



Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church
Sunday Evening Worship & Prayer
February 28, 2021

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. Amen.*

Call to Worship

Psalm 47:1-2

Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy! For the Lord, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth.

Invocation

Hymn of Praise

Rejoice, the Lord is King #310

*1. Rejoice, the Lord is King:
your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing,
and triumph evermore. (Refrain)*

*2. Jesus the Savior reigns,
the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our stains,
he took his seat above. (Refrain)*

Refrain:

*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

*3. His kingdom cannot fail,
he rules o'er earth and heav'n;
the keys of death and hell
are to our Jesus giv'n. (Refrain)*

*4. He sits at God's right hand
till all his foes submit,
and bow to his command,
and fall beneath his feet. (Refrain)*

*5. Rejoice in glorious hope!
Our Lord, the Judge, shall come,
and take his servants up
to their eternal home. (Refrain)*

Daniel 4 – The Most High Rules the Kingdom of Men and Gives it to Whom He Will

King Nebuchadnezzar to all peoples, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you! ²It has seemed good to me to show the signs and wonders that the Most High God has done for me.

³How great are his signs,
how mighty his wonders!
His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and his dominion endures from generation to generation.

⁴I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at ease in my house and prospering in my palace. ⁵I saw a dream that made me afraid. As I lay in bed the fancies and the visions of my head alarmed me. ⁶So I made a decree that all the wise men of Babylon should be brought before me, that they might make known to me the interpretation of the dream. ⁷Then the magicians, the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and the astrologers came in, and I told them the dream, but they could not make known to me its interpretation. ⁸At last Daniel came in before me—he who was named Belteshazzar after the name of my god, and in whom is the spirit of the holy gods—and I told him the dream, saying, ⁹“O Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, because I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in you and that no mystery is too difficult for you, tell me the visions of my dream that I saw and their interpretation. ¹⁰The visions of my head as I lay in bed were these: I saw, and behold, a tree in the midst of the earth, and its height was great. ¹¹The tree grew and became strong, and its top reached to heaven, and it was visible to the end of the whole earth. ¹²Its leaves were beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in it was food for all. The beasts of the field found shade under it, and the birds of the heavens lived in its branches, and all flesh was fed from it.

¹³“I saw in the visions of my head as I lay in bed, and behold, a watcher, a holy one, came down from heaven. ¹⁴He proclaimed aloud and said thus: ‘Chop down the tree and lop off its branches, strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit. Let the beasts flee from under it and the birds from its branches. ¹⁵But leave the stump of its roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze, amid the tender grass of the field. Let him be wet with the dew of heaven. Let his portion be with the beasts in the grass of the earth. ¹⁶Let his mind be changed from a man's, and let a beast's mind be given to him; and let seven periods of time pass over him. ¹⁷The sentence is by the decree of the watchers, the decision by the word of the holy ones, to the end that the living may know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will and sets over it the lowliest of men.’ ¹⁸This dream I, King Nebuchadnezzar, saw. And you, O Belteshazzar, tell me the interpretation, because all the wise men of my kingdom are not able to make known to me the interpretation, but you are able, for the spirit of the holy gods is in you.”

¹⁹Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was dismayed for a while, and his thoughts alarmed him. The king answered and said, “Belteshazzar, let not the dream or the interpretation alarm you.” Belteshazzar answered and said, “My lord, may the dream be for those who hate you and its interpretation for your enemies! ²⁰The tree you saw, which grew and became strong, so that its top reached to heaven, and it was

visible to the end of the whole earth, ²¹ whose leaves were beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in which was food for all, under which beasts of the field found shade, and in whose branches the birds of the heavens lived— ²² it is you, O king, who have grown and become strong. Your greatness has grown and reaches to heaven, and your dominion to the ends of the earth. ²³ And because the king saw a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, ‘Chop down the tree and destroy it, but leave the stump of its roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze, in the tender grass of the field, and let him be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts of the field, till seven periods of time pass over him,’ ²⁴ this is the interpretation, O king: It is a decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king, ²⁵ that you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. You shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and you shall be wet with the dew of heaven, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will. ²⁶ And as it was commanded to leave the stump of the roots of the tree, your kingdom shall be confirmed for you from the time that you know that Heaven rules. ²⁷ Therefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable to you: break off your sins by practicing righteousness, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the oppressed, that there may perhaps be a lengthening of your prosperity.”

²⁸ All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. ²⁹ At the end of twelve months he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, ³⁰ and the king answered and said, “Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?” ³¹ While the words were still in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, “O King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: The kingdom has departed from you, ³² and you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. And you shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will.” ³³ Immediately the word was fulfilled against Nebuchadnezzar. He was driven from among men and ate grass like an ox, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair grew as long as eagles' feathers, and his nails were like birds' claws.

³⁴ At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever,

for his dominion is an everlasting dominion,
and his kingdom endures from generation to generation;
³⁵ all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing,
and he does according to his will among the host of heaven
and among the inhabitants of the earth;
and none can stay his hand
or say to him, “What have you done?”

³⁶ At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my majesty and splendor returned to me. My counselors and my lords sought me, and I was established in my kingdom, and still more greatness was added to me. ³⁷ Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble.

Hymn

The Day You Gave Us, Lord, Is Ended #407

*1. The day you gave us, Lord, is ended,
the darkness falls at your behest;
to you our morning hymns ascended,
your praise shall hallow now our rest.*

*2. We thank you that your church, unsleeping
while earth rolls onward into light,
through all the world her watch is keeping,
and rests not now by day or night.*

*3. As o'er each continent and island
the dawn leads on another day,
the voice of prayer is never silent,
nor dies the strain of praise away.*

*4. The sun, that bids us rest, is waking
our brethren 'neath the western sky,
and hour by hour fresh lips are making
your wondrous doings heard on high.*

*5. So be it, Lord; your throne shall never,
like earth's proud empires, pass away:
but stand, and rule, and grow forever,
till all your creatures own your sway.*

Season of Prayer

*Children and youth may be dismissed at this time through the front sanctuary doors
(adjacent to the stage) to go to their classes on the third floor.*

Prayers of Adoration and Confession

...for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?" (Dan 4:34b-35)

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Supplication

To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One. (26) Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name; by the greatness of his might and because he is strong in power, not one is missing. (Isaiah 40:25-26)

1. Christian awareness of and prayer regarding the consequential and controversial "Equality Act." Pray that our country would define justice according to God's law and God's law only. Pray that we as Christians will be willing, by God's grace, to obey God rather than men. Pray we will walk in the footsteps of our great Savior and of men like the apostles and Stephen from the book of Acts. Pray that Christ will extend the Gospel as we are faithful to his Word no matter the forces of opposition which might arise.
2. Pray we will remember that we have a present Enemy, the Evil One. Pray that we will remember that he has been defeated by our Great High Priest. Pray we will live with awareness of the invisible forces and kingdoms which are most ultimate. We wrestle not against flesh and blood...CHRIST. May we be faithful to Christ
3. **For our prayer life** as a church, as families, as individuals.

4. Luke 10:2 *And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.*
 - For the expansion of our gospel witness here in Tampa
 - For the expansion of our gospel witness to the nations
5. For the willingness to use **spiritual gifts** and the increase of them for the good of the body: Teaching, mercy, administration, music, service, giving, hospitality, and many more. For every need to be abundantly met - Galatians 6:2 *Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*

Missionaries:

Ray and Michelle Call in Belize: Their ten-year-old daughter, Christiana, is having inexplicable abdominal pain and a high fever. and they have limited medical resources there.

For the Needs of the Saints

1. J. R. Ward's father, Rick Ward, is had surgery this week to have his voice box removed as he continues to battle cancer in his throat. Please pray for a smooth procedure and recovery, complete healing from this cancer, and for their family as they endure this trial. Thankfully, J.R.'s father is a believer and is anchored in Christ in this hardship.
2. Jim Hess had surgery this past Monday to remove his gallbladder after a long season of pain and discomfort. He still has some additional procedures to undergo to bring full resolution. Please pray for a full recovery and relief from this pain; and pray for Joyce and KC & Jennifer Williams as they all care for Jim.
3. Austin Meyers who currently has COVID.
4. Pregnant mothers in our congregation
5. Mike Moore, friend of the Hiltons. Mike and his wife live in Texas; he is experiencing complications from COVID and is in dire health. He is a Christian. Please pray for a full recovery and for his family to be able to care for him during this time.
6. Recovery in the state of Texas following this recent weather crisis
7. Pray for Helen Westerfield (and her husband, Rick), newly relocated to Tampa and now grieving the death of BOTH of her parents to COVID in incredibly short order.
8. Vania Palmer suffered a head injury at work. Please pray for swift recovery and equitable treatment from her employer.
9. Thank you so much for praying for Raphael Reilly as he underwent a successful eye surgery. The Reillys are thankful to be home with him now as he begins his recovery. They so appreciate your prayers and shared that this was the most peace Raphael has had leading up to a surgery. Please thank the Lord with us for His care for this precious child. And please continue to pray that they would be able stay ahead of his pain and help him navigate around the house safely while he is seeing double for the next few days.
10. William and Tricia Reasor, as Tricia faces ongoing health difficulties

11. Don Bennett's mother Marlene (cancer) and father Don, and Don and Hope as they care for them.
12. For an end to the pandemic and for strength and comfort for those who are struggling in the pandemic with job loss, financial stress, illness, isolation, hopelessness, anger, or bitterness.

Scripture Song

The Steadfast Love of the Lord Never Ceases

*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
His mercies never come to an end,
They are new every morning, new every morning
Great is Thy faithfulness (Oh Lord)
Great is Thy faithfulness*

Benediction

Sermon Notes