



September 17, 2023—8:30 and 9:45 am  
Sanctuary

*"Since God's justice has been fully satisfied, the remaining purposes of His discipline are to help those dear to Him to know more of the riches of His grace, and to grow more like Him. Divine discipline is intended to benefit the wayward rather than to exact retribution for wrong."  
-Bryan Chapell, from "What's Discipline Got to Do With It?"*

Prelude *Be Thou My Vision* setting by Gordon Young

Community Life Update

Call to Sacrificial Living

\*Call to Worship Psalm 103:8-13

Leader: The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**All: He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever.**

Leader: He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

**All: For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;**

Leader: as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

**All: As a father shows compassion to his children,  
so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.**

\*Prayer of Adoration

\*Hymns of Praise

*Praise the Lord all you nations, extol him all you peoples, for great is his love for us.  
Praise the Lord he is faithful, His love endures forever and great is his love for us.*

Sing a song of praise to God enthroned on high,  
Bow before the King of the angels,  
His mercy and His love, his justice will be known,  
lift a song of praise to the Lord!

Boldly shout his praise for he has rescued us,  
Sin and death no more can enslave us.  
His beauty and his pow'r, displayed at Calvary,  
lift a song of praise to the Lord!

*Words and Music: Jered McKenna, 2013*

\* Please stand if you are able.

<sup>1</sup> Come, thou Almighty King, help us thy name to sing, help us to praise:  
Father, all glorious, o'er all victorious, come, and reign over us, Ancient of Days.

<sup>2</sup> Come, thou Incarnate Word, gird on thy mighty sword, our prayer attend.  
Come, and thy people bless, and give thy Word success; Spirit of holiness, on us descend.

<sup>3</sup> Come, Holy Comforter, thy sacred witness bear in this glad hour:  
Thou who almighty art, now rule in every heart, and ne'er from us depart, Spirit of pow'r.

<sup>4</sup> To the great One in Three, eternal praises be, hence evermore.  
His sovereign majesty may we in glory see, and to eternity love and adore.

*Words: Anon., circa 1757; Music: Felice De Giardini, Public Domain, 1769*

\*Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Deuteronomy 8:1-14

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

Confession of Sin

from The Book of Common Prayer

**All: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name.**

Moment of Silent Confession

Words of Grace and Peace

Isaiah 43:1-3a

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior."

Choral Meditation

How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!  
Oh, what more can He say than to you He has said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed, for I am your God, and will still give you aid;  
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand, upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

"The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose, I will not, I cannot, desert to its foes;  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."

How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord!

*Words: Rippon's "Selection of Hymns" Public Domain, 18th c.; Music: Trad. American; arr. Craig Courtney, © 2022, Beckenhorst Press, Inc.*

\*Hymn of Worship

*K4-K5 may leave for Kids Ministry.*

*8:30 am—One parent will need to escort the child to volunteers in the Commons Area for Kids Church.*

*9:45 am—One parent will need to escort the child downstairs to join Kids Sunday School.*

<sup>1</sup>My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Hymnal, 521

*On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.*

<sup>2</sup>When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;  
In ev'ry high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.

<sup>3</sup>His oath, his covenant, his blood support me in the whelming flood;  
When all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.

<sup>4</sup>When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found;  
Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne.

*Words: Edward Mote, Public Domain, 1834; Music: William Bradbury, Public Domain, 1863*

Pastoral Prayer

Scripture Reading

Hebrews 12:1-17

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

*Sermon Series - Hebrews: Jesus Is Better*

Scott Puckett

\*Hymn of Response

What love could remember no wrongs we have done? Omniscient, all knowing, He counts not their sum.  
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore; Our sins they are many His mercy is more.

*Praise the Lord - His mercy is more, Stronger than darkness - new every morn.  
Our sins they are many - His mercy is more.*

What patience would wait as we constantly roam? What Father so tender is calling us home?  
He welcomes the weakest the vilest the poor; Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

What riches of kindness He lavished on us; His blood was the payment His life was the cost.  
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford; Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

*Words and Music: Boswell, Papa © 2016 Getty Music and Songs Song no. 7065053 CCLI no. 789870*

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

*We are grateful for your sacrificial giving that supports the work of this church. To give, you can visit [give.mitchellroad.org](http://give.mitchellroad.org).  
Tithes and Offerings may also be placed in the giving box at the exits of the Sanctuary as you leave.*

**Assisting in Worship Today**

Preacher: Scott Puckett, Engage the World Pastor

Liturgist: Jacob Virtue, High School Youth Director (8:30); Jamie Lightcap, Ruling Elder (9:45)

New Today? Welcome!

We're so glad you are here! Fill out a blue Connect Card and stop by and turn it in at the Welcome Desk for a free gift. Also, join us for coffee in the Welcome Center between 9:30 and 11:15 am. We would love to meet you.

Membership Class Begins Soon!

Interested in finding out more about our church? Our New Members Class will be on Sundays from October 15–November 19 from 9:45-10:45 am. There will also be a Sunday evening dinner. This class is a requirement for membership but you are welcome to join the class even if you are unsure about membership. Registration is now open at [mitchellroad.org/events](http://mitchellroad.org/events).

Quick Notes—Find out More at [mitchellroad.org/events](http://mitchellroad.org/events)

Friday, Sept. 22 - Saturday, Sept. 23: Gospel-Centered Life Weekend hosted by Serge at Mitchell Road

Sunday, Sept. 24 at 4:00 pm: Choral concert featuring Craig Courtney, with Mitchell Road Choir and Orchestra

Friday, Sept. 29 - Sunday, Oct. 1: Montgomery Fall Trip

Various Fall Dates: Prime Time Events

Sunday, Oct. 8 - Christian Life Conference with Dr. Irwyn Ince

Exploring Prayer 2023—This Week's Prayer

Pray that widows and those who grieve would find comfort (Luke 2:36-38)

Visit our **Prayer Wall** in the Commons Area. Share a request, pray for one of the requests, or share an answered prayer. Additionally see our **Prayer Scribbles**—a new feature where you write out a prayer to God.

Also, plan a time to visit our **Prayer Stations**, placed around the outdoor campus, with Prayer prompts for each station on our MR App. We are thankful you are joining us as we Explore Prayer together this year.