

February 22-Written Service

Praise Team- Deb and Vern Van Peursem, Melanie Jacobsen, Katie Kirby, Jeremy Russell, Merlin and Minda Thompson, Jeremiah Thompson, Collen Turner

Special Music- PRC Choir

Pianist- Laura Garred

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: The Lord calls us to worship Him, not just with the work of our hands, but with the faith of our hearts.

All: We come to offer our best to the Lord, recognizing that He looks upon our hearts and our sincerity.

Leader: Let us not be like Cain, whose heart was far from God, but like Abel whose faith was evident to all.

All: We come to worship in spirit and in truth, seeking to honor God with all that we are.

Song: Blessed Be The Name

Blessed be Your name

In the land that is plentiful;

Where the streams of abundance flow,

Blessed be Your name.

Blessed be Your name

When I'm found in the desert place,

When I walk thro the wilderness,

Blessed be Your name.

Every blessing You pour out I'll

Turn back to praise;

When the darkness closes in, Lord,

Still I will say:

Blessed be the name of the Lord,

Blessed be Your name;

Blessed be the name of the Lord,

Blessed be Your glorious name.

Blessed be Your name

When the sun's shining down on me;
When the world's all as it should be,
Blessed be Your name.

Blessed be Your name
On the road marked with suffering;
Tho' there's pain in the offering,
Blessed be Your name.

Every blessing You pour out I'll
Turn back to praise;
When the darkness closes in, Lord,
Still I will say.

Blessed be the name of the Lord,
Blessed be Your name;
Blessed be the name of the Lord,
Blessed be Your glorious name.

Prayer

Song: Christ, Our Hope in Life and Death

What is our hope in life and death?
Christ alone, Christ alone.
What is our only confidence?
That our souls to Him belong?

Who holds our days within His hand?
What comes, apart from His command?
And what will keep us to the end
The love of Christ in which we stand.

O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal;
O sing hallelujah! Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.

What truth can calm the troubled soul?
God is good, God is good.
Where is His grace and goodness known?
In our great Redeemer's blood.

Who holds our faith when fears arise?
Who stands above the stormy trial?
Who sends the waves that keep us nigh
Unto the shore, the rock of Christ?

O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal;
O sing hallelujah! Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.

Unto the grave, what shall we sing?
"Christ, He lives; Christ, He lives!"
And what reward will heaven bring?
Everlasting life with Him.

There we will rise to meet the Lord,
Then sin and death will be destroyed,
And we will feast in endless joy,
When Christ is ours forevermore.

O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal!
O sing hallelujah! Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.

O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal;
O sing hallelujah! Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.

Announcements

Special Music- "Were You There?" by Mary McDonald and sung by the Peace Choir

Congregational Prayer

Song: #617- Near to the Heart of God
There is a place of quiet rest,
Near to the heart of God;
A place where sin cannot molest
Near to the heart of God.

O Jesus, blest Redeemer,
Sent from the heart of God,
Hold us, who wait before Thee,
Near to the heart of God.

There is a place of comfort sweet,
Near to the heart of God;
A place where we our Savior meet,
Near to the heart of God.

O Jesus, blest Redeemer,
Sent from the heart of God,
Hold us, who wait before Thee,
Near to the heart of God.

There is a place of full release,
Near to the heart of God;
A place where all is joy and peace,
Near to the heart of God.

O Jesus, blest Redeemer,
Sent from the heart of God,
Hold us, who wait before Thee,
Near to the heart of God.

Offering/Offertory

Offering Song: Open Our Eyes

Offering Prayer

Children's Message

Scripture: Genesis 4: 1-8

⁴ Adam made love to his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, “With the help of the Lord I have brought forth a man.”

² Later she gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil.

³ In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord.

⁴ And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering,

⁵ but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

⁶ Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast?

⁷If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it."

⁸Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

Isaiah 53: 7-9

John 10:10

Romans 12: 17-21

Message

- Intro-Easter Eggs (A1-13)
 - A113 (sometimes **A-113** or **A1-13**) is an inside joke, an Easter egg in media created by alumni of California Institute of the Arts, referring to the classroom used by graphic design and character animation students including John Lasseter, Tim Burton and Brad Bird. A113 has appeared in every Pixar movie as well as many other Disney and non-animated movies and TV shows.
 - Most recently I noticed it on the door of Sterling's office in Cars 3.
 - Homework assignment, watch a Pixar movie and keep your eyes open for A113.
- Today's Biblical Easter Egg-read Cain and Abel story from Genesis 4:1-8
 - Little connections to Jesus all over the place
 - Abel was a shepherd
 - Offered a better sacrifice
 - Violently murdered
 - Abel doesn't say anything through this whole story
 - Isaiah 53:7 about Jesus facing persecution
- All of this starts to pull together to show us something important about Jesus and the way He operates
 - Cain is angry, jealous, frustrated, upset at God but in the end he directs it at Abel
 - And in the new world that they were living in, the after-Eden, post-fall world, the way to express those feelings was through violence and exerting your "power" over the other person
 - He was still listening to the same serpent that was hissing in his parents' ears
 - The same one who was behind the violence poured out on Jesus
 - John 10:10 tells us that the thief (satan, serpent) comes only to steal, kill, and destroy
 - But Jesus contrasts that with His way-I have come that you might have life and have it to its fullest
 - Just like Abel did not return violence for violence, Jesus who could have won had He chosen that kind of response (I could call down thousands of angels..., put away your sword) similarly did not respond with more violence, did not manifest His power through destroying His enemy
 - Jesus was offering humanity another way
 - Instead of following the way of Satan, the way of Cain that responds with violence and aggression, Jesus responds with controlled strength, He overcomes evil with good (Romans 12:21)

- What can we learn from Jesus?
 - An eye for eye has left the whole world blind
 - Seeking to overcome or destroy those that we disagree with or dislike has only multiplied the violence in our world
 - We've seen traces of where that road takes us in everything from community feuds to world wars
 - But what would your life be like if instead, you prayed for the strength to respond like Jesus does?
 - How would that strained relationship in your family be different?
 - What about that person around town, at work, in the grade above you at school?
 - What would our church or our community be like?
 - Pursuing peace and overcoming through good actions rather than physical, emotional, verbal violence
 - What would it look like for our world to be finally and fully conformed to the Jesus way?
- From almost the very beginning, we've been continuing to listen to the voice telling us that when pushed we need to push back harder, when hurt we need to cause them to hurt more
- But 2000 years ago, we were shown a different way to respond.
 - Jesus suffered unimaginable betrayal, hurt, injustice and still responded in love and forgiveness
 - And His Spirit calls us and works in us to bring us into that kind of reality.

Song: #737- Like a River Glorious

Like a river glorious
 Is God's perfect peace,
 Over all victorious
 In its bright increase;

Perfect, yet it floweth
 Fuller every day;
 Perfect, yet it groweth
 Deeper all the way.

Stayed upon Jehovah,
 Hearts are fully blest-
 Finding, as He promised,
 Perfect peace and rest.

Hidden in the hollow
 Of His blessed hand,
 Never foe can follow,
 Never traitor stand;

Not a surge of worry,
Not a shade of care,
Not a blast of hurry--
Touch the Spirit there.

Stayed upon Jehovah,
Hearts are fully blest--
Finding, as He promised,
Perfect peace and rest.

Every joy or trial
Fall eth from above,
Traced upon our dial
By the Sun of love;

We may trust Him fully
All for us to do;
They who trust Him wholly
Find Him wholly true.

Stayed upon Jehovah,
Hearts are fully blest--
Finding, as He promised,
Perfect peace and rest.

Benediction

Postlude