

**CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 24 – 10:30 A.M.
“GOD OF GRACE AND MERCY”**

WE ENTER TO WORSHIP

PRESERVICE MUSIC* *“Sweet By And By”

**There’s a land that is fairer than day,
And by faith we can see it afar;
For the Father waits over the way
To prepare us a dwelling place there.**

REFRAIN:

**In the sweet by and by,
We shall meet on that beautiful shore;
In the sweet by and by,
We shall meet on that beautiful shore.**

**We shall sing on that beautiful shore
The melodious songs of the blessed;
And our spirits shall sorrow no more,
Not a sigh for the blessing of rest.**

REFRAIN

**To our bountiful Father above,
We will offer our tribute of praise
For the glorious gift of His love
And the blessings that hallow our days.**

REFRAIN

"Sweet By And By" written by Elsie Leslie Public Domain Scripture Reference: John 14:2 CCLI Song: 271924 CCLI License: 51072

“Overcomer”

**Staring at a stop sign
Watching people drive by
T Mac on the radio
Got so much on your mind
Nothing's really going right
Looking for a ray of hope**

**Whatever it is you may be going through
I know He's not gonna let it get the best of you**

CHORUS

**You're an overcomer
Stay in the fight 'til the final round
You're not going under
'Cause God is holding you right now
You might be down for a moment
Feeling like it's hopeless
That's when He reminds You
That you're an overcomer
You're an overcomer**

**Everybody's been down
Hit the bottom, hit the ground
Ooh, you're not alone
Just take a breath, don't forget
Hang on to His promises
He wants You to know
CHORUS**

**The same Man, the Great I am
The one who overcame death
He's living inside of You
So just hold tight, fix your eyes
On the one who holds your life
There's nothing He can't do
He's telling you**

**(Take a breath, don't forget
Hang on to His promises)
CHORUS**

**You're an overcomer
You're an overcomer**

**So don't quit, don't give in, you're an overcomer
Don't quit, don't give in, you're an overcomer
Don't quit, don't give in, you're an overcomer
You're an overcomer**

*"Overcomer" written by Ben Glover / Christopher Stevens / David Garcia © 2013 Ariose Music
Scripture Reference: Romans 8:35-39 CCLI Song: 6623328 CCLI License: 51072*

WORSHIP THEME: – “God of Grace and Mercy” Matthew 20:1-16

“Life is not fair!” We all have either heard this from another person or uttered the statement ourselves. The longer we live, the deeper this truth is for us. We have all experienced what we perceive to be unfairness within in our families, in institutions, the work place, businesses, church, and the list goes on. It is unsettling and can easily consume our minds and emotions if we let it. Yes, it is important to fight for justice and equality in this world yet we know that there will always be unfair treatment in this imperfect sinful world coupled with what we can term as the human economy. We also need to accept the fact that God’s economy is not built on “fairness” or a mentality of “earning.” It is built on generosity, mercy, and grace. God freely spends on us with no strings attached. This runs counter to our human thought process. God continually gives us gifts we certainly do not deserve.

+ We Lift Our Hearts in Worship +

OPENING SONG..... “Because He Lives (Amen)”

**I believe in the Son
I believe in the Risen One
I believe I overcome
By the power of His blood**

**Amen Amen
I’m alive I’m alive because He lives
Amen Amen
Let my song join the one that never ends
Because He lives**

**I was dead in the grave
I was covered in sin and shame
I heard mercy call my name
He rolled the stone away**

**Amen Amen
I’m alive I’m alive because He lives
Amen Amen
Let my song join the one that never ends**

**Because He lives I can face tomorrow
Because He lives ev’ry fear is gone
I know He holds my life
My future in His hand**

Amen Amen
I'm alive I'm alive because He lives
Amen Amen
Let my song join the one that never ends

Amen Amen
I'm alive I'm alive because He lives
Amen Amen
Let my song join the one that never ends
Because He lives
Because He lives

*"Because He Lives (Amen)" written by Chris Tomlin, Daniel Carson, Ed Cash, Gloria Gaither, Jason Ingram, Matt Maher, William J. Gaither © 2014 S. D. G. Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Scripture Reference: Hebrews 7:24; Psalm 103:1
CCLI Song: 7027887 CCLI License: 51072*

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,
People: **Amen.**

Pastor: What a joy it is to worship God in and through Jesus Christ and celebrate the true freedom bestowed upon us all through His amazing grace.
People: **Jesus has redeemed us and given us undeserved love and grace made possible through His atonement and sacrifice which has set us free!**

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor: God of grace and mercy, it was out of incredible love for humanity, that You made a provision for our release from bondage to sin and death. You sent Jesus Christ into this world to abolish our slavery to sin and grant forgiveness and restoration. Through Your unconditional love, You made it possible for us to have a new and abundant life filled with hope for the future. Each day we are faced with the realities of unfairness in this world it can cause us to question Your power and presence. Out of Your great mercy and wonderful grace, You have given us assurance that Your ways will ultimately produce freedom and salvation. We are so thankful that even in the midst of the injustices of this life, You break through with Your saving light.
People: **We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen**

TIME OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: God of truth and grace, everywhere we turn, we see injustice and examples of unfairness. You call us to be a voice and stand up for truth and justice yet we know that in this fallen world, these realities will always be with us. The truth of Your Word states that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. It was out of Your perfect love for us, that You sent Jesus to free

us from sin and that which holds us captive. We can live with hope in a world that would otherwise leave us hopeless. Help us to look within ourselves—confessing that which enslaves us so that we can be free to serve You.

People: Lord God, we confess to You that we have failed to live and act according to Your will. We have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have allowed the influences of society to take precedence over Your ways and have not stood up for what we believe. We have not embraced the truth of Your word and have suffered the effects of our decisions. We repent and ask for Your forgiveness. Bring wisdom to our minds and temper us so that we can be obedient to Your word and not controlled by our sins.

Pastor: We are freed from bondage to sin because God has conquered sin and death. As we confess our sins and ask for forgiveness, the Lord reconciles us through the blood of Jesus Christ. May we never lose sight of how much the Lord loves us and accepts us. The shackles of sin do not hold you. You are forgiven! God’s grace and mercy has set you free!

People: Amen.

+ We Hear God’s Word +

Genesis 50:15-21(ESV)(page 5 in bulletin)..... (on page 85 in NIV pew Bible)
Romans 14:1-12(ESV) (page 5 in bulletin) (on page 1765 in NIV pew Bible)
Matthew 18:21-35(ESV)(page 6 in bulletin) (on page 1527 in NIV pew Bible)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen

SERMON SONG “Man Of Sorrows”

**Man of sorrows Lamb of God
By His own betrayed
The sin of man and wrath of God
Has been on Jesus laid**

**Silent as He stood accused
Beaten mocked and scorned
Bowing to the Father's will
He took a crown of thorns**

**Oh that rugged cross my salvation
Where Your love poured out over me
Now my soul cries out hallelujah
Praise and honour unto Thee**

**Sent of heaven God's own Son
To purchase and redeem
And reconcile the very ones
Who nailed Him to that tree**

**Oh that rugged cross my salvation
Where Your love poured out over me
Now my soul cries out hallelujah
Praise and honour unto Thee**

**Now my debt is paid
It is paid in full
By the precious blood
That my Jesus spilled
Now the curse of sin
Has no hold on me
Whom the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed**

**Now my debt is paid
It is paid in full
By the precious blood
That my Jesus spilled
Now the curse of sin
Has no hold on me
Whom the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed**

**Oh that rugged cross my salvation
Where Your love poured out over me
Now my soul cries out hallelujah
Praise and honour unto Thee**

**See the stone is rolled away
Behold the empty tomb
Hallelujah God be praised
He's risen from the grave**

**Oh that rugged cross my salvation
Where Your love poured out over me
Now my soul cries out hallelujah
Praise and honour unto Thee
Praise and honour unto Thee**

*Man Of Sorrows - Written by Brooke Ligertwood, Matt Crocker © 2012 Hillsong Music Publishing Scripture Reference: Isaiah 53
CCLI Song: 6476063 CCLI License: 51072*

MESSAGE..... "Reassuring Words" by Rev. Gary Fortkamp Genesis 50:15-21

OFFERING SONG..... "Bless This Offering"

**God of Love, hear our prayer, bless this offering we bring You.
May our lives do Your will, guide and guard us forever.
Give us courage to stand for truth, help us care for others.
God of Love, hear our prayer, bless this offering we bring You.**

"Bless This Offering" Pulic Domain Scripture Reference: Genesis 14:20, Psalms 9:1-2 CCLI License 51072

+ We Pray +

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

+ We Celebrate the Lord's Supper +

Here our Lord gives to us His Own Body and Blood for the forgiveness of all our sins.

WE PREPARE

Pastor: Gracious and Merciful God, we are forgiven and renewed through the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. Prepare our hearts and minds as we partake of these gifts of grace from our Lord Jesus Christ. You could not bear to see us in bondage, thus You sent Your only Son, Jesus, to proclaim a message of truth and release from our sins and death. This was an act of amazing grace and unconditional love. You made a loving sacrifice through death to give life to all believers. Christ is present in this sacrament and we eat the bread, the body of Christ, and drink the cup, the blood of Christ with a sheer sense of gratitude.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION SONG "The Old Rugged Cross"

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

REFRAIN

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.

O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left his glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary.

REFRAIN

In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
A wondrous beauty I see,
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,
To pardon and sanctify me.

REFRAIN

To that old rugged cross I will ever be true,
Its shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away,
Where His glory forever I'll share.

REFRAIN

*"The Old Rugged Cross" written by George Bennard Public Domain Scripture Reference: John 3:16; Hebrews 12:2-3
CCLI Song: 19722 CCLI License: 51072*

DISMISSAL BLESSING

Pastor: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep
you in His grace, truth, and love all the days of your life

People: Amen

+ We Depart in Peace +

BENEDICTION

Pastor: May the Lord bless you and grant you peace as you go into the world and serve.

People: We are thankful and with joy in our hearts, we will go into the world and proclaim His mighty Word!

CLOSING SONG..... "Sing Sing Sing"

**Sing, sing, sing
And make music with the heavens
We will sing, sing, sing
Grateful that You hear us
When we shout Your praise
Lift high the name of Jesus**

**What's not to love about You
Heaven and earth adore You
Kings and kingdoms bow down
Son of God
You are the One
You are the One**

**You are the love that frees us
You are the light that leads us
Like a fire burning
Son of God
You are the One
You are the One
We're living for**

**Sing, sing, sing
And make music with the heavens
We will sing, sing, sing
Grateful that You hear us
When we shout Your praise
Lift high the name of Jesus**

**What's not to love about You
Heaven and earth adore You
Kings and kingdoms bow down
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We shout Your praise
Lift high the name

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Grateful that You hear us
We shout Your praise
Lift high the name of Jesus

*"Sing Sing Sing" written by Chris Tomlin, Daniel Carson, Jesse Reeves, Matt Gilder, Travis Nunn
2008 worshiptogether.com Scripture Reference: Psalm 47:6 CCLI Song: 5114065 CCLI License: 51072*

We Exit to Serve!

If this service has moved you spiritually and you have questions regarding your spiritual life, please feel free to visit with one of the Pastors after the service.

