

THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD  
Ephesians 2:19-22

ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY  
Aug. 13, 1989

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OPENING REMARKS - PASTOR

ORCHESTRAL PRELUDE - "A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD"

\* RESPONSIVE READING

PASTOR:

TOWARD THE END OF THE FIRST CHAPTER OF THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN, WHERE CHRIST IS BEGINNING TO CALL HIS DISCIPLES, WE HEAR HIM SAY AS HE SEES NATHANAEL APPROACHING, "HERE IS A TRUE ISRAELITE, IN WHOM THERE IS NOTHING FALSE." CHRIST FOUND OTHERS, TOO, WHO WERE AWAKE TO THE PROMISES OF GOD AND SO FULFILLED THE DIVINE DESTINY OF ANCIENT ISRAEL.

TO THAT NUCLEUS OF TRUE ISRAELITES, GOD THROUGH THE REDEMPTIVE WORK OF CHRIST HAS ADDED THE FAR WIDER FELLOWSHIP OF WHICH YOU AND I ARE A PART.

WHEN WE SAY, "WE ARE THE CHURCH," WE'RE SPEAKING AS THE FELLOWSHIP OF THOSE OF MANY RACES AND COUNTRIES AND CENTURIES WHO SHARE THE SAVING FAITH AND CONFESS JESUS AS CHRIST AND LORD.

WHEN WE SAY, "WE ARE THE CHURCH," WE'RE DECLARING OURSELVES TO BE THE COMMUNITY OF THE NEW COVENANT, WHICH IS ORGANICALLY CONTINUOUS WITH ANCIENT ISRAEL, THE COMMUNITY OF THE OLD COVENANT. YET WE ARE THE ANCIENT COMMUNITY MADE NEW, AND RECONSTITUTED UPON A MORE COMPLETELY SPIRITUAL BASIS.

BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY, WHEN WE SAY, "WE ARE THE CHURCH," WE'RE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT WE ARE TRULY BLESSED TO BE "MEMBERS OF GOD'S HOUSEHOLD, BUILT ON THE FOUNDATION OF THE APOSTLES AND PROPHETS, WITH CHRIST JESUS HIMSELF AS THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE."

CONGREGATION:

WE ALL ...  
...ARE GOD'S WORKMANSHIP, CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS TO DO GOOD WORKS, WHICH GOD PREPARED IN ADVANCE FOR US TO DO (EPH. 2:10 NIV) ... CONSEQUENTLY WE ARE NO LONGER

FOREIGNERS AND ALIENS, BUT FELLOW CITIZENS WITH GOD'S  
PEOPLE AND MEMBERS OF GOD'S HOUSEHOLD, BUILT ON THE  
FOUNDATION OF THE APOSTLES AND PROPHETS, WITH CHRIST  
JESUS HIMSELF AS THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE (EPH. 2:19,20  
NIV).

CALL TO WORSHIP: "WE ARE THE CHURCH"

THE SKEPTICS SPEAK

"GOD IS DEAD! ... AND SO IS HIS CHURCH!"

"YOU CHRISTIANS ARE NOTHING BUT A LOT OF HYPOCRITES ... YOU SAY  
ONE THING BUT YOU DO ANOTHER."

"CHRISTIANS ARE A BUNCH OF CROOKS, ... ALL THEY WANT IS YOUR  
MONEY!"

YOU CHRISTIANS CAN'T LEGISLATE MORALITY, ... YOU CAN'T TELL ME  
HOW TO LIVE!"

HYMN "THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION"  
(SOLO):

THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION IS JESUS CHRIST HER LORD;  
SHE IS HIS NEW CREATION BY WATER AND THE WORD:  
FROM HEAVEN HE CAME AND SOUGHT HER TO BE HIS HOLY BRIDE;  
WITH HIS OWN BLOOD HE BOUGHT HER, AND FOR HER LIFE HE DIED.

\* (ALL):

ELECT FROM EVERY NATION, YET ONE O'ER ALL THE EARTH,  
HER CHARTER OF SALVATION ONE LORD, ONE FAITH, ONE BIRTH;  
ONE HOLY NAME SHE BLESSES, PARTAKES ONE HOLY FOOD,  
AND TO ONE HOPE SHE PRESSES, WITH EVERY GRACE ENDUED.

'MID TOIL AND TRIBULATION AND TUMULT OF HER WAR,  
SHE WAITS THE CONSUMMATION OF PEACE FOREVERMORE;  
TILL WITH THE VISION GLORIOUS HER LONGING EYES ARE BLEST,  
AND THE GREAT CHURCH VICTORIOUS SHALL BE THE CHURCH AT REST.

YET SHE ON EARTH HATH UNION WITH GOD THE THREE IN ONE,  
AND MYSTIC SWEET COMMUNION WITH THOSE WHOSE REST IS WON:  
O HAPPY ONES AND HOLY! LORD, GIVE US GRACE THAT WE,  
LIKE THEM, THE MEEK AND LOWLY, ON HIGH MAY DWELL WITH THEE.

\* PRAISE AND WORSHIP

JESUS, NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES, BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR, GLORIOUS LORD,  
EMMANUEL, GOD IS WITH US, BLESSED REDEEMER, LIVING WORD.  
(REPEAT)

- - -

JESUS, JESUS, JESUS; THERE'S JUST SOMETHING ABOUT THAT NAME.  
MASTER, SAVIOR, JESUS, LIKE THE FRAGRANCE AFTER THE RAIN;  
JESUS, JESUS, JESUS, LET ALL HEAVEN AND EARTH PROCLAIM;  
KINGS AND KINGDOMS WILL ALL PASS AWAY,  
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THAT NAME. (REPEAT)

- - -

ALL HAIL, KING JESUS. ALL HAIL EMMANUEL.  
KING OF KINGS, LORD OF LORDS, BRIGHT MORNING STAR.  
AND THROUGHOUT ETERNITY, I'M GOING TO PRAISE HIM;  
AND FOREVERMORE, I WILL REIGN WITH HIM. (REPEAT)

\* RESPONSIVE READING

PASTOR:

THOSE WHO ARE LED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD ARE THE SONS AND  
THE DAUGHTERS OF GOD, AND BECAUSE BY HIS SPIRIT WE CRY,  
"ABBA, FATHER," WE OF GOD'S HOUSEHOLD, THE CHURCH, RELATE  
TO HIM MOST INTIMATELY AS WE PRAY.

CHRIST SAYS TO EACH OF US,

CONGREGATION:

"ASK AND IT WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU; SEEK AND YOU WILL  
FIND; KNOCK AND THE DOOR WILL BE OPENED TO YOU. IF YOU  
WHO ARE EVIL KNOW HOW TO GIVE GOOD GIFTS TO YOUR  
CHILDREN, HOW MUCH MORE WILL YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN GIVE  
THE HOLY SPIRIT TO THOSE WHO ASK HIM!" (MATT. 7:7,11)

PASTOR:

THEREFORE WE PRAY THROUGH CHRIST TO GOD OUR FATHER, WHO  
HAS PROMISED US IN ZECHARIAH, "THEY WILL CALL ON MY NAME  
AND I WILL ANSWER THEM; I WILL SAY, 'THEY ARE MY  
PEOPLE,' AND THEY WILL SAY, 'THE LORD IS OUR GOD'"

AND BECAUSE THE LORD IS OUR GOD WE RESPOND BY OFFERING  
UP TO HIM ALL THAT WE HAVE, ALL THAT WE ARE, AND ALL  
THAT WE EVER HOPE TO BE.

CONGREGATION:

WE GIVE FREELY AND CHEERFULLY, AS WE HAVE RECEIVED,  
MINDFUL THAT IN OUR OWN GIVING AND IN OUR OWN

SACRIFICE THE VERY NATURE OF GOD FINDS HUMAN  
EXPRESSION.

PASTOR:

GOD'S GIVING KNOWS NO BOUNDS WHATSOEVER. THAT IS WHY WE  
THE CHURCH LOVE AND GIVE AS WE DO, BECAUSE HE FIRST  
LOVED US ... AND GAVE US HIS ONLY SON.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER:

WE THANK YOU OUR FATHER FOR CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD. WE  
ASK YOU FOR THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND REVELATION, SO THAT  
WE MAY KNOW YOU BETTER. WE PRAY ALSO THAT THE EYES OF  
OUR HEARTS MAY BE ENLIGHTENED IN ORDER THAT WE MAY KNOW  
THE HOPE TO WHICH YOU HAVE CALLED US, THE RICHES OF YOUR  
GLORIOUS INHERITANCE IN THE SAINTS, AND YOUR  
INCOMPARABLY GREAT POWER FOR US WHO BELIEVE. THAT POWER  
IS LIKE THE WORKING OF YOUR MIGHTY STRENGTH, WHICH YOU  
EXERTED IN CHRIST WHEN YOU RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD AND  
SEATED HIM AT YOUR RIGHT HAND IN THE HEAVENLY REALMS,  
FAR ABOVE ALL RULE AND AUTHORITY, POWER AND DOMINION,  
AND EVERY TITLE THAT CAN BE GIVEN, NOT ONLY IN THE  
PRESENT AGE BUT ALSO IN THE ONE TO COME (EPH. 1:17-21  
NIV).

WE GIVE NOW OUR OFFERING OF PRAISE TO YOU OUT OF THE  
BLESSINGS WE HAVE RECEIVED IN YOUR SON JESUS CHRIST.

OFFERTORY

"JESUS IS HIS NAME"

\* RESPONSIVE READING

PASTOR:

WE THE CHURCH BEAR THIS RESPONSIBILITY: WE ARE TO  
TRANSLATE CHRIST TO THE WORLD. THAT IS A CALLING FOR  
WHICH HE HAS EQUIPPED US, FOR THE SCRIPTURES TELL US  
THAT CHRIST ...

CONGREGATION:

"GAVE SOME TO BE APOSTLES, SOME TO BE PROPHETS, SOME TO  
BE EVANGELISTS, AND SOME TO BE PASTORS AND TEACHERS, TO  
PREPARE GOD'S PEOPLE FOR WORKS OF SERVICE, SO THAT THE  
BODY OF CHRIST MAY BE BUILT UP UNTIL WE ALL REACH UNITY  
IN THE FAITH AND IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SON OF GOD AND  
BECOME MATURE, ATTAINING TO THE WHOLE MEASURE OF THE  
FULLNESS OF CHRIST." (EPH. 4:11-13)

PASTOR:

LET US THEN BEAR THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IN A WORLD OF DARKNESS. IN A WORLD THAT HAS LOST ITS MEANING AND DIRECTION, LET US UNSWERVINGLY POINT THE WAY. WE ARE, BY THE MIRACLE OF GOD'S GRACE, THE BODY OF CHRIST, AND SO LET US PRAY WITHOUT CEASING TO BE ALWAYS ABOUT THE KINGDOM WORK OF CHRIST WHO CAME, NOT TO BE SERVED, BUT TO SERVE.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"IN HEAVEN'S EYES"  
HIGHEST PRAISE

\* PRAISE AND WORSHIP

THIS IS HOLY GROUND.  
WE'RE STANDING ON HOLY GROUND.  
FOR THE LORD IS PRESENT AND WHERE HE IS IS HOLY.  
(REPEAT)

THESE ARE HOLY HANDS.  
HE'S GIVEN US HOLY HANDS.  
HE WORKS THROUGH THESE HANDS AND SO THESE HANDS ARE HOLY.  
(REPEAT)

- - -

WE ARE STANDING ON HOLY GROUND, AND I KNOW THAT THERE ARE ANGELS ALL AROUND. LET US PRAISE JESUS NOW. WE ARE STANDING IN HIS PRESENCE ON HOLY GROUND. (REPEAT)

- - -

YOU ARE MY GOD, YOU ARE MY KING, YOU ARE MY MASTER, MY EVERYTHING, YOU ARE MY LORD, THAT'S WHY I SING TO YOU, HALLELUJAH HALLELUJAH! (REPEAT)

- - -

TO HIM WHO SITS ON THE THRONE AND UNTO THE LAMB,  
TO HIM WHO SITS ON THE THRONE AND UNTO THE LAMB,  
BE BLESSING AND HONOR AND GLORY AND POWER FOREVER,  
BE BLESSING AND HONOR AND GLORY AND POWER FOREVER.  
(REPEAT)

\* RESPONSIVE READING

PASTOR:

THE BODY OF CHRIST HAS MANY MEMBERS, EVERY SINGLE ONE WITH A CALLING. WE OF THE CHURCH CELEBRATE THE FACT THAT GOD OUR FATHER KNOWS US AND LOVES US AS INDIVIDUALS, AS HIS SONS AND HIS DAUGHTERS TO WHOM, HE HAS GIVEN IN EVERY CASE A PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY WITHIN HIS KINGDOM.

LET US THEN WALK EACH DAY IN THE LIGHT OF HIS SPIRIT AND UNDER THE YOKE OF CHRIST HIS SON, THAT IN OUR HEARTS AND IN OUR HOMES, IN OUR WORK AND IN OUR LEISURE, IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS AND IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, EACH OF US MAY FULFILL THE CALLING HE HAS BEEN GIVEN.

CONGREGATION:

MAY GOD GRANT EACH OF US THE ASSURANCE THAT OUR OBEDIENCE IN THE SMALLEST MATTERS IS PREPARING US ALWAYS TO OBEY AND SERVE HIM IN THOSE MOMENTS OF GREATEST IMPORTANCE. AND MAY WE KNOW THAT AS WE HAVE ALL BEEN FITTED TOGETHER AS MEMBERS OF CHRIST'S BODY, HIS KINGDOM WORK PROCEEDS, HIS CALL FOR DISCIPLES GOES FORTH TO ALL NATIONS, AND HIS HOPE AND HEALING ARE TAKEN TO EVERY PART OF THIS HURTING WORLD.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"PEOPLE NEED THE LORD"  
FESTIVAL CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA

"THE HIGHEST CALL"  
HIGHEST PRAISE

THE SKEPTICS RECONSIDER

→ "THE THING IS ... IF GOD IS THEN WHERE IS MY HOPE?"

→ "I GET THE PICTURE MY HOPE IS IN CHRIST AND CHRIST IS IN THE CHURCH."

"CHRISTIANS MAY BE HYPOCRITES BUT <sup>AM I</sup> ~~ARE WE~~ ANY BETTER? NOT REALLY BUT IN CHRIST ~~WE ARE~~ A NEW CREATION WITH A NEW AND FULLER <sup>Life.</sup>

→ "WHEN MY FAMILY LOST EVERYTHING, IT WAS THE CHURCH WHO FED AND CLOTHED US AND HELPED US GET BACK ON OUR FEET.

→ THIS WAS THE CHRIST IN ACTION."

"WARS, MURDER, STARVATION, DEATH ... IS THERE ANY SENSE TO BE MADE OUT OF IT ALL?

NONE AT ALL UNTIL WE KNOW THAT THIS LIFE IS THE DRESS REHEARSAL PREPARING US FOR THE DAY OF A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH."

SPECIAL MUSIC

"TRY JESUS"  
SOLOIST, MATTHEW PEACH

MUSICAL GUEST

SPECIAL MUSIC BY JOHN STARNES

\* RESPONSIVE READING

PASTOR:

BECAUSE CHRIST OUR LORD HAS CONQUERED DEATH, HIS CHURCH IS NOT DIVIDED BY DEATH. THOSE IN CHRIST WHO HAVE DIED ARE NOT IN ANY KIND OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION, NOR ARE THEY EXCLUDED FROM FELLOWSHIP WITH THE CHURCH ON EARTH. THE WHOLE BODY OF CHRISTIANS AS IT EXISTS IN THIS WORLD, LIVING BY FAITH AND HOPE, HARD PRESSED ON EVERY SIDE, BATTLING WITH EVIL, AND GROWING UP INTO CHRIST IS DESCRIBED AS "THE CHURCH MILITANT." THE WHOLE BODY OF CHRISTIANS IN HEAVEN, LIVING IN THE FULLER VISION OF GOD, SERVING HIM VICTORIOUSLY WITH AMPLER POWERS, AND STILL GROWING UP INTO CHRIST, IS NAMED "THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT." THE TWO TOGETHER MAKE UP THE CHURCH, AND THEY ARE IN CLOSE COMMUNION WITH ONE ANOTHER.

THE COUNTLESS SAINTS OF BYGONE CENTURIES HAVE CROSSED INTO ETERNAL LIFE, JUST AS THE ISRAELITES STREAMED ACROSS THE JORDAN AND INTO THE LAND OF PROMISE. THE FACT IS OF COURSE, FAR MORE OF THE CHURCH IS THERE THAN WE SEE HERE.

BUT WE TOO SHALL SOMEDAY JOIN THEM. WE TOO SHALL WORSHIP HIM FACE TO FACE WHO IS THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE OF THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD.

CONGREGATION:

WE TOO SHALL SEE CHRIST, IN WHOM THE WHOLE BUILDING IS JOINED TOGETHER AND RISES TO BECOME A HOLY TEMPLE IN THE LORD, BECAUSE IN HIM WE TOO ARE BEING BUILT TOGETHER TO BECOME A DWELLING IN WHICH GOD LIVES BY HIS SPIRIT.

PASTOR:

YES, WE TOO SHALL SERVE AND PRAISE HIM ETERNALLY, CHRIST JESUS, FOREVER KING!

CONGREGATION:

LET THIS MIND BE IN US WHICH WAS ALSO IN CHRIST: WHO BEING IN VERY NATURE GOD DID NOT CONSIDER EQUALITY WITH GOD A THING TO BE GRASPED, BUT MADE HIMSELF NOTHING, TAKING THE VERY NATURE OF A SERVANT, BEING MADE IN HUMAN LIKENESS. AND BEING FOUND IN APPEARANCE AS A MAN, HE HUMBLLED HIMSELF AND BECAME OBEDIENT TO DEATH - EVEN DEATH ON A CROSS! THEREFORE GOD EXALTED HIM TO THE HIGHEST PLACE AND GAVE HIM THE NAME THAT IS ABOVE EVERY NAME, THAT AT THE NAME OF JESUS EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH AND UNDER THE EARTH, AND EVERY TONGUE SHOULD CONFESS THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD, TO THE GLORY OF GOD THE FATHER (PHIL. 2:5;PHIL. 2:6-11 NIV).

FINALE

"FOREVER KING"

\* CONGREGATION STANDING