the Lord
and against his anointed one.[b'][c]

27 Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. 28 They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. 29 Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. 30 Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

Song of Response: Rock of Ages

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee.
Let the water and the blood, from Thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure; save from wrath and make me pure.

Not the labors of my hands can fulfill Thy law's demands.
Could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling.
Naked, come to Thee for dress; helpless, look to Thee for grace.
Foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyes shall close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown, see Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee.

Augustus Montague Toplady and Thomas Hastings**

Prayers of the People

Sovereign God, Maker of heaven and earth, you are the one who spoke through the mouth of your servant David and who continues to speak through your Church today. We bring our petitions before you, trusting in your holy plan:

Lord, look upon the threats and the distractions of our present world. Grant to your servants the grace to speak your word with all boldness. May we, like Peter and John, be so filled with your Spirit that we cannot help but speak of what we have seen and heard of your love.

On this weekend of remembrance, we give thanks for our leaders who have sought to guide this nation with integrity and justice. We pray for those who lead and govern us. In a world where the "nations rage," grant our leaders a spirit of peace. Help them to remember that they are accountable to you, the King of kings, and lead them to protect the vulnerable and uphold the dignity of every person.

Stretch out your hand to heal. We pray for those in our community struggling with illness, those facing the shadows of grief, and those who feel the weight of poverty or injustice. May your power be known in their lives as a source of restoration and hope. We take a moment of silence to name those who are in need. (Silence)

As the early believers were of one heart and soul, draw us closer to one another. Help us to hold our possessions loosely and our neighbors dearly, that there may be no needy person among us.

Gathering these prayers, and those we hold in the silence of our hearts, we pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us, saying:

ALL: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power, and the glory forever.

AMEN

SENDING

Sending Song: Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer.
There is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom,
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.
To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus
for my life is wholly bound to his.
Oh, how strange and divine, I can sing, all is mine!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

The night is dark, but I am not forsaken,
for by my side, the Savior, he will stay.
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing,
for in my need, his power is displayed.
To this I hold: my Shepherd will defend me;
through the deepest valley he will lead.
Oh, the night has been won, and I shall overcome:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven.
The future sure, the price, it has been paid.
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,
and he was raised to overthrow the grave.
To this I hold: my sin has been defeated!
Jesus now and ever is my plea.
Oh, the chains are released; I can sing, I am free!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

With every breath, I long to follow Jesus,
for he has said that he will bring me home.
And day by day, I know he will renew me
until I stand with joy before the throne.
To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus.
All the glory evermore to him.
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson and Michael Farren**

Leading in Worship This Morning:

Liturgist: Martha Ripley
Kids on the Steps: Melinda Hickey
Sermon: Steve Lympus

Musicians: Chris Caldwell, Michael Gray, Simon Hill, Annie Hill
Sound and Video Techs: Zane Reneau, Dan McCaffery, Ron Righter

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FPC Ministry Staff:

Pastor: Dan Cravy

Children, Youth and Family Director: Sarah Henning

Music Director: Noah Hill

Worship Coordinator: Allie McAdow

Church Operations Manager: Becky Kress

Program Support Administrator: Jo Ruby

Facilities Manager: Wes Keller

Church Secretary: Lori Wheeler

Bell Choir Director: Tomi Kent

Parish Associates: Rev. Janet Malone and Rev. Bob Schurr
Preaching Pastor, Blackfoot Church of the Potomac: Natalie Mauer