

July 26-Written Service

Praise Team- Katie Kirby, Emily Sudbeck, Jeremy Russell, Merlin Thompson

Special Music- Katie Kirby

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: From the confusion and the shadow of the cross, faithful followers stepped forward.

All: They offered their gifts, their linens, and their devotion to the One we love as well.

Leader: Even in the stillness of the Sabbath, God makes a place for us.

All: We rest in His promises and come today to worship the God who is with us in light and darkness.

Song: Shout to the Lord

Shout to the Lord,

All the earth, let us sing

Power and majesty,

Praise to the King;

Mountains bow down

And the seas will roar

At the sound of Your name.

I sing for joy

At the work of Your hands,

Forever I'll love You,

Forever I'll stand;

Nothing compares

To the promise I have in You.

My Jesus, my Savior,

Lord, there is none like You;

All of my days I want to praise

The wonders of Your mighty love.

My comfort, My Shelter,

Tower of refuge and strength;

Let every breath all that I am,

Never cease to worship You.

Shout to the Lord,
All the earth, let us sing
Power and majesty,
Praise to the King;

Mountains bow down
And the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name.

I sing for joy at the work of Your hands,
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand;
Nothing compares to the promise
I have in You.

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 bring 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: Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me sung by Katie Kirby

Congregational Prayer

Song: #320- Beneath the Cross of Jesus (vs. 1, 2, 4)

Beneath the cross of Jesus
I fain would take my stand;
The shadow of a mighty rock
Within a weary land,

A home within the wilderness,
A rest upon the way
From the burning of the noontide heat

And the burden of the day.

There lies beneath its shadow,
Butt on the farther side,
The darkness of an awful grave
That gapes both deep and wide;

And there between us stands the cross,
Two arms outstretched to save,
Like a watchman set to guard the way
From that eternal grave.

I take, O cross, thy shadow
For my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than
The sunshine of His face;

Content to let the world go by,
To know no gain nor loss,
My sinful self- my only shame,
My glory- all the cross.

Offering/Offertory

Offering Song- Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

Offering Prayer

Children's Message

Scripture: Luke 23: 50-56

⁵⁰ Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, ⁵¹ who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea, and he himself was waiting for the kingdom of God. ⁵² Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body. ⁵³ Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid. ⁵⁴ It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin.

⁵⁵ The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. ⁵⁶ Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.

Message

Introduction-Our foundation

After a few dry years, we noticed a few cracks in our basement walls

An inspection showed that the foundation had been settling, with the hard packed soil underneath getting powdery and eroding

The SE corner of the house was cracking away with little support left underneath

Today we're focusing on integrity

Can mean either strictly following moral/ethical code

OR to be whole/sound structurally, especially in a building

Like the integrity of our foundation

Quite often both definitions of integrity falter in places where people don't notice

Foundation is weak, or the beams in the walls or floors are going bad

Compromise your beliefs when it seems like no one is watching

It's good to test integrity in the common, highly visible places

But those flaws are usually obvious and easier to fix

Integrity in the hidden spaces is important to maintain

Scripture-Luke 23:50-56

What do you do when Jesus is gone?

None of His followers were preparing Him for resurrection

The question a few weeks ago highlighted just how much they were not understanding or expecting that

One option would be to give up and forget everything that's happened

Jesus wasn't the first person with Messiah attached to them

In fact, there had been numerous others even in recent memory for people then

Usually a group of followers formed, they maybe even launched some kind of rebellion, which was put down and the leader was executed

Then everybody went home and went on with their lives life before

Another option would be to drown in depression

To completely hide yourself away, shut down, and do nothing

Although both of those may be present here a little

That's generally not what we see in this passage

How Joseph responded

Joseph could have seen crucifixion as proof that Jesus was wrong

At least that He wasn't the Messiah

Could have just continued on without risking linking himself to Jesus by asking for and caring for the body

There was no foreseeable benefit to Joseph to do this

He didn't know that Jesus was back in 3 days and his tomb would be empty again

He could have done nothing

But he didn't

Joseph valued Jesus before, he still valued Him now

He cared for Jesus before, he would care for Him now
This is integrity
Seeing how Joseph of Arimathea responded when Jesus could do nothing for him
How the women did
There's integrity here too
These women were the women who were with Jesus while He was on the cross, the
women who returned to find the tomb empty once the Sabbath day had passed
They didn't abandon Jesus either
Their love for Him didn't wither with His passing
They continued to be true and faithful even when it hurt the most
What that tells us about them
These were moments of testing that revealed the integrity of these people
Integrity both in the sense of holding firmly to what you believe
And being whole/sound with no hidden cracks
They could have vanished like everyone else
They could have started rebuilding their lives without Jesus at the center
But none of these did
We all face moments of testing
When no one is watching
When the stresses are piling up
When it would be easy to give up, to take the easy path, or to simply crumble in the moment
What do we do when life is hard and everything falls apart?
Joseph and these women loved Jesus before, continue loving Him now
They served Jesus before, continue serving Him now
Do we hold on to the faith that we profess on easy days?
Do we continue to live God's way when no one's looking?
Do we demonstrate integrity?

Song: #11- Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing (vs. 1,3)

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise His name- I'm fixed upon it-
Name of God's redeeming love.

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!

Let Thy goodness, like a fether,
Bind my wandering heart to Thee:

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it;
Seal it for Thy courts above.

Benediction

Postlude