



tbd

August 2, 2026

Reflections

"We Christians sometimes buy into a lie. We assume that if we're not like those hateful, judgmental people who call themselves Christians, then the world will see that we're actually pretty reasonable folks and want to follow Jesus. We believe that if Christians just cleaned up our act, then Jesus could finally captivate the hearts and minds of our neighbors. The only problem with this view is that it has no basis in the example or teaching of Jesus."

Justin Taylor

"What people don't realize is how much religion costs. They think that faith is a big electric blanket, when of course it is the cross."

Flannery O'Connor

"This call to suffering and death, as the condition for mission fruitfulness, sounds very alien, however, in our contemporary western ears. The respectable middle-class captivity of the church is not exactly an arena for persecution. Where is the willingness to suffer for Christ today? In the evangelical tendency to triumphalism, there seems little place for tribulation. And the false 'prosperity gospel,' promising unlimited health and wealth blinds people to the biblical warnings of adversity. Yet the fact remains that if we compromised less we assuredly would suffer more."

John Stott

"Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you."

1 John 3:13

"The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church."

Tertullian

Order of Worship

GATHERING

PRELUDE

By Gracious Powers

By gracious powers
So wonderfully sheltered
And confidently waiting, come what may
We know that God is
With us night and morning
And never fails to meet us each new day

Yet our hearts by their old foe tormented
Still evil days bring burdens hard to bear
O give our frightened souls
The sure salvation
For which, O Lord,
You taught us to prepare

Within the tempest
I know that You're there
Within the heartache
I know that You care
Within the tempest
I know that You're there
Within the heartache
I know that You care

And when the cup You give
Is filled to brimming
With bitter suffering, hard to understand
We take it thankfully
Trusting and trembling
Out of so good and so beloved a hand

If once again in this same world
You give us
The joy we had
The brightness of Your sun
We shall recall what

We have learned through sorrow
And dedicate our lives to You alone

“As long as I am in the tent of this body I will make a joyful noise!”
Hallelujah Lord
Hallelu

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

I will praise the name of God with a song;
I will magnify him with thanksgiving.

**This will please the Lord more than an ox
or a bull with horns and hoofs.**

When the humble see it they will be glad;
you who seek God, let your hearts revive.

**For the Lord hears the needy
and does not despise his own people who are prisoners.**

Let heaven and earth praise him,
the seas and everything that moves in them.
For God will save Zion
and build up the cities of Judah,
and people shall dwell there and possess it;
**the offspring of his servants shall inherit it,
and those who love his name shall dwell in it.**

Psalm 69:30-36

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

How Firm a Foundation

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed,
for I am your God, and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."

"When through the deep waters I call you to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
and sanctify to you your deepest distress."

"When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient, shall be your supply;
the flame shall not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume, and your gold to refine."

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."

CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Heavenly Father, you have called us not to live lives shaped by the world around us, but to live in the radical and upside-down way of your kingdom. Jesus has called us to take up our cross and follow him, yet we often respond with lukewarm faith and mild devotion. Forgive us when our need to protect our self-image prevents us from bearing your image. Forgive us when our strivings for career and monetary growth prevent us from living generously and honestly. Forgive us when our demands for comfort and ease prevent us from living sacrificially or sharing the good news of Jesus. By your Spirit's power, convict us of all our sins and enable us to offer you our whole hearts and whole lives. We pray in the power of Jesus' name. Amen

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20

RENEWAL SONG

All Must Be Well

Through the love of God our Savior,
All will be well
Free and changeless is His favor,
All is well
Precious is the blood that healed us
Perfect is the grace that sealed us
Strong the hand stretched forth to shield us
All must be well

Though we pass through tribulation,
All will be well
Ours is such a full salvation,
All is well
Happy still in God confiding
Fruitful if in Christ abiding
Steadfast through the Spirit's guiding
All must be well

We expect a bright tomorrow;
All will be well
Faith can sing through days of sorrow,
All is well
On our Father's love relying
Jesus every need supplying
Yes in living or in dying
All must be well

COVENANT OF BAPTISM

William Ray Albornoz

Jesus Loves You

Jesus loves you, this we know
For the Bible tells us so
Little ones to Him belong
They are weak, but He is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves you,
Yes, Jesus loves you,
Yes, Jesus loves you,
The Bible tells us so.

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

“Turning from the Surprise to the Blessing of Persecution”

David Speakman

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.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Matthew 5:1-12

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

5

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

D A D G D A
G D F#7 Bm G A D

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for the song 'The Lord Our God Is Good'. It is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is on a single staff. The lyrics are written below the staff. Above the staff, the chords D, A, D, G, D, A are indicated. Below the staff, the chords G, D, F#7, Bm, G, A, D are indicated. The lyrics are: 'The Lord our God is good The Lord our God is good Full of kind-ness and com-pas - sion Mer-ci-ful and just The Lord our God is good The'. The number '5' is written at the beginning of the second line of music.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

Eternal Weight of Glory

Now the days and hours and moments
Of our suff'ring seem so long
And the toilsome wait and wond'ring
Threaten silence to our song
Now our pain is real and pressing
Where our faith is thin and weak
But our hope is set on Jesus
And we cling to him, our strength

Oh eternal weight of glory!
Oh inheritance divine!
We will see our Lord redeeming
Every past and future time
All our pains will be transfigured
Like the scars of Christ our Lord
We will see the weight of glory
And our broken years restored

For behold! I tell a myst'ry

At the trumpet sound we'll wake
Death is swallowed up in vict'ry!
When we meet our King of Grace
Every year we thought was wasted
Every night we cried "How long?"
All will be a passing moment
In our Savior's vict'ry song

We will see our wounded Savior
We'll behold him face to face
And we'll hear our anguished stories
Sung as vict'ry songs of grace

Every year we thought was wasted
Every night we cried "How long?"
All will be a passing moment
In our Savior's vict'ry song

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 SONGS

Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

Jesus, I my cross have taken,
All to leave and follow Thee.
Destitute, despised, forsaken,
Thou from hence my all shall be.

Perish every fond ambition,
All I've sought or hoped or known.
Yet how rich is my condition!
God and heaven are still my own.

Let the world despise and leave me,
They have left my Savior, too.
Human hearts and looks deceive me;
Thou art not, like them, untrue.
O while Thou dost smile upon me,
God of wisdom, love, and might,
Foes may hate and friends disown me,
Show Thy face and all is bright.

Man may trouble and distress me,
'Twill but drive me to Thy breast.
Life with trials hard may press me;
Heaven will bring me sweeter rest.
Oh, 'tis not in grief to harm me
While Thy love is left to me;
Oh, 'twere not in joy to charm me,
Were that joy unmixed with Thee.

Go, then, earthly fame and treasure,
Come disaster, scorn and pain
In Thy service, pain is pleasure,
With Thy favor, loss is gain
I have called Thee Abba Father,
I have stayed my heart on Thee
Storms may howl, and clouds may gather;
All must work for good to me.

Soul, then know thy full salvation
Rise o'er sin and fear and care
Joy to find in every station,
Something still to do or bear.
Think what Spirit dwells within thee,
Think what Father's smiles are thine,
Think that Jesus died to win thee,
Child of heaven, canst thou repine.

Haste thee on from grace to glory,

Armed by faith, and winged by prayer.
Heaven's eternal days before thee,
God's own hand shall guide us there.
Soon shall close thy earthly mission,
Soon shall pass thy pilgrim days,
Hope shall change to glad fruition,
Faith to sight, and prayer to praise.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Romans 15:13

LIFE TOGETHER

HOPE FOR THE CITY

Kids Outreach Project for Speas Teachers: Shopping list in Looking Up.

CHURCH LIFE

Volunteers Needed for Children's Worship Classes and Sunday Schools: See Lisa.

Fall Schedule resumes Aug 16: Worship at 8:30/11am; Hope Cafe between services.

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

Sunday School starts Aug 16 10am for all ages, including nursery.

Summer Splash at the Quarry - Aug 29 10am-3pm: Picnic + swimming: Register.

Women's Bible Study & Men's Cohorts begin the week of Aug 31: Register now.

Prayer Gathering - Thursdays 7-7:30am starting Sept 3 in Rm 107.

PARENTS & CHILDREN

High School Retreat - Aug 5th 8am-2:15pm: Register!

6th Grade Kickoff - Aug 9 5:30-7pm: Cake Wars! Register.

All Youth and Parents Kickoff - Aug 16 4:30-6pm: Please register for childcare.

Kids Connection - *August Verse* - Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Matthew 5:7

FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF JULY 28, 2026

	Actual to Date	Budgeted	Difference	
Income	\$770,815	\$780,378	-\$9,562	-1.23%
Expense	\$902,993	\$899,897	\$3,095	0.34%
Surplus (Deficit)	-\$132,178	-\$119,520		

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	\$761,296	\$4,850,259