

April 12-Written Service

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Special Music: Sunday School students

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: When pressured to compromise, Daniel kneeled and prayed, giving thanks just as he had done before.

All: We come to honor the God who gives us an "excellent spirit."

Leader: Even in the face of the lions, Daniel trusted in his God.

All: Come, let us all trust and worship the Lord!

Song: Days of Elijah

These are the days of Elijah

Declaring the Word of the Lord.

And these are the days of Your servant, Moses,
Righteousness being restored;

And tho' these are days of great trials,
Of famine and darkness and sword.
Still we are the voice in the desert crying,
"Prepare ye the Way of the Lord."

Behold, He comes riding on the clouds,
Shining like the sun at the trumpet call.
So lift your voice, it's the year of Jubilee,
And out of Zion's Hill salvation comes.

And these are the days of Ezekiel,
The dry bones becoming as flesh.
And these are the days of Your servant, David,
Rebuilding a temple of praise.

And these are the days of the harvest,
The fields are as white in the world.
And we are the laborers in Your vineyard

Declaring the Word of the Lord.

Behold, He comes riding on the clouds,
Shining like the sun at the trumpet call.
So lift your voice, it's the year of Jubilee,
And out of Zion's Hill salvation comes.

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 thro' 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: "Daniel Wasn't Lion" sung by the Sunday School students

Congregational Prayer

Song: #712- Be Still, My Soul

Be still my soul!
The Lord is on Thy side;
Bear patiently the cross
Of grief or pain.

Leave to thy God
To order and provide;
In every change
He faithful will remain.

Be still my soul!
Thy best, thy Heavenly Friend
Thro' thorny ways
Leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul!
Thy God doth undertake
To guide the future
As He has the past.

Thy hope, thy confidence
Let nothing shake;
All now mysterious
Shall be bright at last.

Be still, my soul!
The waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them
While He dwelt below.

Be still, my soul!
The hour is hastening on
When we shall be
Forever with the Lord,

When disappointment,
Grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot,
Love's purest joys restored.

Be still, my soul!
When change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed
We shall meet at last.

Offering/Offertory

Offering Song:

Offering Prayer

Children's Message

Scripture: Daniel 6: 1-16
Esther 3: 8-13; 8: 5-12
Isaiah 53

Message

- intro
 - 18th amendment (repealed with 21st)
 - Passed in congress 1917
 - Ratified by states 1919
 - Prohibit the production, sale, and transport of alcohol
 - Repealed 1933 after tremendous grassroots pressure
 - While difficult, this country's founders built in a system for revising the Constitution if there was sufficient support for doing so
 - Aladdin-Aladdin's major problem is that he falls in love with a princess
 - But the law says that the princess has to marry a prince
 - The solution, which they finally arrive at after lots of twists and turns, was for Princess Jasmine's father to realize that he is sultan
 - And as sultan he makes the rules and can change the rules
 - Allowing the couple to live happily ever after
 - Laws can be tricky things
- Laws of Medes and Persians
 - Daniel 6:1-16
 - Unable to do anything about the law that condemned Daniel, the king spends night unsure what else to do so he prays and fasts, in the morning the find Daniel alive and safe in the pit with the lions

- Esther-background the king's advisor Haman hates the Jewish people and tricks the king into making a law that allows people throughout the empire to attack and kill all the Jews on a certain day in the future
 - Queen Esther, who is Jewish herself, learns of the plot and approaches the king about the situation
 - Esther 8:1-13-the king issues a 2nd law allowing Jews to take care of themselves because he cannot undo the law that was already written
- This is how laws worked for the Medes and the Persians
 - No sultan simply undoing the law
 - No repeal process
 - A law is a law forever
- Whether it's the king who's made a law condemning his beloved queen or another king whose law condemns a loyal and capable servant
 - We see a similar situation unfolding for all of humanity
- Our trespass of the law means death
 - From the beginning when the command was don't eat from the tree in the middle of the garden or you will die
 - To the laws given to Moses-where obedience is tied to life and disobedience to death
 - To the description of sin in Romans 5 & 6 which tells us that the wages of sin is death and reminds us that all have sinned and fallen short of God's glory
 - We see the law laid out and the punishment is clear
 - Again the king is saddened by the effects of the law (a law not made hastily or through being tricked, but a law that is intended for our benefit, but which we are nonetheless unable to fully keep by ourselves)
 - But unlike Daniel, he isn't powerless to the law. Unlike Esther, he doesn't sit on the sidelines and allow us (as if we could) to take care of ourselves.
 - What separates God's response from theirs is that in his mercy he steps into the middle of the situation
 - Romans 3:19-20
 - ¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. ²⁰ Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.
 - Romans 7:10-13
 - ¹⁰ I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life actually brought death. ¹¹ For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, and through the commandment put me to death. ¹² So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good. ¹³ Did that which is good, then, become death to me? By no means! Nevertheless, in order that sin might be recognized as sin, it used what is good to bring about my death, so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.
 - Isaiah 53

- Romans 8:1-4
 - Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ² because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. ³ For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.
- God Himself takes on the punishment, God goes into the lions' den (cross), God defends His people (not having us defend ourselves, we're completely unable to)
 - Instead of allowing the law to dictate our destruction, God loved the world so much He sent His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him would NOT perish but have eternal life
 - God did what we could not, God took the punishment Himself rather than allowing us to suffer and remain separated from Him
- Application-What impact does this have on how we live?
 - This week-take punishment for someone else-step into the natural consequences lovingly and graciously
 - When the kids mess up, you clean their rooms and explain why
 - Pay somebody's speeding ticket
 - Forgive someone, even if they don't deserve it
 - Because none of us deserved God saving us
 - Give thanks for how much and how often and how profoundly Christ has forgiven you

Song: #410- Standing On the Promises (vs. 1,2,5)

Standing on the promises of Christ, my King!
 Thro' eternal ages let His praises ring;
 "Glory in the highest!" I will shout and sing,
 Standing on the promises of God.

Standing, standing,
 Standing on the promises of God, my Savior;
 Standing, standing,
 I'm standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
 When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
 By the living Word of God I shall prevail,
 Standing on the promises of God.

Standing, standing,
 Standing on the promises of God, my Savior;
 Standing, standing,

I'm standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises, I cannot fall,
Listening every moment to the Spirit's call,
Resting in my Savior as my All in All,
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing, standing,
Standing on the promises of God, my Savior,
Standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God.

Benediction

Postlude