

Worshiping God, the Highest of Gifts!

PRELUDE *Wie schon leuchtet der Morgenstern* J. S. Bach
(*How Brightly Shines the Morning Star*)

Dennis Bergin, organ

WELCOME

Reverend Dr. Russell St. John, Lead Pastor

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP *Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying*
Kyrstan Brantley, Deborah Roby, vocals; Carrie Smith, piano; Matt Brantley, bass;
Billy Stulac, Ariana Stout, guitar; Greg Wagener, drums

"Wake, awake, for night is flying," the watchmen on the heights are crying,
"Awake, Jerusalem, at last!" Midnight hears the welcome voices,
And at the thrilling cry rejoices: "Come forth, ye virgins, night is past!
The Bridegroom comes; awake, your lamps with gladness take;
Alleluia! And for his marriage feast prepare, for you must go to meet him there."
Ah, come, thou blessed Lord, O Jesus, Son of God, alleluia!
We follow till the halls we see where thou hast bid us sup with thee.

***GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP** Revelation 19:6-7

Reverend David Barnes, Associate Pastor

Pastor: Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar
of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out,

People: "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.

Pastor: Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory,

**People: For the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself
ready."**

***STREAMS OF MERCY NEVER CEASING! No. 457** *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

***WE INVOKE HIS PRESENCE**

GOD EXPOSES OUR NEED 2 Timothy 1:5-6

Reverend Dr. Russell St. John

I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

WE CONFESS OUR SIN

CHRIST PROVIDES FOR OUR NEED 2 Timothy 2:20-21

Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.

***A FOUNTAIN TO CLEANSE US** **No. 253** *There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood*

WE INVOKE HIS HELP Psalm 46:1

Reverend Dr. Russell St. John, Lead Pastor

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

GOD CALLS US TO STEWARDSHIP Proverbs 3:9

Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce.

WE GIVE OUR GRATEFUL OFFERINGS

WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD *The Love of Christ is Rich and Free*
Kyrstan Brantley, Jeffrey Heyl, Ellie McGinty, Deborah Roby, vocals

The love of Christ is rich and free, fixed on His own eternally.
Nor earth nor hell can it remove, long as He lives His own He'll love.

His loving heart engaged to be, their everlasting surety.
'Twas love that took their cause in hand, and love maintains it to the end.

Chorus

Love cannot from its post withdraw. Nor death, nor hell, nor sin, nor law
Can turn the surety's heart away. He'll love His own to endless day.

Love has redeemed His sheep with blood, and love will bring them safe to God.
Love calls them all from death to life, and love will finish all their strife. *Chorus*

At death beyond the grave He'll love. In endless bliss His own shall prove.
The blazing glory of that love which never could from them remove.

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Children's Church - Pre-K, Kindergarten & 1st Grade, Room 207 Children & Teachers
please come forward **AFTER** the Offertory. **Parents, please accompany your child to
register them for their first visit.**

GOD PROCLAIMS HIS WORD	Reverend Dr. Russell St. John, Lead Pastor
SERMON SERIES	"1 Corinthians"
SCRIPTURE TEXT	1 Corinthians 12:27-31a page 959 in the pew Bible
SERMON TITLE	<i>Earnest Desire</i>

***WE PRAISE YOUR GLORIOUS NAME No. 98** *Now Thank We All Our God*

GOD CONFERS SACRAMENTAL GRACE

Reverend David Barnes

Theodore Alexander, son of Mark and Bella Triplett

***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.**

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** Reprise: *Now Thank We All Our God*

Earnest Desire

Reverend Dr. Russell St. John, Lead Pastor

1 Corinthians 12:27-31a | page 959 in the pew Bible

Why must you desire the “higher gifts?”

1. Because the Lord commissions your service

2. Because the Body craves your service

*Congregation please rise

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