

Sept. 6- Written Service

Praise team- Katie Kirby, Melanie Jacobsen, Collen Turner, Jeremy Russell

Special Music- Katie Kirby

Guest pianist- Chrissy Martinez

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: We come to worship today to hear your good news,

All: And your message of faith, hope, and love.

Leader: We know that doubt, fear, and hatred can shake even the strongest.

All: Shape us into faithful, hopeful people;

Leader: Fill us with your love that passes all understanding.

All: We worship you today with thankful hearts!

Song: Forever

Give thanks to the Lord
our God and King;
His love endures forever.

For He is good,
He is above all things;
His love endures forever.
Sing praise, sing praise.

With a mighty hand
and outstretched arm;
His love endures forever.

For the life that's been reborn;
His love endures forever.
Sing praise, sing praise.

Forever God is faithful,
forever God is strong,
forever God is with us,
forever.

Forever God is faithful,
forever God is strong,
forever God is with us,
forever.

From the rising to
the setting sun
His love endures forever.

And by the grace of God
we will carry on;
His love endures forever.
Sing praise, sing praise.

Forever God is faithful,
forever God is strong,
forever God is with us,
forever., forever.

Prayer

Song: Oceans

You call me out
upon the waters,
the great unknown
where feet may fail.

And there I find You
in the mystery,
in oceans deep,
my faith will stand.

And I will call
upon Your name
and keep my eyes
above the waves.

When oceans rise,
my soul will rest
in Your embrace
for I am Yours and You are mine.

Your grace abounds
in deepest waters,
Your sov'reign hand
will be my guide.

Where feet may fail
and fear surrounds me,
You've never failed
and You won't start now.

And I will call
upon Your name
and keep my eyes
above the waves.

When oceans rise,
my soul will rest
in Your embrace
for I am Yours and You are mine.

Spirit lead me where
my trust in without borders,
let me walk upon the waters
wherever You would call me.

Take me deeper than my feet
could ever wander
and my faith will be made stronger
in the presence of my Savior.

Spirit lead me where
my trust in without borders,
let me walk upon the waters
wherever You would call me.

Take me deeper than my feet
could ever wander
and my faith will be made stronger
in the presence of my Savior.

I will call
upon Your name
and keep my eyes
above the waves.

When oceans rise,
my soul will rest
in Your embrace
for I am Yours and You are mine.

Announcements

Special Music: Stand in Your Love sung by Katie Kirby

Congregational Prayer

Song: #648- Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (vs. 1,3,4)

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven to earth come down!
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling;
All Thy faithful mercies crown.

Jesus, Thou art all compassion;
Pure, unbounded love Thou art.
Visit us with Thy salvation;
Enter every trembling heart.

Come, Almighty, to deliver;
Let us all Thy life receive.
Suddenly return, and never,
Never more Thy temples leave.

Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing,
Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish then Thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee:

Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Offering/Offertory

Offering Song: Doxology

Offering Prayer

Children's Message

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:9-13

⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. ¹¹ When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. ¹² For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Message

Recap/intro

Series on art as one of the ways God speaks to us

All different kinds of learners

Including visual learners

And God uses all different senses to help us experience and connect with an infinitely big God

Invitation to create

Through this series there are materials available (or you can bring your own)

Welcome to create something visual centered around the passage or theme of the day

Today we're beginning with Sainte Chappelle in Paris

Was built in mid 13th century by King Louis IX

Who had, or thought he had, acquired the crown of thorns Jesus wore and pieces of the cross

Enter at ground level to see this chapel, made over 750 years ago, decorated with royal emblems, statues, and stained glass

Video-<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EBE1w9Zk6KM>

Start at 3:20

Stop when they hit the stairs

No sounds

Reaction

I remember being impressed with the colors and the designs
There was something to look at everywhere you turned
It was a nice, beautiful church
Then, we saw the stairs

Move to upper gallery

Upper chapel-continue the video

There was a definite “wow” moment
You’re awestruck by lower level until they take you upstairs
Entering this room where the walls themselves are colored glass is literally breath-taking
And you ask yourself, “How was I impressed and satisfied with lower level?”
That’s our question for today
Our focus on this world and this life, until we see something beyond

1 Cor 13:9-13

1 Cor 2:9

Compare to heaven/world to come/next life

Paul is trying to contrast heavenly things with what we experience in this life

We don’t see and we don’t understand

Because we don’t know and we can’t see yet, we settle

CS Lewis quote from Weight of Glory

“It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”

Paul calls this thinking like a child

We’re so wrapped up in the present, we don’t consider the future

We have short attention spans

And delayed gratification feels beyond us

If you never see the stairs and you never experience the upper chapel, you’re satisfied with the ground level

Which might be fine

It’s one nice church of hundreds

The problem is that you’re so close to something completely unique and extraordinary

Friends, don’t miss out on the extraordinary that God has for us

Don’t get stuck just seeing foggy reflections and settling for childish mudpies

There’s one more thing to discuss about Sainte Chappelle

It’s learning who upper chapel and lower chapel are for

There’s a reason they built 2 separate levels

The lower level was made for the palace servants, for soldiers and commoners

These groups were never allowed up the stairs

They would spend their lives worshipping on the lower level

At best, they'd hear stories of what was upstairs, but they knew they could never
set foot there
Upstairs, with the windows, and the crown
That was for royalty and high clergy and visiting officials
That sends a message, doesn't it
The good enough would have to be good enough for all the people who weren't
quite good enough
That's not how God's kingdom works
Entering His kingdom is not limited to the elite, not only for those born into it
It's not for those who somehow are more worthy than others
Jesus opens the door to all
Today everyone can go up the stairs in Sainte Chappelle
Everyone is invited to look beyond this world and this moment
To stop being satisfied with our mudpies made in the dump
It's open to all, but you have to go through Jesus
Invitation to each of us
To see something that so far surpasses what thrills us today
But He is the Way, the only Way, we can experience all this

Song: #147- How Great Thou Art (vs. 1,2,4)

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe displayed

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

When thro' the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation

And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration
And then proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!"

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

Benediction

Postlude