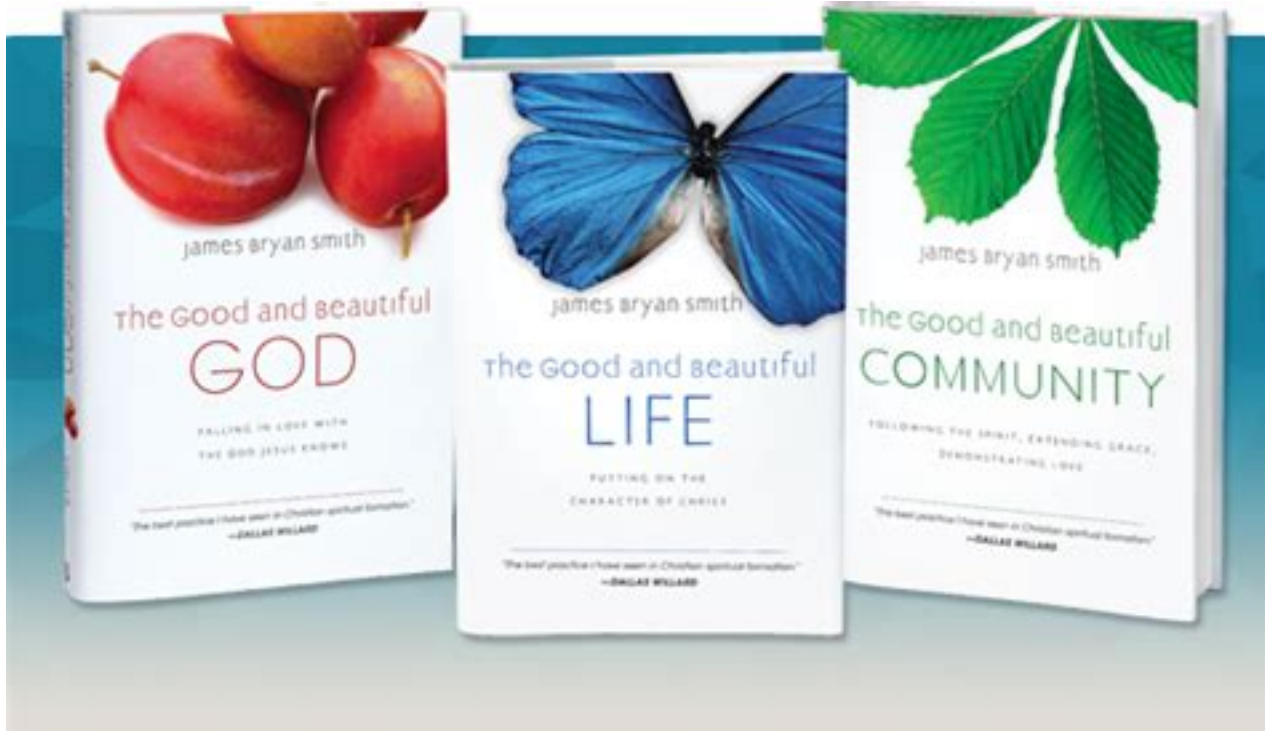


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# WORSHIP AT HOME

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## Prelude



## Opening Hymn:

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessings; he chastens and hastens his will to make known. The wicked pressing nor cease from distressing. Sing Praises to his name; he forgets not his own.

## Welcome

The Lord be in you!

**The Lord is with us always!**

Let us recognize a "few things" in which the Lord

Molestie ornare amet  
vel id, rem volutpat  
platea. Magnis vel,  
lacinia nisl, vel nostra  
nunc eleifend arcu leo.

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finds us trustworthy.

**Lord, we seek to live ethical and moral lives. We desire to be “right and good” people. We render unto Caesar patriotism and taxes.**

His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master. Matthew 25: 23

**Lord, what are the “many things” in which you charge us?**

Special Music

## Prayer

**Lord, in Christ you bless us with many things. In our suffering you charge us with mercy. When we think and feel the World is killing us, you lead from mercy unto mercy until we abide with you in grace.**

**Lord, your Love is many things. Charge us with Peace made of kindness. Let our kindness be experienced as generosity that never insist on its way. Deliver us into your Peace. Let your Peace fill our hearts with Joy.**

A Disciple is an  
Apprentice of Jesus’  
mercy, grace, and  
love.

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**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Amen**

## Hymn:

## Scripture:

“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.” Matthew 6:2-4

“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. Matthew 6:5-6

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. **20** But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. **21** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also Matthew 6:19-21

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## The Tree of Life grows in the same Garden as the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.

ROBERT



## Instrumental Meditation:

Where in your body are you suffering sickness, disease, or affliction? Now, turn your focus inward. Follow your body - pain into the center of your body. Describe how your body-pain makes you think about yourself. (Mind) Describe how you feel about yourself. (Heart) Notice that the way you think and feel about your self overflows to your neighbor.

Jesus suffers physical pain. The physical pain afflicts his mind and heart. He experiences people betraying and denying God's call and will for his life. The Holy Spirit delivers him from the temptation to harm those who harm him. Throughout his Ministry he simply turns the other cheek. Walking away and letting

people be is the cheek known as mercy. Our Mercy-Offerings seldom changes our neighbor. Mercy frees us to celebrate Peace with God and self. Such love draws people to Christ who live in you!

## Message:

### Merit Badges and Rewards

James Bryan Smith redeems the meaning of the word Disciple by inviting us to be Jesus' Apprentices. He contends that "False Narratives" teach us to believe in Jesus while being mastered by the Old Testament Conditional Covenants. "If you will do this, I will give you that." He invites Apprentices to learn to love the God Jesus knows. To distinguish the False Narratives from Jesus' Narratives he encourages Apprentices with weekly "Soul Practices".

An Apprentice works alongside a person who has mastered a trade, business, or art. Apprentices receive their Master's Reward. How many rewards have you received?

1. Those who live a moral life receive the reward of community acceptance.
2. Those who live a political life receive their party's reward. They bestow upon us the elite status of being Conservative, Liberal, or Progressive.
3. Those who work hard, show up on time, and do a good job receive their employer's reward. Employers give rewards like a pay check, raises, benefits like 401k and health insurance, promotions, and plaques.
4. Those who live a religious life receive their denominations blessing. "If you keep our doctrines, we promise you will get into heaven when you die."

All of these rewards come from a conditional covenant. "If you do this, I will give you that." Such is the way of the World. As Good as these rewards may be; they do not teach us how to master a life of Peace, Joy, and Love.

Apprentices experience how God created humanity in God's image. God created us from the dust of the earth. Jesus' revealed God's nature living in a physical body like ours. God breathed into Adam. God's breath gives life to the heart of the body. (Herein I write about all of the internal organs, cells, and tissue including the mind.) God's breath is also Spirit-Power, Fire, the fuel of Life. The Bible speaks of Life as Love. Love celebrates the unity of the body, heart, and spirit. Love bears the fruit of Peace and Joy.

The Tree of Life grows in the same Garden as the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. We live in a World that consumes the fruit of Good and Evil. Apprentice live in the World with purpose. Apprentices introduce their neighbors to the God Jesus loves

I hope and pray you will spend the next few months in Sunday school, small groups, or gathered at places like the Ugly Mug. The Apprentice Series offers Hope. It teaches us the way of Faith. Apprentices are known by their Love. Apprentices grow the body of Christ. Managers maintain buildings, budgets, traditions, and programs. Both are necessary for God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Managers live and die by deadlines. Apprentices live eternally, which includes this moment of time! Managers want their work seen. Apprentices want people to see Christ Jesus in them. Both receive their respective rewards.

### **Jesus' Apprentices Master Mercy**

“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.”

Jesus is the Master of the Righteous Life. He masters life by blessing those who curse/harm him. He teaches his Apprentices to master their wounds/suffering with mercy.

1. Works Righteousness teaches us receive our neighbor's Reward.
2. The Holy Spirit led Jesus not into temptation but delivered him from conforming to his neighbors rewards.
3. Have you noticed that EVIL is our backward understanding of what it means to LIVE.
4. The Holy Spirit delivered Jesus from such evil. As Paul says, We are not in a battle with flesh and blood. Our battle is with evil, satan, and systems built on Conditional Covenants.

### **Jesus teaches his Apprentices to master death with Prayer.**

“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.

Prayer is the practice of listening to God's still small voice. Through prayer the Holy Spirit leads us to receive God's mercy and then ushers Apprentices into God Grace. (Sin separates people from God. Grace unites Apprentices in Christ who lives in God's presence.)

1. The Physical Body needs the sound of words to hear.
2. Our spirit needs silence to hear the Holy Spirit.
3. The Mind and Heart needs Peace with God to be still and listen.

Prayer brings the Body, Spirit, Mind-Heart into unity (The Soul) to reflect the image of God.

### **Jesus Teaches his Apprentices to master Peace with Love.**

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. **20** But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. **21** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also

All Conditional Covenants are based on merit, They are superficial. They teach us to judge people based on their actions and behaviors.

The New Covenant is based on the Good News of Christ Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection. Apprentices suffer their neighbors actions and behaviors. Like Jesus, Apprentices suffer with mercy. Mercy frees Apprentices from their neighbor's power, control, authority, and reward systems. Mercy changes the Apprentice, not the neighbor.

Mercy frees Apprentices from sin to abide in Christ, with God, through the Holy Spirit, in Grace. Grace heals the wounds of sin with Peace, Joy, and Love. (See the Fruit of the Spirit Galatians 5:22-26.) Jesus teaches Apprentices the Way the Body, Mind-Heart, and Spirit are woven together to reflect God's Image.

We live a world that defines love with conditional covenants. Jesus defines love with the unconditional covenant. Jesus' love reveals the Kingdom of Heaven. Remember, to look, he is with us always.

Jesus' Apprentices practice bringing God's treasures from heaven to earth. Mercy, Grace, Peace, Joy, and Faith are heaven's treasures.

I came to Trinity wounded and in need of God's healing. Through Sunday school, small groups, and time at the Ugly Mug, God began a daily process of healing of my Body, Heart, and Spirit. Thank you for sending me back into the World as a Wounded - Healer who invites people to become Jesus' Apprentices. I hope you will consider James Bryan Smith's books for Sunday school.

## **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**

Thank you for your generosity. We are about \$4000 from reaching our goal. It looks like the Insurance Company will cover some of the balance. The HBAC units for the Sanctuary and Parsonage are ordered. Thank you for your patience as supply chains remain in short supply of goods and delivery is slow.

## **Benediction**

Lord, in suffering Jesus reveals mercy. In physical death, Jesus reveals faith and hope. On the first day of the week, Jesus rose in Life - Eternal. Amen.