

July 19-Written Service

Praise team- Robin Thompson, Judie Campbell, Jeremiah Thompson, Merlin Thompson

Special music- Robin Thompson

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: Today we remember the Upper room where Jesus gathered his disciples at His table.

All: We come with expectant hearts, ready to remember His great sacrifice.

Leader: Let us put away our striving and humbly serve one another in the name of Christ.

All: We come not to be served, but to serve. Let's lift our voices and worship together!

Song: You Are My All in All

You are my strength when I am weak;

You are the treasure that I seek.

You are my all in all.

Seeking You as a precious jewel;

Lord, to give up, I'd be a fool.

You are my all in all.

Jesus, Lamb of God,

Worthy is Your name.

Jesus, Lamb of God,

Worthy is Your name.

Taking my sin, my cross, my shame;

Rising again, I bless Your name.

You are my all in all.

When I fall down You pick me up;

When I am dry you fill my cup.

You are my all in all.

Jesus, Lamb of God,

Worthy is Your name.

Jesus, Lamb of God,

Worthy is Your name

Prayer

Song: In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.

What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when striving cease.
My comforter, my all in all,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again.

And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine-
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.

No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I stand.

Announcements

Special music-Behold the Lamb (The Communion Hymn) sung by Robin Thompson

Congregational Prayer

Song: #390- Spirit of the Living God (vs. 1,2,4)

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
Wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as Thou art,
And make me love Thee as I ought to love.

Hast Thou not bid us love , God and King?
All, all Thine own- soul, heart,
And strength and mind!

I see Thy cross-
There teach my heart to cling;
O let me seek Thee,
And O I me find!

Teach me to love Thee
As Thine angels love,
One holy passion
Filling all my frame;

The baptism of the
Heaven descended Dove-
My heart an altar,
And Thy love the flame.

Offering/Offertory

Offering Song- Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

Offering Prayer

Children's Message

Scripture: Luke 22: 7-38

⁷ Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. ⁸ Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover."

⁹ "Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked.

¹⁰ He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, ¹¹ and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' ¹² He will show you a large room upstairs, all furnished. Make preparations there."

¹³ They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

¹⁴ When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. ¹⁵ And he said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶ For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.”

¹⁷ After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, “Take this and divide it among you. ¹⁸ For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”

¹⁹ And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.”

²⁰ In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.” ²¹ But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table. ²² The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed. But woe to that man who betrays him!” ²³ They began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this.

²⁴ A dispute also arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. ²⁵ Jesus said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. ²⁶ But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. ²⁷ For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. ²⁸ You are those who have stood by me in my trials. ²⁹ And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, ³⁰ so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

³¹ “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. ³² But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”

³³ But he replied, “Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death.”

³⁴ Jesus answered, “I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me.”

³⁵ Then Jesus asked them, “When I sent you without purse, bag or sandals, did you lack anything?” “Nothing,” they answered.

³⁶ He said to them, “But now if you have a purse, take it, and also a bag; and if you don’t have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one. ³⁷ It is written: ‘And he was numbered with the transgressors’ ^[b]; and I tell you that this must be fulfilled in me. Yes, what is written about me is reaching its fulfillment.”

³⁸ The disciples said, “See, Lord, here are two swords.”

“That’s enough!” he replied.

Message

It’s a big passage but we put all of the Last Supper together, the preparation, the meal, and the conversation before they went out to the Garden of Gethsemane

A nice meal that Jesus has been looking forward to for a long time

Ruined by their arguing

Can anyone who’s spent time planning and preparing a nice holiday meal relate?

Arguing about who would betray Jesus led them back to their old arguments about who was the greatest disciple

And it seems like Peter’s wanting to be seen as the most loyal

Last week we talked about the authority that Jesus has

This morning, His disciples are wondering about *their* authority

Specifically which of them has, or will have, the most

Because we like superlatives

Greatest

Most loyal

Most authority

Best

Biggest

We have different pictures of what greatness entails

From 2000-2010 Kobe Bryant was the best basketball player in the world

You can argue about a few others, but he's pretty tough to argue against

The 2004 USA men's Olympic basketball team lost an unprecedented 3 games and came home with bronze medals

In response, the USA changed how the team prepared for the 2008 games

They changed the roster

Added Kobe and made him captain

The team was nicknamed the Redeem Team

There's a story about the team's early days

They'd met up for practice and team building

Most of the team decided to go out that night

They came back to the hotel at 4 or 5

And when they did, they saw Kobe in the lobby

Tennis shoes, gym bag, weightlifting gloves

He was heading to work out

That was an every morning thing for him

Everyone thinks about being the greatest, the best

They think about the medals and the trophies, the awards and the records

But what we almost never see is 4 am

Disciples are claiming greatness

But I guarantee they weren't arguing about 4 am greatness

They were arguing about power and authority, prestige and prominence

Not what happens when no one is looking, not the work we do on ourselves

Here's the irony-

While they're each staking their claim to greatness meanwhile Jesus, who is the greatest, is about to be betrayed and denounced

Luke doesn't overtly mention foot washing (that's in another gospel) but that has also just taken place

Luke does show Jesus giving them bread, His body-broken

And the cup, His blood-poured out

Both of them offered FOR YOU

Not thinking about Himself, not elevating Himself
For Jesus greatness is serving and sacrifice
The very things everyone wants to avoid
The things no one pays attention to

Here it is in His own words

²⁵ Jesus said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. ²⁶ But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. ²⁷ For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

Exercise authority-Exousiazō

ἐξουσιάζω **ēxōusiazō**, *ex-oo-see-ad'-zo*; from 1849; to **control**:—exercise authority upon, bring under the (have) power of.

Benefactor-Euergetes

εὐεργέτης **ēuērgētēs**, *yoo-erg-et'-ace*; from 2095 and the base of 2041; a *worker of good*, i.e. (spec.) a *philanthropist*:—benefactor.

Controlling others and telling them it's for their good, implication is that it's really for the good of those in power

νέωτερος **nēōtērōs**, *neh-o'-ter-os*; a prim. word; “*new*”, i.e. (of persons) *youthful*, or (of things) *fresh*; fig. *regenerate*:—new, young.

Greatest are the newest, the youngest

One Who Rules-hegemonos (hegemony)

One Who Serves-diakonos (deacon)

Jesus gives example after example in hopes that they get the contrast

Who is greater, the one at the table (the disciples, all of us) or the one who serves (Jesus)?

Because Jesus is the greatest, He is the biggest servant

Jesus goes on to speak directly to Peter

³¹ “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. ³² But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”

This is when Peter says he'll follow Jesus to prison and even death before Jesus tells Peter that before this night is over he will deny even knowing Jesus

But Peter will return and he will fulfill what Jesus has said about forming the foundation of the early Christian church

Peter, when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers

Help your brothers

Serve your brothers

Any greatness or authority you will eventually find, should be held as cause to serve even more and a tool that helps you to lift them up

I want to end with one of my favorite stories about a man who would be Peter's successor

Hundreds of years later, the church is starting to fragment for the first real time

Two leaders are at the forefront

One a priest in what would become the Orthodox Church
The other, Pope Gregory
They were writing letters and using titles
Who would be the greatest?
The Patriarch of Constantinople (Orthodox leader) claimed the title "Ecumenical Patriarch"
Father of all branches of the faith
Gregory responded by referring to himself as the Servant of the servants of God
From that time on, this has become one of the official titles used by the popes
By calling himself a servant of the servants, Gregory highlighted that true Christian leadership is found in self-effacing service to others
Here was someone who understood Jesus' picture of what greatness looked like and what went along with it
Greatness isn't about the bright lights
Greatness is wiping the muck off another person's feet
Greatness isn't being better than everyone else
Greatness is a call to lift others up

Song: #337- Nothing But the Blood (vs. 1,2,4)

All hail the power of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all!

Let every kindred, every tribe
On this terrestrial ball,
To Him all majesty ascribe,
And crown Him Lord of all;
To Him all majesty ascribe,
And crown Him Lord of all!

O that with yonder sacred throng
We at His feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song,
And crown Him Lord of all;
We'll join the everlasting song,
And crown Him Lord of all!

Benediction

Postlude