



First United Methodist Church of Torrance Online Church in Worship

January 7, 2024

PRELUDE - Hani

Chant du Matin (Morning Song)

Alexandre Guilmant

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WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In the beginning, God...

People: **Swept over waters, spoke light into existence, created day and night and called it good.**

Leader: As the days and nights of creation filled with life, God...

People: **Made humanity out of the dirt to love and tend creation, to be loved and tended by God.**

Leader: As we lost our way, God...

People: **Sent Jesus, Love Incarnate, to show us the way back.**

Leader: On the day Jesus came to the banks of the Jordan River to be baptized, God...

People: **Declared, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."**

Leader: Let us, then, follow Jesus into the waters, remembering our baptism in which God...

People: **Claims us as beloved children, the family of God.**

(Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries)

OPENING HYMN #77 *How Great Thou Art* (v. 1, 2)

1. O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder
consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;
How great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;
How great thou art, how great thou art!

2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;

Refrain

How Great Thou Art
Stuart Wesley Keene Hine
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HOLY COMMUNION, The United Methodist Hymnal, page 15*The Great Thanksgiving*

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 our thanks and praise.

...The pastor concludes:
And so,
with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

...The pastor concludes:
And so,
in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

The pastor concludes:

All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.
now and for ever.

Amen.

HYMN #77 *How Great Thou Art* (v. 3, 4)

3. And when I think that God, his son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin;

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;
How great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;
How great thou art, how great thou art!

4. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
and there proclaim, my God how great thou art!

Refrain

PASTOR'S TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

JOYS AND CONCERNS / PASTORAL PRAYER / 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and glory forever. Amen.

OFFERING

For those who are called and able, gifts and tithes can still be made through [online giving](#), by mailing them in, and by dropping them off to the church office through the secure mail slot to the left of the double door entry to the church hallway.

OFFERTORY MUSIC - Hani

My Tribute

Arr. Fred Bock

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DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow (Old 100th)

Louis Bourgeois | Thomas Ken

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of redemption and new life, we focus once more this day on the greatest gift ever given—Jesus, our Savior. As he was baptized by John in the Jordan, we were able to share in his baptism and receive the promise of sharing in Jesus' resurrection. As we leave one year behind and look with hope to the new year ahead, help us to live and give of ourselves as those who know every day what a great gift we have been given. May it move us to give our whole selves more freely! In the name of Christ, our Savior and Redeemer, we pray! Amen.

(Genesis 1:1-5, Mark 1:4-11)

SCRIPTURE Acts 13:16-23, John 3:16 (NRSV)

Acts 13

16 So Paul stood up and with a gesture began to speak:

“You Israelites, and others who fear God, listen. 17 The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. 18 For about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness. 19 After he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance 20 for about four hundred fifty years. After that he gave them judges until the time of the prophet Samuel. 21 Then they asked for a king; and God gave them Saul son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, who reigned for forty years. 22 When he had removed him, he made David their king. In his testimony about him he said, ‘I have found David, son of Jesse, to be a man after my heart, who will carry out all my wishes.’ 23 Of this man’s posterity God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised;

John 3

16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

Response

The Word of the Lord:
Thanks be to God.

Anthem – Chancel Choir**One Bread, One Body**

John Foley | Arr. Mark Hayes

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SERMON – Rev. Jacob Lee

You Are Loved

CLOSING HYMN #364 *Because He Lives* (v. 1, 3)

1. God sent his Son, they called him Jesus;
he came to love, heal, and forgive;
he lived and died to buy my pardon,
an empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

Refrain

Because he lives, I can face tomorrow;
because he lives, all fear is gone;
because I know he holds the future,
and life is worth the living just because he lives.

3. And then one day I'll cross the river;
I'll fight life's final war with pain;
and then as death gives way to victory,
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know he reigns.

*Refrain***Because He Lives**

Gloria Gaither | William J. Gaither

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE - Hani

With Might and Majesty

Steve Scott

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