



Faith - Family - Fellowship

ORDER OF WORSHIP

TRADITIONAL SERVICE

MARCH 30, 2025

GREETING & PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

PR

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Chancel Choir

PRELUDE

LT

HYMN OF FAITH

This Is My Father's World
(Hymnal #144)

Chancel Choir & Congregation

PSALTER READING

Psalms 139

Jim Vaughn

GLORIA PATRI

Hymnal #71

WORDS OF WISDOM

Deuteronomy 7:6-9

Jim Vaughn

ANTHEM OF HOPE

Holy Is The Lord
(COLLECTION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS)

Chancel Choir

DOXLOGY / BLESSING OF THE OFFERING

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH / THE LORD'S PRAYER

Dianne Boykin

WORD OF GOD

John 3:14-21

Kelly Sieling

SPIRITUAL VITAMIN

THE CROSS
Love!

You can never wander beyond or be lost from God's love, Amen!

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

HYMN OF LOVE

Forth in Thy Name, O Lord
(Hymnal #483, Vs 1, 2, & 3)

Chancel Choir & Congregation

BENEDICTION

Communion Stewards: Lisa Patrick; Randall Patrick; Alec Schumacher; France Patrick

GREETING:

Pastor: Lord, today we gather to witness you.

People: You bring glory to the earth, from the deepest valley to the highest mountain.

Pastor: Lord, today we gather to listen to you.

People: You call us to go and bring good news to your people

Pastor: Lord, today we gather to praise you.

People: You invite us to your table and draw us into your presence.

Leader: Lord, today we gather to worship you.

People: Fill our hearts, minds, and souls with your Holy Spirit. Guide us with your mercy to be courageous to spread the Good News to all we meet.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION:

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

Pastor: Jesus, have mercy upon us, as we move through this day.

People: In the times of peace these hours may bring. You in me, and I in you.

Pastor: Jesus, have mercy upon us, as we move through this day.

People: In the seasons of wilderness that make me strong. You in me, and I in you.

Pastor: Jesus, have mercy upon us, as we move through this day.

People: In the freedom of surrender before your cross. You in me, and I in you.

Pastor: Jesus, have mercy upon us, as we move through this day.

People: In the power of the resurrection, that makes me whole. You in me, and I in you.

Pastor: Praying in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Psalter Reading - Psalm 139:1-6,13-24

Leader: O Lord, you have searched me and known me!

People: You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.

Leader: You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

People: Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it altogether.

Leader: You pursue me behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

People: Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain it.

Leader: For it was you who formed by inward parts,

People: you knit me together in my mother's womb.

Leader: I praise you, for you are fearful and wonderful.

People: Wonderful are your works!

Leader: You know me very well;

People: my frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately wrought in the depths of the earth.

Leader: Your eyes beheld my unformed substance,

People: in your book were written the days that were formed for me, every day, before they came into being.

Leader: How profound to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

People: If I would count them, they are more than the sand. When I awake, I am still with you.

Leader: O that you would slay the wicked, O God, and that the bloodthirsty would depart from me,

People: those who maliciously defy you, who lift themselves up against you for evil.

Leader: Do I not hate them that hate you, O Lord? And do I not loathe them that rise up against you?

People: I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies.

Leader: Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts;

People: and see if there be any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting!

WORDS OF WISDOM - DEUTERONOMY 7:6-9

Deuteronomy, Moses' "Upper Desert Discourse," consists of a series of farewell messages by Israel's 120-year-old leader. It is addressed to the new generation destined to possess the Land of Promise - those who survived the forty years of wilderness wandering.

Like Leviticus, Deuteronomy contains a vast amount of legal detail, but its emphasis is on the layman rather than the priests. Moses reminds the new generation of the importance of obedience if they are to learn from the sad example of their parents.

Allow all these words from chapter 7 to instill in you that staying in love with God is of utmost importance in your walk towards spiritual maturity.

For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.

The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. ⁸ But it was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹ Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.

O Lord, you have given us the gift of your Word.

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

WORD OF GOD - JOHN 3:14-21

God doesn't speak to us with a voice to make audio needles move, but there are times when we've sensed something down deep, almost like a tuning fork has just been pinged in our souls. It's not just one of those "I know because I know" things either. I think we can triangulate on the unmistakable tugs of God's voice because we know other things about His character and nature. For instance, we know God loves us and how right forgiveness feels. We also know some truths about the world, like the love we have in our family and how we've always liked rainy days and cheeseburgers, that sort of stuff. From there, we can get a sense of how God has wired us and use a combination of our hearts and His truths to move ourselves in a certain direction.

So rather than spending time wondering why we don't hear audible voices, we should just try to listen harder with our hearts. God doesn't talk to us in an audible voice because God isn't a human being; He's God. That makes sense to us, because human beings are limited and God isn't limited at all. He can communicate to us in any way He wants to anytime He wants to.

I haven't seen a combination of tree limbs that looked like John the Baptist or a cloud formation resembling Jesus. Honestly, they just look like branches and clouds to me. But I do see the beauty in them and the beauty that's everywhere, that God made for me and you. I especially see evidence of God in other people's lives. What's beautiful about them always looks an awful lot like God to me. I wonder if the people listening for voices or looking for cloud shapes miss the whisper of God's creation, somehow thinking it's a lesser form of communication, like a text message rather than a whole book on tape. It could just be me, but in all of this and despite what feels like a handicap at times, I can almost read His lips inaudibly saying to me and you, *"I love you this much."*

Allow these words, from the Gospel of John, to bring forth a deeper awareness of the immense amount of love God has for you.

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him." For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

