



## ORDER OF WORSHIP | SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

\*Indicates times when those who are able may stand.

**PRE-WORSHIP MUSIC** | Playlist by Tech Team

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS** | Kay Black

**\*OPENING Hymns** | "Be Thou My Vision"

**SERMON** | Bob Rambo | "Divine Initiative"

**TEXT:** Ezra 1:1-5

*In the first year of King Cyrus of Persia, the Lord fulfilled the prophecy he had given through Jeremiah. (God) stirred the heart of Cyrus to put this proclamation in writing and to send it throughout his kingdom: **2** "This is what King Cyrus of Persia says: The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth. He has appointed me to build him a Temple at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. **3** Any of you who are his people may go to Jerusalem in Judah to rebuild this Temple of the Lord, the God of Israel, who lives in Jerusalem. And may your God be with you! **4** Wherever this Jewish remnant is found, let their neighbors contribute toward their expenses by giving them silver and gold, supplies for the journey, and livestock, as well as a voluntary offering for the Temple of God in Jerusalem. **5** Then God stirred the hearts of the priests and Levites and the leaders of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin to go to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple of the Lord.*

*This is the word of God for the people of God.*

**THANKS BE TO GOD!**

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## **SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION | Bob Rambo**

### **THE INVITATION:**

**(L)** Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin, who seek to live in charity with their neighbors, and intend to live a holy life. Let us confess our sins together:

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

**(ALL)** *Almighty and merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart, we have failed to be an obedient church, and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.*

*We repent of our sins and ask for your mercy. Forgive our sins, pardon us of all that is in our past, and help us to follow you in new life to the glory of your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### **WORDS OF PARDON:**

**(L)** God has promised forgiveness to all who repent and turn in faith to him. May the Lord have mercy on you, pardon and deliver you from sin, strengthen you to live as children of God, and bring you to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **THE OFFERING OF PEACE:**

**(L)** God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. The peace of God be with you.

**(All)** *And with your spirit.*

**(L)** As forgiven and reconciled people, let us offer the peace of Christ to one another.

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## **A “GENEROSITY MOMENT” & OFFERTORY PRAYER | Kay Black**

**OFFERTORY | “To You I Lift My Soul”**

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## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:

**(L)** The Lord be with you.

**(ALL)** *And also with you.*

**(L)** Lift up your hearts.

**(ALL)** *We lift them up to the Lord.*

**(L)** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**(ALL)** *It is good and right to give him thanks and praise!*

**(L)** It is right to give thanks to you, Almighty God. You are the source of all life, love, and truth. You made us in your own image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we rebelled and turned away from you, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore, with all the company of heaven, we praise you and sing glory to your name:

**(ALL)** *Holy, holy, holy! God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory! Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!*

**(L)** All praise and glory is yours, Almighty Father, for in your mercy you sent your only son Jesus Christ into the world. Your Spirit anointed him to bring good news to the poor, to bind up the brokenhearted, to comfort those who mourn, to proclaim freedom for captives, to set at liberty all who are oppressed, and to announce the year of the Lord's favor.

In obedience to your will, he offered himself on the cross as a sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Through his life, death, and resurrection, he broke the powers of Sin and Death and ascended to the place of highest honor at your right hand in glory. Because of Him, we can come before you with confidence.

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, gave thanks for it, and broke it. He then gave it to his disciples saying: *Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.*

After the supper, Jesus took the cup; and when he had given thanks to you, he gave it to them saying: *Drink this, all of you; for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.*

Therefore, together we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**(ALL) *Christ has died.***

***Christ is risen.***

***Christ will come again.***

**(L)** Heavenly Father, sanctify these gifts of bread and wine that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit make us one with Christ and one as your church, that Christ may dwell in us and we in him. We ask this through your Son, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory forever.

**(ALL) *Amen.***

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**(L)** And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

**(ALL) *Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.***

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## **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE BLESSING OF THE CUP**

**(L)** The body of our Lord Jesus, given for you.

The blood of our Lord Jesus, shed for you.

This is God's table and all who seek to draw near to God are invited to come.

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

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## **PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING:**

**(ALL) *Heavenly Father, thank you for this holy mystery. Send us now into the world to do the work you have called us to do. Help us to serve you as faithful servants of Christ our Lord through the power of your Spirit. Amen.***

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**\*CLOSING HYMN** | *“Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God”*

**\*SENDING FORTH** | Bob Rambo

**\*MUSIC FOR OUR DEPARTING** | Tech Team Playlist



# STARKVILLE

GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH

**Sermon Title**

**Today's Date**

**Sermon Notes**

**Key Verses**

**Key Takeaways**