

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

August 22, 2021

PRELUDE

WELCOME & COMMUNITY SHARING

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

People of God, whom will you serve?

As for our house, we will serve the Lord.

Where else can we turn? To whom can we go?

Christ alone has the words of life.

* HYMN "O Worship the King" No. 470

CALL TO CONFESSION

Sin is not who we are but what we do – or don't do as the case may be when we have to choose how to respond to the will of God. Fortunately, we are given an opportunity to make amends and begin again. Such is the nature of confession. Let us pray ...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Even as we say we will follow where you lead us, we find we have a strong tendency to wander off on our own ways and do our own thing. You demand commitment but often times it is just one among many demands we must choose. Sometimes we mistake someone else's leading for yours and then we make poor choices that hurts us and those around us.

Have mercy on us and forgive the poor choices we have made and the ways we have twisted things out of shape. Restore us to the right paths and enable us to faithfully follow you.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The wonder of God's love is simply this: there is nothing in all of creation that can separate us from it. Nothing that will stop God from loving us or from giving us a chance to make amends and start over.

Friends, believe this good news – because it is true; and then share it with those who have done wrong to you. Amen.

SHARING GOD'S GIFTS

Has God blessed you this week?

Sisters and brothers, let us give generously of our goods and our lives in imitation of our Lord as a way of saying thank you for all we have received.

The Offering plate is in the Narthex. You may also choose to mail your offering to the church office, or give online through our website, cazpres.org.

* DOXOLOGY No. 592

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the many ways in which you have blessed us today and every day. We are amazed by the abundance of your generosity and humbled at the same time.

Again, this morning, we return a portion of what you have given to us as a way of saying "thank you" and to show our commitment to be your faithful people. We ask that you use us and these tokens in whatever way they will help others in need the most. Amen.

* HYMN "O Jesus I have Promised" No. 38

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (Unison)

By the power of your Spirit, speak your Word to us, O God. Show us who you are and who you are calling us to be, for the sake of your Son and our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

HISTORY: Joshua 24.1-2, 14-18 Pew Bible p. 205 OT

24 Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ² And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods.

¹⁴ “Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵ Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

¹⁶ Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; ¹⁷ for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸ and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

NEW TESTAMENT: Ephesians 6.10-20 Pew Bible p. 184 NT

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For our^a struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵ As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ With all of these,^b take the shield of faith,

with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,^c ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

SERMON “... Choices ...” Rev. N. Scott Cupp

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD’S PRAYER

... We pray in the spirit of him who taught his disciples to pray ...

Our Father, in heaven, your name is Holy.

Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sin, in the same way we forgive those who have done wrong to us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For Yours’ is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

* **HYMN** “Here I Am Lord” No. 525

* **BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

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Join us after service for coffee and fellowship in the side yard
outside the Meeting House.

IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

Liturgist: Diana Markowitz
Usher: Kevin Curtis & Frank Campagna
Flowers: Glenda Pugh
Coffee Hour:

CHURCH OFFICE (315) 655 – 3191

Office@cazpres.org

Office Hours: Mon – Fri, 9am – 3pm

The Church Staff

Interim Pastor Sam Pendergrast
Clerk of Session Carla Kinney
Director of Music/Organist Vincent Guarneiri
Treasurer Chris Jenner
Church School Coordinator BJ Palmer
Sexton
Office Professional/Financial Assistant Kristin Schierer

The Session

Class of 2022	Class of 2023	Class of 2024
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Carla Kinney*	Holly Ioset	Hilda Chappell
Jim Palmer	Leigh Garber	Matt Allen
Sharye Skinner		Susan Palmer Everly
*Clerk of Session		

The Board of Deacons

Class of 2022	Class of 2023	Class of 2024
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Kevin Curtis	Sara Mitchell	Diana Markowitz
Joan DeFrees	Shelly Brooks	Maddie Raymond (1-yr)
Kathy Campagna	Anne Gruppe	Sue Perriello
Wendy Taylor	Glenda Pugh	
*Moderator		

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Roseanne Courtade, Contact Person – Alice Edwards Circle