

MBC Worship Service - July 4, 2021

Call to Worship

There is none like you, O Lord,
nor are there any works like yours.

**All the nations you have made shall come
and bow down before you, O Lord,
and shall glorify your name.**

**For you are great and do wondrous things,
you alone are God.**

—from Psalm 86:8-10

Call to Confession

When we see God's beautiful holiness,
we recognize our own lack of holiness.

God is light and truth,
yet we live among shadows and lies.

People of God, let us acknowledge who and whose we are;
let us ask our powerful God to illumine us with grace and truth in Jesus, our Lord.

Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God,
in your gracious presence
we confess our sin and the sin of this world.
Although Christ is among us as our peace,
we are a people divided against ourselves
as we cling to the values of a broken world.
The profit and pleasures we pursue
lay waste the land and pollute the seas.**

**The fears and jealousies that we harbour
set neighbour against neighbour
and nation against nation.
We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom,
of intellect and reason,
and turn them into bonds of oppression.
Lord, have mercy upon us;
heal and forgive us.
Set us free to serve you in the world
as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news:
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love toward us.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Responsive Reading Psalm 37:28-34

For the Lord loves justice;
he will not forsake his saints.
They are preserved forever,
but the children of the wicked shall be cut off.
**The righteous shall inherit the land
and dwell upon it forever.**

The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom,
and his tongue speaks justice.
**The law of his God is in his heart;
his steps do not slip.**

The wicked watches for the righteous
and seeks to put him to death.

**The Lord will not abandon him to his power
or let him be condemned when he is brought to trial.**

Wait for the Lord and keep his way,
**and he will exalt you to inherit the land;
you will look on when the wicked are cut off.**

Sermon: Calling for Justice

Text: Esther 8

Big Idea: God calls for justice.

Outline: 1. Justice in Esther
 2. Justice in the Bible
 3. Justice in our World
 4. Justice in the Gospel

Institution of the Bread

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." - 1 Corinthians 11:23-24

Institution of the Cup

In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. - 1 Corinthians 11:25-26

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Eternal God,
you have graciously accepted us
as living members of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the sacrament of his body and blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart,
through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

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.