

MBC Worship Service - May 23, 2021

Call to Worship

People of God, worship the living God today!
Remember that out of nothing God created the heavens and earth.
Remember that God raised Jesus
from the powerlessness of death
to the power of his right hand.
Remember that not even the gates of hell
can stand against God's purposes.
Behold your God, who reigns now and forever!

Call to Confession

We cannot come before God
unless we are first honest with ourselves
about who we are,
about the sins we have committed,
and about how well or poorly we care for others.
In this spirit, let us offer our prayers to God.

Prayer of Confession

**O God, you have shown us the way of life
through your Son, Jesus Christ.
We confess with shame our slowness to learn of him,
our failure to follow him, and our reluctance to bear the cross.
Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us.
We confess the poverty of our worship,
our neglect of fellowship and of the means of grace,
our hesitating witness for Christ,**

**our evasion of responsibilities in our service,
our imperfect stewardship of your gifts.
Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Christ is our peace;
those who are divided
he has made one.
He has broken down the barriers of separation
by his death and has built us up
into one body, with God.
To all who repent and believe
he has promised reconciliation.
So live as people reconciled. **Amen.**

Responsive Reading Psalm 108:1-5, 26-31

Be not silent, O God of my praise!
For wicked and deceitful mouths are opened against me,
speaking against me with lying tongues.
**They encircle me with words of hate,
and attack me without cause.**
In return for my love they accuse me,
but I give myself to prayer.
**So they reward me evil for good,
and hatred for my love.**
Help me, O Lord my God!
Save me according to your steadfast love!
**Let them know that this is your hand;
you, O Lord, have done it!**
Let them curse, but you will bless!

They arise and are put to shame, but your servant will be glad!
**May my accusers be clothed with dishonour;
may they be wrapped in their own shame as in a cloak!**
With my mouth I will give great thanks to the Lord;
I will praise him in the midst of the throng.
**For he stands at the right hand of the needy one,
to save him from those who condemn his soul to death.**

Sermon: It Stops With Jesus

Text: Esther 2:19-3:15

Big Idea: God ends retribution.

Outline: 1. Inexplicable Actions
 2. The Villain's Backstory
 3. God and Retribution
 4. Ending Retribution

Benediction

As we go, know that we go
with the love of God the Father,
the grace of God the Son,
and the fellowship of God the Spirit.

Amen