

Written Service-Sept 13

Pianist- Chrissy Martinez

Praise Team- Emily, Katie, Collen on guitar, and Jeremy on drums

Praise Team Songs-Power of the Cross and The Wonderful Cross

Special Music- Jeremy singing Red Letters

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

L: As we gather, we come together as people of the cross and resurrection.

C: We come as children of the Father

L: Reconciled by grace through the Son

And filled with God's love through the Spirit

Song-The Power of the Cross

O to see the dawn
of the darkest day,
Christ on the road
to Calvary.

Tried by sinful men,
torn and beaten then
nailed to a cross of wood.

This the pow'r
of the cross;
Christ become
sin for us.

Took the blame,
bore the wrath;
we stand forgiven at the cross.

O to see the pain
written on Your face
Bearing the awesome
weight of sin.

Ev'ry bitter thought,
evr'y evil deed,
crowning Your bloodstained brow.

This the pow'r
of the cross;
Christ become
sin for us.

Took the blame,
bore the wrath;
we stand forgiven at the cross.

O to see my name
written in the wounds,
For thought Your suff'ring
I am free.

Death is crushed to death,
life is mine to live,
Won through Your selfless love!

This the pow'r
of the cross;
Son of God
slain for us.

What a love,
what a cost.
We stand forgiven at the cross.

Prayer

Song-The Wonderful Cross

When I survey
the wondrous cross
on which the Prince
of Glory died,

My richest gain
I count but loss,
and pour contempt
on all my pride.

See, from His head,
His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love

flow mingled down.

Did e'er such love
and sorrow meet?
Or thorns compose
so rich a crown?

O the wonderful cross,
O the wonderful cross,
Bids me come and die,
and find that I may truly live.

O the wonderful cross,
O the wonderful cross,
all who gather here
by grace draw near and bless Your name.

Were the whole realm
of nature mine,
that were an offering
far too small.

Love so amazing
so divine,
demands my soul,
my life, my all.

O the wonderful cross,
O the wonderful cross,
Bids me come and die,
and find that I may truly live.

O the wonderful cross,
O the wonderful cross,
all who gather here
by grace draw near and bless Your name.

Announcements

Special Music-Jeremy Russell singing Red Letters

Congregational Prayer

Hymn #323 At the Cross (1, 3, 4)

VERSE 1

Alas, and did my Savior bleed,
And did my Sov'reign die?
Would He devote that sacred head
For sinners such as I?

CHORUS

At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light,
And the burden of my heart rolled away
It was there by faith I received my sight,
And now I am happy all the day!

VERSE 3

Well might the sun in darkness hide,
And shut his glories in,
When Christ the mighty Maker died
For man, the creature's sin.

CHORUS

At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light,
And the burden of my heart rolled away
It was there by faith I received my sight,
And now I am happy all the day!

VERSE 4

Thus might I hide my blushing face
While Calvary's cross appears,
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
And melt mine eyes to tears.

CHORUS

At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light,
And the burden of my heart rolled away
It was there by faith I received my sight,
And now I am happy all the day!

Offering/Offertory

Offering Song – Doxology

Offering Prayer

Children's Message

Scripture: Luke 23:44-49

⁴⁴ It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵ for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last. ⁴⁷ The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man." ⁴⁸ When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away. ⁴⁹ But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Message

Intro-A lot of the time, it's tough to know if God is at work

We can't often see it

We can't often hear it

But sometimes, we can feel it

In a way that is undeniable and unmistakable

Being able to visually show God's hand at work is a challenge that was central to the artists working on St. John's Illuminated Bible

Explain background of St. John's Bible

A Masterpiece of Biblical proportions made by the most sophisticated tools ever created: Human hands.

In 1998, Saint John's Abbey and University commissioned renowned calligrapher Donald Jackson to produce a hand-written, hand-illuminated Bible. We invite you to explore this work of art that unites an ancient Benedictine tradition with the technology and vision of today, illuminating the Word of God for a new millennium.

In their work, gold filigree represents God's presence and active work

Look for gold in the following illustrations

Show a few images (smattering of gold present)

Creation

Great commission

A few others from photos

Now look at this image from Luke 23

Read Scripture-Luke 23:44-49

Explosion of light in this moment

Other places we see thin lines

Also see these from the passage

Darkness that falls on the land (black, gray, dark brown)

Curtain being torn (purple)

But if you're like me, you didn't really notice much besides the cross

The impact from this image is that something incredible must have happened here

This is trying to show visually, using just one sense, what was probably overwhelming all the physical and spiritual senses of the people witnessing this first hand

Look at the centurion's reaction

He praised God and acknowledged that Jesus was righteous/innocent

How does this make sense?

He sees people crucified everyday

What did he experience that brought about such a drastic change?

The witnesses beat their breasts and went home

Most of this group was here to cheer and mock Jesus

What explains this response and the change that takes place in them?

In what should have been the moment of their victory, what they'd been waiting for

They end up dejected

Those who knew Jesus, especially the women, who stayed by Him

Stood at a distance and took all this in

Reminiscent of Mary (who was there too) treasuring all these things in her heart

For each of these groups, we can see in the story that they witnessed/experienced something

Something beyond just what their eyes were showing them

A spiritual reality that was no less real than what we see and experience every day

How do we recognize God at work?

Look for those golden moments

Even in the darkness

Even in the chaos

We believe that God is present and God is at work

We ask the Holy Spirit to give us an awareness of that

And how does the cross shine through in our lives?

For those who do not know Jesus

Responses are

Belief (centurion)

Grief (crowds)

For those who do (women)

See it, let it sink in

Let it become a part of who we are from that moment on

Because the fact is the gold is everywhere, all the time

Maybe what the artists were showing wasn't where God was and when God was working

Maybe it was how much we perceive God in these stories

A little in nature, a little in miracles, a little in His Word and His commands

But blindly, undeniably in the cross

May we never lose sight of that

And may we have our eyes, minds, and hearts open to see God's golden touch all around us

Hymn #327 The Old Rugged Cross

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross,
Where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down.
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.

O the old rugged cross
so despised by the world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me;

For the dear Lamb of God
left his glory above
to bear it dark Calvary.

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down.
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.

In the old rugged cross,
Stained with blood so divine,
A wondrous beauty I see;

For twas on that old cross
Jesus suffered and died
to pardon and sanctify me.

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down.
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.

To the old rugged cross
I will ever be true;
Its shame and reproach gladly bear.

Then He'll call me someday
To my home far away,
Where His glory forever I'll share.

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down.
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.

Benediction

Postlude