



Faith - Family - Fellowship

**ORDER OF WORSHIP
CONTEMPORARY SERVICE**

February 23, 2025
11:05 a.m.

GREETING & PRAYER OF OUR CONFESSION OF SIN		PR
CALL TO WORSHIP	<i>Jesus Loves Me/This Is The Day</i>	Mustard Seeds
SACRAMENT OF HOLY INFANT BAPTISM		
SONG OF FAITH	Cornerstone	Praise Team & Congregation
WORDS OF WISDOM	Isaiah 40:1-11	Ted Brinkley
SONG OF HOPE	Spirit of Hope	Praise Team (solo)
NEW DOXLOGY / BLESSING OF THE OFFERING		
WORD OF GOD	Matthew 9:35-38	Myron Jordan
SPIRITUAL VITAMIN	I AM SECOND	Pastor Bill Masciangelo
PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH / THE LORD'S PRAYER		Justin Claiborne
RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS		
SONG OF LOVE	Seek Ye First	Praise Team & Congregation
GOING FORTH		

WORDS OF WISDOM - Isaiah 40:1-11

Isaiah is like a miniature Bible. The first 39 chapters (like the 39 books of the Old Testament) are filled with judgment upon immoral and idolatrous men. Judah has sinned; the surrounding nations have sinned; the whole earth has sinned. Judgment must come, for God cannot allow such blatant sin to go unpunished forever. But the final 27 chapters (like the 27 books of the New Testament) declare a message of hope. The Messiah is coming as a Savior and a Sovereign to bear a cross and a crown to wear.

Allow these words from chapter 40 to open your heart, mind, and your soul to the presence of Almighty God in your life.

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the Lord blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall but the word of our God endures forever." You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

May God bless our discernment of His Holy Word.

People: May we ever protect and keep it pure. Amen.

WORD OF GOD - Matthew 9:35-38

Matthew presents Jesus as the Messiah; fulfillment of God's promises to Israel of great blessing and deliverance from captivity and oppression. As the inheritor of David's kingdom, He is King of the Jews. But Matthew's Gospel also reveals Jesus as King of the entire human race. Matthew wrote Jesus' own predictions that all nations will one day bow to Him when He returns in glory. A legion of angels is at His command, and to Him is given all authority in heaven and in earth.

It is vitally important that when the Gospels introduce us to Jesus Christ, we recognize Him in His infinite majesty and divine power. Only then do we begin to understand His grace in taking our sins upon Himself. "You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

Matthew knew Jesus as the Messiah of Israel, as the Savior from sin and judgment, and as king of the whole world. Because of who He is, Matthew followed Jesus. Matthew changed from living for himself and taking material things from others to living for God and being able to give what is of eternal value to others. As you come to know Jesus, God's Son, you will want to follow Him, and listen to His call in your life to witness and serve others.

Today's word of God comes from the 9th chapter, verses 35 and 38.

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

This is the word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER FOR OUR CONFESSION OF SIN

Pastor Dear friends in Christ, here in the presence of Almighty God, let us in this time of silence and solitude, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, so that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Pastor Almighty God grant us your mercy and grace to be the people you have called us to be. Strengthen us in your goodness and open our hearts, minds and souls to radically love You and our neighbor by the power of the Holy Spirit, we offer up this prayer in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.