

WORSHIP OF THE LIVING GOD

September 14, 2025

Reflection

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Psalm 13

Leader: How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?
All: How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?
Leader: Consider and answer me, O LORD my God; light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death, lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him," lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.
All: But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me.

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise

It Is Well with My Soul, Hymn # 691
Horatio G. Spafford, 1873; Phillip P. Bless, 1876

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

REFRAIN: It is well with my soul; it is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And has shed his own blood for my soul.

My sin—O the bliss of this glorious thought!—
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more;
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

O Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend;
"Even so"—it is well with my soul.

Confession of Sin

Lord, forgive us for despairing and doubting your love when sorrows come. We often settle for idols to soothe our sadness rather than run to you. The cross was the greatest act of love you lavished on us, and yet we forget. Forgive our shortsightedness and fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfector of our faith who for the joy set before him endured the cross for us.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness & Pardoning Grace

Psalm 145:13-14

The LORD is faithful in all his word and kind in all his works.
The LORD upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.

*Song of Assurance

Sweet Comfort
Latifah Alattas | Sandra McCracken
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Moda Spira Publishing (Admin. by Moda Spira LLC)

Whatever my God ordains is right; his holy will abides
I will be still whatever he does, and follow where he guides

CHORUS: Sweet comfort, sweet comfort, yet shall fill my heart
Sweet comfort, sweet comfort, sorrow shall depart

Whatever my God ordains is right, he makes my feet to stand
Though sorrow need or death be mine, he holds me in his hand

BRIDGE: This bitter cup I take it, my fainting heart restored
So here I stand unshaken, I trust upon the Lord

He is my God though dark my road, He holds me I shall not fall
Whatever my God ordains is right, to him I leave it all

Reading of Scripture

Psalm 102

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Sermon

Near Enough, Strong Enough

Tithes and Offerings

Choir

**You may also give at clemsonpres.org/give
K5-1st Grade are invited to Engage.*
O Sacred Head Now Wounded
Arr. by Jay Rouse

Prayers of Lament

Physical Pain and Sickness

Leader: Hear, O LORD, our cry for those who experience physical pain and sickness.
All: Father, do not hide your face from them.
Leader: We remember those who suffer, who experience the grief of a cancer diagnosis, the exhaustion of chronic pain, the uncertainty of dementia. Our illnesses and afflictions are too many to name. We lament with them, because physical affliction impacts the whole of life. We fear we will never get better. We worry ability, function, health, and happiness will never come back. O God, with them we cry out to you, How long?! We were not made for this.
All: Why, O Lord, do you stand far off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?
Leader: God of mercy, because Jesus took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, we ask you to grant the sufferers relief in place of the hurt, endurance in place of the weariness, and hope in place of despair. Make your face shine upon them.
All: God who hears, when you answer us, we will tell of your compassion, power, and kindness.

Relational Brokenness

Leader: In the distress of loneliness, betrayal, neglect, and conflict, we call upon you.
All: O God, listen to our plea!
Leader: We intercede for those who were mocked, lied about, or slandered. We pray for those who have sought human connection and not found it. We cry out for those who are estranged from parents, siblings, and friends. We were made for friendship, to know and be known—yet we know the anguish of isolation, shame, and rejection. The overwhelming sense of isolation can be too much for us. To you we bring our broken hearts.
All: God of all comfort, with them we offer the groans of an anguished heart.
Leader: Lord, you say your friendship is for those who fear you. Because your son was rejected, we know that you will never leave us or forsake us. So will you comfort and befriend the hurting? Grant them the joy of friendship, the healing of hurts, and the chance to comfort with the comfort they receive from you.
All: God who sees, we offer you our praise for your present Holy Spirit.

For the Grieving

Leader: God of all comfort, we bring to you those who mourn the death of someone they loved.
All: Lord, be gracious to them, for they are languishing.
Leader: Father in heaven, death was not designed to be part of our existence, and the pain it brings can be unbearable, unspeakable, and unimaginable. From the stinging loss of a friend, to the aching absence of a beloved parent, to the inexpressible horror of losing a child, we recoil and are undone by death. Some are weary with their moaning and feel trapped. Some have denied their pain in order to protect their hearts and are shut down. These burdens are too much for us.
All: God, why do we cry and you do not answer?
Leader: Jesus, you are the resurrection and the life, yet you wept at your friend's grave. May those of us who grieve know your solidarity, presence, and tears. Will you hasten the day when you will wipe every tear, restore every loss, and heal every hurt. All because you defeated death and have destroyed its sting.
All: The Lord has heard my plea; the Lord accepts our prayer.

The Lord's Supper

If you are not able to receive the Lord's Supper today, we are glad you're here. We have many in our church who are processing what it means to become a Christian, or who might be believers but are not able to receive it today. If that's you, you might spend this time meditating on one of the following prayers:
Prayer for Those Searching for Truth
Lord Jesus, you claim to be one with God and to be sent by him for the salvation of sinners. If what you claim is true, and what you have done matters, then open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is real, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved so that I might be in union with Jesus. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Words of Institution and Prayer

Sharing of the Bread

He Will Hold Me Fast

A. R. Habershon, M. Merker

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail, he will hold me fast
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path
For my love is often cold; he must hold me fast.

CHORUS: He will hold me fast, he will hold me fast.
For my Savior loves me so, he will hold me fast.

Those He saves are his delight, Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in his holy sight, he will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost, his promises shall last;
Bought by him at such a cost, he will hold me fast.

For my life he bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied; he will hold me fast.
Raised with him to endless life; he will hold me fast;
'Til our faith is turned to sight when he comes at last!

Passing of the Cup

Lord from Sorrows Deep I Call (Psalm 42)

Matt Papa and Matt Boswell

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***Hymn of Response**

Doxology, Hymn # 731

Thomas Ken, 1709; Louis Bourgeois's Genevan Psalter, 1551

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

***Benediction**

**Telling a Better Story: The Beauty of Biblical Sexuality | October 3-5
clemsonpres.org/conference**

Join us for a free theology conference on Biblical Sexuality with Rev. Robert Cunningham. Dive into thoughtful conversations on identity, sexuality, and marriage. We'll discover what Scripture says and how to live out our faith with confidence and compassion, knowing the Bible tells a better story. Learn more about the conference and Robert, as well as sign up at the link above.

Officer Nominations begin today! Pray about who you can nominate for the office of elder or deacon then go to clemsonpres.org/nominations to nominate someone. You'll also find more information on the process and qualifications there.

Brats & Bocce | September 25 | 6-8pm | Side Lawn

Join the men of CPC for an evening of Brats (Bratwurst) and Bocce Ball on the church lawn near the volleyball court. Invite a friend and bring your kids or grandkids.

Congregational Meeting | October 12 | 9am

The Session has called a congregational meeting to vote on officer candidates (the men who have either been in training or are finishing sabbatical). Read about the candidates at clemsonpres.org/candidates, and you will hear from them in the meeting. We will also vote on a salary and benefits package for Reid Jones.

CPC Life Breakfast Help

The CPC Life Class serves breakfast on the first Sunday of each month. The leaders of the class could use help in providing all or part of the breakfast. Food gets dropped off in 1E6 at 8:50 on the first Sunday. No need to stay and serve or even help set up. Get more info by emailing Kay Sporrer (kaysporrer@gmail.com)

Session Notes

Read the notes from the last Session meeting at clemsonpres.org/session.

Elders: Bryan Counts, Matthew Icard, Reid Jones, Brinck Bowers, Doug Bull, Bill Caldwell, Jimmy Dixon, Mark Dodd, Bill Fisk, Will Huss, Kevin Miles, David Myers, Chris Peters, Conrad Shuler, Barry Swiger, Doug Wilson, Rob Vaughn

Deacons: Tommy Barron, John Thomas Campbell, Ensley Feemster, David Gambrell, David Haile, Bill Harley, Allen Lohmann, Zach Miller, David Thorsland, Joel Ward, Paul Watters

Stay in Touch: Subscribe to church emails or download the Clemson Pres app at clemsonpres.org/contact.

What's happening at Clemson Pres this week? Find the church calendar in the CPC app or at clemsonpres.org/calendar.