



Alexandre domptant Bucéphale by Nicolas-André Monsiau, 1787

July 5, 2026

Reflections

"I thought that love was in the drugs,
But the more I took, the more it took away,
And I could never get enough.
I thought that love was on the stage;
You give yourself to strangers,
You don't have to be afraid.
And then it tries to find a home with people, oh, and I'm alone,
Picking it apart and staring at your phone.
We all have a hunger.
We all have a hunger.
We all have a hunger.
We all have a hunger."

Florence + the Machine, "Hunger"

"The more [mankind] needs God, the more deeply he comprehends that he is in need of God, and then the more he in his need presses forward to God, the more perfect he is.... To need God is nothing to be ashamed of but is perfection itself, and the saddest thing of all is if a human being goes through life without discovering that he needs God."

Søren Kierkegaard, "To Need God is a Human Being's Highest Perfection"

"We are never sufficiently righteous persons but we are always famished for the works of righteousness."

Jerome

Order of Worship

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Better Is One Day

How lovely is Your dwelling place
O Lord almighty
For my soul longs and even faints for You
For here my heart is satisfied
Within Your presence
I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings

Better is one day in Your courts
Better is one day in Your house
Better is one day in Your courts
Than thousands elsewhere
Than thousands elsewhere

One thing I ask and I would seek
To see Your beauty
To find You in the place
Your glory dwells

My heart and flesh cry out
For You the living God
Your Spirit's water to my soul
I've tasted and I've seen
Come once again to me
I will draw near to You
I will draw near to You

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

"Come, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and he who has no money,
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk

without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

**Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.**

Incline your ear, and come to me;
hear, that your soul may live;

**and I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.**

Isaiah 55:1-3

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

GATHERING SONG

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy!
Lord God Almighty
Early in the morning
Our song shall rise to Thee

Holy, holy, holy!
Merciful and mighty
God in three persons
Blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy!
Though the darkness hide Thee
Though the eye of sinful man
Thy glory may not see

Only Thou art holy
There is none beside Thee
Perfect in power, in love and purity

Holy, holy, holy!
Lord God Almighty
All Thy works shall praise Thy name
In earth and sky and sea

Holy, holy, holy!
Merciful and mighty
God in three persons
Blessed Trinity

CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and Righteous Father,
You are the only One who can fully satisfy the deep hunger of our souls. Jesus has given Himself as the bread of life. Whoever comes to Him shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Him shall never thirst.

Yet, we confess that we doubt your provision and turn away from your gifts. We elevate good things into ultimate things. Our disordered hunger drives us to indulge in sin and self-gratification.

Forgive us for sinning against You. Forgive us of our idolatrous hearts. Forgive us of our blindness to see Your magnificent beauty. Forgive us for worshipping Your gifts more than You.

Purify our cravings, O God. Turn our appetite for lesser things bitter. Let Your Word be sweeter than honey from the honeycomb. Let our souls be satisfied as with fat and rich food. Let our mouths praise You with joyful lips. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21

RENEWAL SONG

Let Us Love And Sing And Wonder

Let us love and sing and wonder
Let us praise the Savior's name
He has hushed the law's loud thunder
He has quenched Mount Sinai's flame
He has washed us with His blood
He has washed us with His blood

He has washed us with His blood
He has brought us nigh to God

Let us love the Lord who bought us
Pitied us when enemies
Called us by His grace and taught us
Gave us ears and gave us eyes
He has washed us with His blood
He has washed us with His blood
He has washed us with His blood
He presents our souls to God

Let us sing though fierce temptation
Threatens hard to bear us down
For the Lord our strong salvation
Holds in view the conqu'ror's crown
He who washed us with His blood
He who washed us with His blood
He who washed us with His blood
Soon will bring us home to God

Let us wonder grace and justice
Join and point to mercy's store
When through grace in Christ our trust is
Justice smiles and asks no more
He who washed us with His blood
He who washed us with His blood
He who washed us with His blood
Has secured our way to God

Let us praise and join the chorus
Of the saints enthroned on high
Here they trusted Him before us
Now their praises fill the sky
Thou hast washed us with Thy blood
Thou hast washed us with Thy blood
Thou hast washed us with Thy blood
Thou art worthy Lamb of God

COMMISSIONING OF THE ECUADOR TEAM

Anna Applegate, Liam Applegate, Niko Chen, Christopher Chen, Denise Coulter,
Elizabeth Hein, Madison Hobbs, Emi Holman, Isaac Moretz, Reid Musser, Sam
Musser, Annaleigh Smith, Ethan Smith, Lewis Speakman

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

CHILDREN DISMISSED

LIFE TOGETHER

PREACHING OF THE WORD

“Blessed Dependence”

Ethan Smith

¹ Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

² And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”

⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Matthew 5:1-6

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

Thanks be to God!

Sermon Notes

RESPONSE

SONG OF RESPONSE

The Lord Our God Is Good

Musical score for the hymn "The Lord Our God Is Good". The score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like. Above the staff, the lyrics are written, and above each line of lyrics, the corresponding chord is indicated: D, A, D, G, D, A. The score is divided into two systems. The first system contains the first line of the hymn, and the second system contains the second line. The second system begins with a measure number '5' above the staff. The lyrics for the first system are: "The Lord our God is good The Lord our God is good Full of". The lyrics for the second system are: "kind-ness and com-pas - sion Mer-ci-ful — and just The Lord our God is good The".

The Lord our God is good The Lord our God is good Full of

5 kind-ness and com-pas - sion Mer-ci-ful — and just The Lord our God is good The

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

Satisfied

All my life long I had panted
For a drink from some cool spring
That I hoped would quench the burning
Of the thirst I felt within

Hallelujah He has found me
The One my soul so long has craved
Jesus satisfies all my longings
Through His blood I now am saved

Feeding on the filth around me
Till my strength was almost gone
Longed my soul for something better
Only still to hunger on

Poor I was and sought for riches
Something that would satisfy
But the dust I gathered 'round me
Only mocked my soul's sad cry

Well of water ever springing
Bread of Life so rich and free
Untold wealth that never faileth
My Redeemer is to me

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

COMMUNION SONG

All Sufficient Merit

All sufficient merit shining like the sun
A fortune I inherit by no work I have done
My righteousness I forfeit at my Savior's cross
Where all sufficient merit did what I could not

In love He condescended eternal now in time
A life without a blemish the Maker made to die
The law could never save us our lawlessness had won
Until the pure and spotless Lamb had finally come

It is done it is finished
No more debt I owe
Paid in full all sufficient
Merit now my own

I lay down my garments any empty boast
Good works now all corrupted by the sinful host
I'm dressed in my Lord Jesus
A crimson robe made white
No more fear of judgment His righteousness is mine

All sufficient merit firm in life and death
The joy of my salvation shall be my final breath
When I stand accepted before the throne of God
I'll gaze upon my Jesus and thank Him for the cross
Yes I'll thank Him for the cross

SENDING

SENDING SONG

We Will Feast in the House of Zion

We will feast in the house of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things we will say together
We will feast and weep no more

We will not be burned by the fire
He is the Lord our God
We are not consumed by the flood
Upheld protected gathered up

In the dark of night before the dawn
My soul be not afraid
For the promised morning oh how long
Oh God of Jacob be my strength

Every vow we've broken and betrayed
You are the faithful one
And from the garden to the grave
Bind us together bring shalom

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

LIFE TOGETHER

FAMILY UPDATES

Congrats to Sarah Beth & Dan on the birth of William Ray: Meal plan in Looking Up.

HOPE FOR THE CITY

July Forsyth Jail & Prison Ministries Toiletries Drive: Bin by the office.

CHURCH LIFE

Women's Summer Book Study - Wednesdays 7:30-9pm | June 10: Register now.

Men's Book Study - Wednesdays 12pm or Thursdays 5:30am | June 10: Rm 209.

Have a working vehicle you're not using? Please reach out to the Deacons.

Lawn Party - July 19 5pm: Save the date! Details to follow.

Life Group registration for the fall is now open in Church Center.

PARENTS & CHILDREN

CFA Lunches - Wednesdays 11:30-12:30: Rising 6th + Current youth; self-pay.

Kids Connection - *July Verse* - Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called Sons of God. Matthew 5:9

FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF JUNE 30, 2026

	Actual to Date	Budgeted	Difference	
Income	\$684,401	\$688,263	-\$3,862	-0.56%
Expense	\$784,153	\$789,709	-\$5,556	-0.70%
Surplus (Deficit)	-\$99,752	-\$101,446		

ANNUAL MINISTRY BUDGET: \$1,558,309

MAKING ROOM FOR MORE UPDATE

Campaign Goal	Campaign Commitments	Gifts Received Beyond Commitments	Total Funds Received to Date
\$9.4 million	\$5,243,302	\$748,493	\$4,800,948