



Faith - Family - Fellowship

**ORDER OF WORSHIP
CONTEMPORARY SERVICE**

February 16, 2025
11:05 a.m.

CALL TO WORSHIP	Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing	Praise Team & Congregation
SONG OF FAITH	Holy Forever	Praise Team & Congregation
GREETING & PRAYER OF REVIVAL		PR
SACARMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION		
SONG OF HOPE	Grace	Praise Team (solo)
NEW DOXLOGY / BLESSING OF THE OFFERING		Josh Coley
WORDS OF WISDOM	Ecclesiastes 3:1-14	Rick Stoltz
PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH / THE LORD'S PRAYER		Lisa Patrick
WORD OF GOD	2 Corinthians 4:7-18	Randall Patrick
SPIRITUAL VITAMIN	Hold That Door Open: The Door to Your Eternal Legacy	
SONG OF LOVE	I Surrender All	Praise Team & Congregation
GOING FORTH		

PRAYER OF REVIVAL

Pastor: Please join me in today's Prayer of Revival.

People: O God, the strength of all who put their trust in you: Mercifully accept our prayers; and because in our weakness we can do nothing good without you, give us the help of your grace, that in keeping your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

WORDS OF WISDOM - Ecclesiastes 3:1-14

The key word in Ecclesiastes is vanity, “the futile emptiness of trying to be happy apart from God.” The Preacher (traditionally taken to be Solomon - the wisest, richest, most influential king in Israel’s history) looks at life “under the sun” and, from the human perspective, declares it all to be empty. Power, popularity, prestige, pleasure ... nothing can fill the God-shaped void in man’s life but God Himself! But once seen from God’s perspective, life takes on meaning and purpose, causing Solomon to exclaim, “Eat...drink...rejoice...do good...live joyfully...fear God...keep His commandments!” Skepticism and despair melt away when life is viewed as a daily gift from God.

Allow these words, from chapter three, to instill in you a deep desire to live a life pleasing to God.

For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven.

A time to be born and a time to die. A time to plant and a time to harvest.

A time to kill and a time to heal. A time to tear down and a time to build up.

A time to cry and a time to laugh. A time to grieve and a time to dance.

A time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones. A time to embrace and a time to turn away.

A time to search and a time to quit searching. A time to keep and a time to throw away.

A time to tear and a time to mend. A time to be quiet and a time to speak.

A time to love and a time to hate. A time for war and a time for peace.

What do people really get for all their hard work? I have seen the burden God has placed on us all. Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God’s work from beginning to end. So, I concluded there is nothing better than to be happy and enjoy ourselves as long as we can. And people should eat and drink and enjoy the fruits of their labor, for these are gifts from God.

And I know that whatever God does is final. Nothing can be added to it or taken from it. God’s purpose is that people should fear him. What is happening now has happened before, and what will happen in the future has happened before, because God makes the same things happen over and over again.

May God bless our discernment of His Holy Word.

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

WORD OF GOD - 2 Corinthians 4:7-18

Since Paul's first letter, the Corinthian church had been swayed by false teachers who stirred the people against Paul. They claimed he was fickle, proud, unimpressive in appearance and speech, dishonest, and unqualified as an apostle of Jesus Christ. Paul sent Titus to Corinth to deal with these difficulties, and upon his return, rejoiced to hear of the Corinthians' change of heart. Paul wrote this letter to express his thanksgiving for the repentant majority and to appeal to the rebellious minority to accept his authority. These words will open your heart to understanding the importance of being a true disciple for Jesus Christ.

If you only look at *us*, you might well miss the brightness. We carry this precious Message around in the unadorned clay pots of our ordinary lives. That's to prevent anyone from confusing God's incomparable power with us. As it is, there's not much chance of that. You know for yourselves that we're not much to look at. We've been surrounded and battered by troubles, but we're not demoralized; we're not sure what to do, but we know that God knows what to do; we've been spiritually terrorized, but God hasn't left our side; we've been thrown down, but we haven't broken. What they did to Jesus, they do to us—trial and torture, mockery and murder; what Jesus did among them, he does in us—he lives! Our lives are at constant risk for Jesus' sake, which makes Jesus' life all the more evident in us. While we're going through the worst, you're getting in on the best!

We're not keeping this quiet, not on your life. Just like the psalmist who wrote, "I believed it, so I said it," we say what we believe. And what we believe is that the One who raised up the Master Jesus will just as certainly raise us up with you, alive. Every detail works to your advantage and to God's glory: more and more grace, more and more people, more and more praise!

So we're not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without his unfolding grace. These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us. There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever.

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

People: Thanks be to God.