

# Worship Service

BY BURT L. BURLISON

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## *Call to Worship*

Fill your minds with eternal thoughts  
and fill this room with praise.

**We sing to God, our creator,  
redeemer, and friend.**

Look into the mystery. Hear the truth.

**We listen for the Word of the Lord.**

Remember the good news. Believe the gospel.

**We trust again in God's grace.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

## *Chiming*

## *Introit Hymn*

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” (verse 1)

Come, thou fount of every blessing,  
tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,  
mount of thy redeeming love.

*Robert Robinson (1758)*

*Tune: NETTLETON*

## *Silent Meditation*

Our vocation is not simply to be, but to work together with God in the creation of our own life, our own identity, our own destiny.... We are

even called to share with God the work of creating the truth of our identity. We can evade this responsibility by playing with masks, and this pleases us because it can appear at times to be a free and creative way of living. It is quite easy, it seems, to please everyone. But in the long run the cost and the sorrow come very high. To work out our own identity in God, which the Bible calls, "Working out our salvation," is a labor that requires sacrifice and anguish, risk and many tears.

*Thomas Merton (1915-1968)*<sup>1</sup>

### *Invocation*

O God, Lord of history,  
Lord of this hour,  
we lift our hearts to you.  
As you are present in every place and every moment,  
we pray that we might also be present to this time and this place.  
We turn aside from all that has consumed us  
that we might be consumed by something greater.  
Consume us, O God,  
consume us with the fire of your Spirit.  
Burn away what needs to be no more  
and refine that which is eternal.  
This is our prayer and our great hope. Amen.

### *Hymn of Praise*

"How Firm a Foundation" (verses 1, 4, 5, and 7)

How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!  
What more can he say than to you he has said,  
to you that for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"When through the deep waters I call you to go,  
the rivers of woe shall not you overflow;  
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,  
and sanctify to you your deepest distress.

"When through fiery trials your pathways shall lie,  
my grace, all sufficient, shall be your supply;  
the flame shall not hurt you; I only design  
your dross to consume, and your gold to refine.

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

*Text from John Rippon's A SELECTION OF HYMNS FROM THE BEST AUTHORS  
(1787), altered*

*Tune: FOUNDATION*

### *The Ten Commandments and The Beatitudes<sup>2</sup>*

And God spoke all of these words:

"I am the LORD your God who delivers you.

**You shall have no other gods before me."**

When Jesus saw the crowds,

he went up on a mountainside and began to teach them saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit,

**for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

"Blessed are those who mourn,

**for they will be comforted."**

"You shall not make for yourself any idol.

**You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God."**

"Blessed are the meek,

**for they will inherit the earth.**

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

**for they will be filled."**

"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

**Honor your father and mother."**

"Blessed are the merciful,

**for they will be shown mercy.**

"Blessed are the pure in heart,

**for they will see God."**

"You shall not murder.

**You shall not commit adultery."**

"Blessed are the peacemakers,

**for they will be called children of God."**

"You shall not steal.

**You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.**

**You shall not covet."**

“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,  
**for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”**

### *Offertory Hymn*

“How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord”<sup>3</sup>

How clear is our vocation, Lord,  
when once we heed your call:  
to live according to your word,  
and daily learn, refreshed, restored,  
that you are Lord of all,  
and will not let us fall.

But if, forgetful, we should find  
your yoke is hard to bear;  
if worldly pressures fray the mind  
and love itself cannot unwind  
its tangled skein of care:  
our inward life repair.

We mark your saints, how they became  
in hindrances more sure,  
whose joyful virtues put to shame  
the casual way we wear your name,  
and by our faults obscure  
your power to cleanse and cure.

In what you give us, Lord, to do,  
together or alone,  
in old routines or ventures new,  
may we not cease to look for you,  
the cross you hung upon,  
all you endeavored done.

*Fred Pratt-Green*

*Tune: REPTON*

### *Offering*

#### *The Prayers of God's People*

O God, we lift our hearts to you.

**In your mercy, Lord, hear our prayers.**

We have sinned against you and one another.

**In your mercy, Lord, hear our prayers.**

*(silent prayers of confession)*

We carry with us burdens for the world.  
**In your mercy, Lord, hear our prayers.**

*(silent prayers of petition)*

We have friends and loved ones who suffer.  
**In your mercy, Lord, hear our prayers.**

*(silent prayers of petition)*

We remember again your call to follow.  
**In your mercy, Lord, hear our prayers.**

*(silent prayers of commitment)*

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
**Amen.**

*Scripture Reading: Colossians 2:6-8 (NIV)*

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

The Word of the Lord for God's People.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Hymn of Preparation*

"Make Us All We're Meant to Be"

One who is beyond us,  
Flesh who walked among us,  
Breath that is within us,  
make us all we're meant to be.

Source of our salvation,  
Light of our direction,  
Hope of our perfection,  
make us all we're meant to be.

Truth we are professing,  
Life we are pursuing,  
Love we are becoming,  
make us all we're meant to be.

*Burt L. Burluson*  
(pp. 49-51 of this volume)

### *Sermon*

### *Benediction<sup>4</sup>*

Not that we have already obtained all this,  
or have been made perfect,  
but we press on to take hold of that  
for which Christ Jesus took hold of us.  
We do not consider ourselves yet to have taken hold of it.  
But one thing we do:  
forgetting what is behind  
and straining toward what is ahead,  
we press on toward the goal to win the prize  
for which God has called us heavenward in Christ Jesus.

### **NOTES**

1 Thomas Merton, *New Seeds of Contemplation*, revised edition (New York, NY: New Directions Publishing Corporation, 1972), 32-33.

2 This reading, based on Exodus 20:1-17 and Matthew 5:1-10 (NIV), may be read responsively by a reading group or the congregation. Scripture quotations marked (NIV) are taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. NIV®. Copyright© 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved.

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4 Based on Philippians 3:12-14 (NIV).



**BURT L. BURLUSON**

*is Pastor of DaySpring Baptist Church in Waco, Texas.*