**Order of Worship**

**August 30, 2020**

**Introit**

*His name is wonderful, His name is wonderful,*

*His name is wonderful, Jesus my Lord.*

*He is the mighty King, master of everything,*

*His name is wonderful, Jesus my Lord.*

*He's the Great Shepherd, The Rock of all ages,*

*Almighty God is He,*

*Bow down before Him, Love and adore Him,*

*His name is wonderful, Jesus my Lord.*

**Call to Worship** [Psalm 105: 1 – 6a]

O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.

**Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.**

Glory in his holy name;
 let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

**Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his presence continually.**

Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered.

**Opening Hymn** **‘Immortal, Invisible’**

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible, hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish—but naught changeth Thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; oh, help us to see
’Tis only the splendour of light hideth Thee.

**Prayers of Praise, Confession and Thanksgiving**

Creator of the universe we bless You. When we consider the works of Your hands- the sun, the moon and the stars, we are left in awe of who You are and what You can do. Before the beginning of time, You’ve been God; and after the end of eternity, You’ll still be God. You control times and seasons, situations and circumstances. Wherever we gather, You are there. Your presence makes every space a sacred one. You delight in our praise and rejoice in all Your people who find a way to acknowledge Your presence in our world and in our lives.

May our worship bring us back to You and increase our awareness of Your loving presence with us, Amen.

**Confession**

Father, we confess to you that often our eyes are so downcast that we fail to discern your presence all around. We confess that, even when your presence is startling, we can be so wrapped up in ourselves that we fail to notice. We confess that we have missed opportunities to witness to your presence at work in our lives and in the lives of others. We confess that we rarely live up to the marks of being Christian. Father forgive us and challenge us to lead lives ordered by you; in the name of Jesus we ask, Amen.

**Thanksgiving**

Gracious God, thank you for being a good God who loves us with all our faults. Thank you that you forgive us completely and teach us faithfully through your Word. Thank you for all the times you picked us up when we fell, and for all the times you carried us when we couldn’t make it on our own. Thank you for experiences when we were unaware of your angels standing guard to rescue us from danger and protect us from harm. Thank you for family and friends, for placing people in our paths again and again— those whose encouragement and kindness we will never forget. Thank you for the things we take for granted like clean water, a place to sleep, and food to nourish us. Lord as you confront us in the mundane with signs of the divine, may we raise our thanks to you, Amen.

**Welcome**

**Notices & Announcements**

**The Ministry of the Word**

**Old Testament: Exodus 3: 1 – 15**

**The Epistle Romans 12: 9 - 21**

**The Gospel St. Matthew 16: 21 – 28**

**Hymn ‘Jesus calls us o’er the tumult...’**

Jesus calls us o'er the tumult
of our life's wild, restless sea;
day by day his sweet voice soundeth,
saying, "Christian, follow me!"

As of old apostles heard it
by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred,
leaving all for His sake.

Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying, "Christian, love me more!"

In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love me more than these!"

Jesus calls us! By thy mercies,
Saviour, may we hear thy call,
give our hearts to thine obedience

serve and love thee best of all

**SERMON**

**Hymn of Response**

I have decided to follow Jesus; I have decided to follow Jesus;

I have decided to follow Jesus; No turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me, The world behind me, the cross before me;

The world behind me, the cross before me; No turning back, no turning back.

Tho’ none go with me, still I will follow, Tho’ none go with me still I will follow,

Tho’ none go with me, still I will follow; No turning back, no turning back.

I have decided to follow Jesus; I have decided to follow Jesus;

I have decided to follow Jesus; No turning back, no turning back.

**Prayers of Intercession**

Let us pray to the Lord on behalf of His Church, the nation, the world and all people according to their needs.

***Brief silence***

For the Church, for her faithfulness; for the pastors who serve us, that they may be faithful stewards of God’s mysteries; we pray especially for those at home and abroad, who bring the message of salvation to those who have not heard, and for those who are persecuted for the cause of Christ; we pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For our political leaders, our legislators and civil servants; For those who must render judgment and impose punishment upon lawbreakers; and for those who work for peace among the nations, we pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For good weather and for those who tend the soil and harvest its produce; for business and industry, service workers and artisans; for generosity toward those in need; and for the unemployed and underemployed, we pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For parents as they teach their children to know and love the Lord; and as they try to figure out how to balance their lives during these challenging times; for teachers who must get comfortable with teaching from home to deliver quality education, we pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the most vulnerable among us, the sick, the elderly, and those who live at the margins of society; for all the caregivers, we pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For good sense among our people who continue to behave as if COVID-19 is under control; for doctors, nurses and all workers on the front line, we pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For political campaigns that they will adhere to established guidelines and for peaceful elections, we pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For grace to take up the cross and follow the Lord wherever He leads; For courage in the face of challenge and adversity; and for compassion and harmony in our lives together, we pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God, You have forgiven our sins and delivered us from death through our Lord, Jesus Christ. Continue to pour out Your mercy upon us, and grant to us, all that is good through Jesus Christ, our Lord, **Amen.**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Closing Hymn ‘I know not why..’**

I know not why God’s wondrous grace
To me He hath made known,
Nor why, unworthy, Christ in love
Redeemed me for His own.

*Cho:
But “I know Whom I have believed,
And am persuaded that He is able
To keep that which I’ve committed
Unto Him against that day.”*

I know not how this saving faith
To me He did impart,
Nor how believing in His Word
Wrought peace within my heart.

I know not how the Spirit moves,
Convincing men of sin,
Revealing Jesus through the Word,
Creating faith in Him.

I know not when my Lord may come,
At night or noonday fair,
Nor if I walk the vale with Him,
Or meet Him in the air.

**Benediction**