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# WORSHIP AT HOME

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## Prelude



### Opening Hymn:

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way, still you're right beside me, and nothing will I fear as long as you are near. Please be near see to the end.

*One on stone the  
other on paper.  
Neither have eyes,  
ears, mouth,  
heart, mind, or  
soul! People do!*

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## Welcome

From that time on, yes, even today, Jesus says, “Repent, the Kingdom of Heaven has come near.”

**Lord, lead us not into our temptation to return to the Old Covenant we continually break.**

**Deliver us through Jesus’ mercy. Free us to place our faith in the power and authority of your Grace. Heal our heart-soul-mind with your unconditional love.**

**Give us eyes to see you are with us now and always. Give us ears to hear Your Still small voice whisper, Peace, be still.” Open our mouths in thanksgiving and praise of the Good News of Christ Jesus, our Lord.**

## Special Music

## Prayer

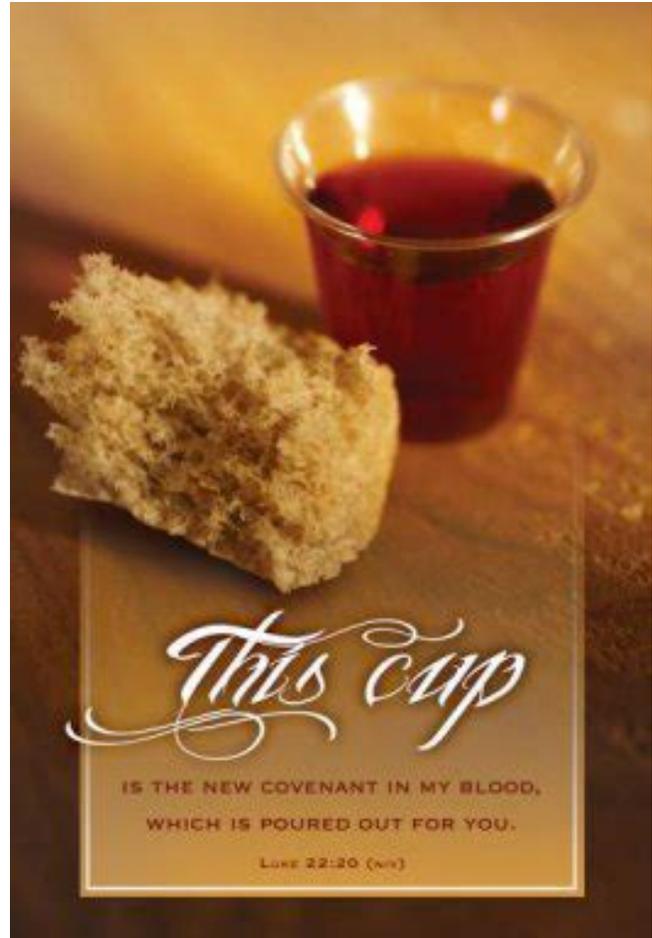
**Lord, when we see sin, give us ears to hear Jesus. Under the heavy burden of all our sin he cried, “My God, my God why have you forsaken me.”**

The giver of the two covenants is God. God is inerrant and infallible, not the paper, stone, technology, or reader. *(Silent Meditation: Who do you know who thinks they are unworthy of God’s unconditional, unmerited Mercy, Grace, and Love? Who do you count unworthy or blame? How about yourself? Jesus suffered and cried to God on behalf of everyone.)*

ROBERT

**Lord, when we hear our neighbors’ forsaken cries, lead us by faith to join Jesus in His prayer, “Father, forgive them, they do not know what they are doing.”**

*(Meditation: “God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.2 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. 2 And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the*



**This Covenant invites us to God’s Table!**

*seventh day from all the work that he had done. Genesis 1:29 -2:2 From the Cross Jesus says, "It is finished." John 19:30 How does Jesus' words fulfill the Old Covenant." )*

**Lord, when we look for the "right" to make things "good" let us see Jesus abiding in your grace, suffering with mercy, to reveal your unconditional Love.**

**Come Holy Spirit. Come into our hearts and minds. Come to lead us in the Way of Life in Christ.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Amen**

## Hymn:

Now I will not forget your love for me and yet my heart forever is wandering. Jesus be my guide and hold me to your side, and I will love you till the end. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

## Scripture:

Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, **6** but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. Exodus 19: 5-6

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." **27** Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; **28** for this is my blood of the [c]ovenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. **29** I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

## Instrumental Meditation:

## Message: Two Covenants

Take a Bible in your hands. You hold two covenants. One Covenant is conditional. **If you do this, I will give you that.** In other words, we work for it. The other covenant is unconditional. **I will do this to give you that.** In other words, we deny self to receive an unmerited gift! The Conditional Covenant requires work to be righteous. The Unconditional Covenant is based on love that flows through grace which we experienced as mercy.

People who live according to the Old Covenant, the conditional covenant, judge self and neighbor according to behaviors and actions. Behaviors and actions are outward signs used to judge self or neighbor to be right or wrong; good or evil; acceptable or rejected. This is The Fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.

People who live according to the New Covenant, the unconditional covenant, see self and neighbor living in Christ Jesus. Jesus suffers with mercy. His mercy flows from the soul which is center in God's Grace. Grace is the heart and mind abiding in God's presence, through the power and authority of the Holy Spirit. Mercy therefore is like treasure stored in heaven. God's will is that we bring heavenly ways to light through our lives on earth.

Jesus says, "Where your treasure is there your heart shall be also." Herein the body is a treasure chest. The treasure abides in the heart-soul-mind. When we treasure the Conditional Covenant we center our lives in good and evil. When we treasure the Unconditional Covenant we center our lives in Christ's mercy, grace, and love.

Herein "heart" means center or inside. Again, the body is the treasure chest. Our behaviors and action rise up from our center. If we desire to change our behaviors and actions we must shift our focus from the outside to the inside. As Paul says, we are not in a battle with flesh and blood but the powers and principalities of this present darkness.

Friends we are in a spiritual battle. Furthermore, having eyes to see physical things and ears to hear physical sounds we continue to fight, divide, and judge one another based on behaviors and actions, which are spiritual.

Once we shift our focus to the center we enter the realm of the spirit. It should not shock us to discover that every physical thing contains energy. The human body needs physical food, which gives its energy. In the same way the heart and mind are physical organs that receive and give energy the Bible calls spirits.

The Bible in your hands contains two witnesses. Both Covenants give witness to God. The Conditional Covenant gives witness to humankind's knowledge and experience of God. The Unconditional Covenant is told from the perspective of God in a human body who suffers his neighbor's judgement, condemnation, and death with mercy, abiding in the Spirit of Grace, while overflowing with Love, Light, and Life!

The Bible in your hands contains two covenants. It gives two distinct witnesses. The one you hold in your hand may be printed on paper, itched on tablets of stone, or viewed through digital technology. The giver of the two covenants is God. God is inerrant and infallible, not the paper, stone, technology, or reader.

Jesus mediates the Two Covenants. His call to repentance is an invitation to turn from the Conditional Covenant to learn to think, feel, and act like him. He invites us to turn from the altar of sacrifice to join him at the table God prepares for us in the presence of our enemies. Jesus tells us our enemies are Satan, Sin, and Judgement, not the sinners and tax collectors. Jesus commands his disciples to pray for those who persecute them, and love their enemies. Herein love is a spirit of patience, not affection. Affection is a behavior. Patience abides in Grace and reveals God's unconditional Love/Agape.

Jesus's way of prayer opens our hearts and minds to the Holy Spirit's power to deliver us through the merciful acts of Christ Jesus. Prayer, therefore, is the door to repentance. The Holy Spirit leads us to take the outward view of life into the soul, the center of our being!

God created the soul in the image of: God, the Father; God, the Son; God, the Holy Spirit. Through prayer: Jesus teaches us the spirit of mercy; the Holy Spirit leads us into God's Grace; The Father heals our hearts and minds with unconditional Love.

His way of prayer encompasses yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Thus we pray always. Moreover, when we do not know how to pray the Holy Spirit is interceding on our behalf. Jesus' way is NOW. Now is always a taste of eternity. This is what Jesus means when he tells his disciple, "Look, I AM with you always even to the end of the age!" To see Him look not at behaviors or actions. Look at self and neighbor through Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection.

In recent weeks I have repeated Nancy Toney's children's message. "The Cross is God's plus sign!" Standing between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant is a Roman Cross. It is foolishness to the world of legalistic, liberal, and progressive religion, government, and institutions. It is deliverance and healing for the cursed who seek God's the blessing.

Many seek it. Few find it. To find it disciples deny themselves their Old Covenant ways. They take up their cross, like Jesus, to bless those who curse them. Mercy did not change Jesus' persecutors and enemies. Mercy freed him to trust the Father's Grace and Love. This is why Jesus said to his disciples, "You will not only do the same things I have done, but even greater things."

Why is our acts of mercy greater than his. Even under the weight of all of humanities' sin Jesus knew the Father's love and felt the Holy Spirit's presence. He denied the power and authority of Sin, not God. We have all denied God to walk in the ways of sin, self, religion, and government.

The saying is true, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven." Of course we must first count ourselves among the poor - the cursed - before we will take up our cross to bless those who curse us. For such is the way Jesus calls his disciples to follow Him.

Take the Bible in your hands. Deny yourself your love of being "right and good". Take up your cross. Bless those who curse you. Jesus took up his cross to bless us all. Give to Cesar, government and religious leaders, what belongs to them. Give to God all your heart-soul-mind.

The Kingdom of Heaven is made of God's mercy, grace, and love. The world is made of laws, ethics, and morals. As Paul says, we live in the world but not of it. So you keep the Laws. Good for you. You have your reward. You are ethical and moral. Good for you. You have received the approval of many. Now is the time. Today is the day of salvation. Your body is a Treasure Chest. The treasure is Christ in you, delivering you, healing you, and reaching other through your witness.

Life is more than this body. Life is more than a thought or feeling of being right and good. Life is...in Christ, eternally! Jesus' Mercy illumines the way to follow the Holy Spirit into God's Grace to be healed with Love that is experienced as patience, peace, and joy.

Amen.

## 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.  
On the third day he rose from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on 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.

## Tithes and Offering

Report on Our Heating and Air Capital Campaign

Cash: \$20,165

Pledged: \$1,500

Subtotal: \$21,665

Total Needed: \$26,720

Amount needed to fully fund the expenditure: \$5,055

We have filed a claim with our insurance company to see if they cover the power surge that destroyed the AC compressor.

Thank you for your generosity and commitment to care for the physical comfort of the congregation.

## **Benediction**

Jesus is with us always. Look for him in suffering. Seek him with mercy. Walk humbly with God who abides with us through Grace. Amen