

**CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 3 – 10:30 A.M.
“TRUE CROSS-BEARING”**

WE ENTER TO WORSHIP

PRESERVICE MUSIC *“Blessed Be Your Name”*

Blessed be Your name
In the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow
Blessed be Your name

Blessed be Your name
When I'm found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness
Blessed be Your name

Every blessing You pour out,
I'll turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord
Still I will say...
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name

Blessed be Your name
When the sun's shining down on me
When the world's all as it should be
Blessed be Your name

Blessed be Your name
On the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering
Blessed be Your name

Every blessing You pour out,
I turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord
Still I will say...

Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name

You give and take away
You give and take away
My heart will choose to say
Lord, blessed be Your name

You give and take away
You give and take away
My heart will choose to say
Lord, blessed be Your name

Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name

"Blessed Be Your Name" written by Beth Redman, Matt Redman © 2002 Thankyou Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing) Scripture Reference: Genesis 14:20, Psalms 9:1-2 CCLI Song: 3798438 CCLI License: 51072

"God of Wonders"

Lord of all creation
Of water earth and sky
The heavens are Your tabernacle
Glory to the Lord on high

God of wonders beyond our galaxy
You are holy, holy
The universe declares Your majesty
You are holy, holy

Lord of heaven and earth
Lord of heaven and earth

Early in the morning
I will celebrate the light
As I stumble in the darkness
I will call Your name by night

**God of wonders beyond our galaxy
You are holy, holy
The universe declares Your majesty
You are holy, holy**

**Lord of heaven and earth
Lord of heaven and earth**

**Hallelujah to the Lord of heaven and earth
Hallelujah to the Lord of heaven and earth
Hallelujah to the Lord of heaven and earth**

**God of wonders beyond our galaxy
You are holy, holy
The universe declares Your majesty
You are holy, holy**

**God of wonders beyond our galaxy
You are holy, holy
The universe declares Your majesty
You are holy, holy**

**Lord of heaven and earth
Lord of heaven and earth
Lord of heaven and earth**

*"God Of Wonders" written by Marc Byrd, Steve Hindalong 2000 New Spring Scripture Reference: Psalms 40:5, Exodus 15:11
CCLI Song: 3118757 CCLI License: 51072*

WORSHIP THEME: "True Cross-Bearing"

Matthew 16:21-28

Have you ever thought about the fact that if we were able to just skate through life without experiencing pain, sorrow, challenges, and difficulties, we would not see and experience God's power in action? We would only be relying on ourselves and nothing else. I am reminded of the first two steps of AA: 1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol — that our lives had become unmanageable. 2. Came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity. As we examine the Gospel text for today, it is clear that we are called to deny ourselves, take up the cross, and follow Jesus. We are called to bear certain crosses and lose hold of our lifestyle and, our very life. It is Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross that enables us to actually follow through and do what we cannot do on our own. As we walk through life filled with life's toil, we participate with Jesus and walk with Him – bearing the cross—and it is His strength that bears the weight of what we carry. The great preacher said it so well: "We say, "But, Lord, I cannot." And God says, "I'm glad to hear you say that. Through you, I can."

OPENING SONG.....“Thy Word”

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.**

**When I feel afraid and I think I've lost my way,
Still You're there right beside me.
Nothing will I fear as long as You are near,
Please be near me to the end.**

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.**

**I will not forget Your love for me and yet,
My heart forever is wandering.
Jesus be my guide and hold me to Your side,
And I will love You to the end.**

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
And a light unto my path, You're the light unto my path.**

*"Thy Word" written by Amy Grant, Michael W. Smith © 1984 Meadowgreen Music Company Scripture Reference: Psalm 119:105
CCLI Song: 14301 CCLI License: 51072*

INVOCATION

Pastor: We have assembled together to worship God who desires that we come to Him always in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.

People: **With gratitude in our hearts, we are here to give praise to God and pray with a fervent heart.**

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor: Mighty God and Father, You loved us so much that You sacrificed Your Son, Jesus Christ, by allowing Him to die on a cross. The image of the cross is forever etched on our hearts and through Your Son, You have called us to deny ourselves and take up the cross and follow Jesus. We know that bearing the cross of Christ will cause us to make changes in our lives and create transformation through a power like no other. We know that Your strength will bear the weight of what we carry and that gives us hope in a world that can seem rather hopeless. Thank You for the cross and all that it means for our daily lives.

People: **In Jesus' name we pray. Amen**

TIME OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: We take this moment to look within our lives and confess our sins.

People: **We confess that our human inclinations create a barrier for change. It is apparent to us that there are areas of our lives that need change but our pride and stubbornness overshadow our desire to change. We admit that the lures and temptations of this world often lead us to behaviors that are not consistent with Your Word.**

We confess that we have tried to take control and work out things ourselves, rather than come to You, when faced with problems and challenges in our lives. We regret that we have not taken up the cross when faced with situations in life and have not relied on our faith. We know that our own perceived power and strength can never match the strength found in Jesus Christ.

We confess that we have kept the saving message of Jesus Christ to ourselves and have missed many opportunities to impact the lives of others. Help us to be more consistent in living out our faith and help us to be more persistent in our communication with God. We know that God has power to heal, restore, and change lives. Help us to deny ourselves and embrace the power of the cross.

With all these confessions, we are deeply sorry and ask for Your forgiveness.

Pastor: By Christ’s authority and power, your sins are forgiven. You are cleansed and made new again!

People: **Amen!**

+ We Hear God’s Word +

Jeremiah 15:15-21(ESV)(page 4 in bulletin)..... (on page 1198 in NIV pew Bible)

Romans 12:9-21(ESV) (page 5 in bulletin) (on page 1764 in NIV pew Bible)

Matthew 16:21-28(ESV)(page 5 in bulletin) (on page 1524 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 "How Deep The Father's Love For Us"

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
And make a wretch His treasure

How great the pain of searing loss,
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the chosen One,
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the Man upon the cross,
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice,
Call out among the scoffers

It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no power, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection

Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

*"How Deep The Father's Love For Us" written by Stuart Townend 1995 Thankyou Music
Scripture Reference: Isaiah 53:12, Ephesians 2:4-9 CCLI Song: 1558110 CCLI License: 51072*

MESSAGE..... "Cross?"Matthew 16:21-28

OFFERING SONG..... "Give Thanks"

Give thanks
With a grateful heart
Give thanks
To the holy One
Give thanks
For He's given
Jesus Christ, His Son
(repeat)

And now let the weak say
I am strong
Let the poor say
I am rich
Because of what
The Lord has done
For us
(repeat)

Give thanks...

*"Give Thanks" written by Henry Smith © 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music Scripture Reference: Psalm 107:1
CCLI Song: 20285 CCLI License: 51072*

+ We Pray +

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

+ We Depart in Peace +

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go now in peace and serve the Lord everyday!

People: Amen.

CLOSING SONG..... "Love The Lord"

Love the Lord Your God
With all your heart with all your soul
With all your mind and with all your strength
Love the Lord Your God
With all your heart with all your soul
With all your mind and with all your strength

With all your heart with all your soul
With all your mind with all your strength - 14 -

**Love the Lord Your God
With all your heart with all your soul
With all your mind and with all your strength**

**I will serve the Lord with all my heart with all my soul
With all my mind and with all my strength
I will serve the Lord with all my heart with all my soul
With all my mind and with all my strength**

**With all my heart with all my soul
With all my mind with all my strength**

**I will serve the Lord with all my heart with all my soul
With all my mind and with all my strength**

**I will love You (I will love You)
I will praise You (I will praise You)
I will serve You (I will serve You)
I will trust You (I will trust You)**

**With all my heart, with all my soul
With all my mind, with all my strength
With all my heart, with all my soul
With all my mind, with all my strength**

**I will love You Lord with all my heart with all my soul
With all my mind and with all my strength
I will love You Lord with all my heart with all my soul
With all my mind and with all my strength
I will love You Lord with all my heart with all my soul
With all my mind and with all my strength**

*"Love The Lord" written by Lincoln Brewster 2005 Integrity's Praise! Music Scripture Reference: Mark 12:20, Luke 10:27
CCLI Song: 4572938 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.