

**Home Worship Liturgy**  
**4/19/2020**

*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us (John 1:14). As we look back on Easter, we also look forward down the path we have before us. As we go, God's word is a lamp unto our feet and a light on our path (Psalm 119:105). Jesus, the Word, shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome the light (John 1:5).*

**\*Opening Prayer** (*Have one person read this out loud*)

LORD, our Lord,  
How majestic is your name in all the earth!  
You have set your glory in the heavens, which your hands created.  
You spoke and all things came into being.  
It is these mighty hands and this mighty voice that call us to yourself and  
which desire to embrace us.  
As we come to worship, draw us close and help us to know you more fully.  
Amen.

**Songs of Praise and Hope** (*The words to the songs have been provided below. If you would like to sing along with a video, please either click on the link provided, look it up on Youtube, or play your own instrument if possible.*)

***We Praise You, O God (Cory, 1902)***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rpw8HQxRnVk>

We praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;  
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring;  
We lay it before You; we kneel and adore You;  
We bless Your holy name: glad praises we sing.

We worship You, God of our fathers and mothers;  
 Through life's storm and tempest our guide You have been;  
 When perils o'ertake us, You never forsake us,  
 And with Your help, O Lord, our battles we win.

With voices united our praises we offer,  
 Our songs of thanksgiving to You we now raise;  
 Your strong arm will guide us, our God is beside us,  
 To You, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

***Trust and Obey (Sammis, 1887)***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mmGb3zRv6xE>

When we walk with the Lord in the light of his Word  
 What a glory he sheds on our way!  
 While we do his good will, he abides with us still,  
 And with all who will trust and obey.

Trust and obey, for there's no other way  
 To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,  
 But our toil he doth richly repay;  
 Not a grief nor a loss, not a frown or a cross,  
 But is blest if we trust and obey.

Trust and obey, for there's no other way  
 To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at his feet,  
 Or we will walk by his side in the way;  
 What he says we will do, where he sends we will go,  
 Never fear, only trust and obey.

***Amazing Grace (Newton 1779)***

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N3yLV2M0rlc>)

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed.

The Lord has promised good to me,  
His Word my hope secures;  
He will my Shield and Portion be,  
As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun.

**Bible Text and Sermon** (*To access the sermon video/audio and worship liturgy, please visit our website at [idealparkchurch.com](http://idealparkchurch.com) and click on the "Current Sermon Series" tab. From there, click on "Watch Now" or "Read Now" for April 19. The direct link to this page is <https://idealparkchurch.com/current-sermon-series/>). A direct link to the sermon video is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MaijbGkrL1A&feature=youtu.be>).*

*Nehemiah 7:73b-8:12; v. 18<sup>1</sup>*

*When the seventh month came and the Israelites had settled in their towns, 1 all the people came together as one in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the teacher of the Law to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded for Israel.*

*2 So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. 3 He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.*

*4 Ezra the teacher of the Law stood on a high wooden platform built for the occasion. Beside him on his right stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiiah, Uriah, Hilkiah and Maaseiah; and on his left were Pedaiah, Mishael, Malkijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah and Meshullam.*

*5 Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. 6 Ezra praised the Lord, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.*

*7 The Levites—Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan and Pelaiah—instructed the people in the Law while the people were standing there. 8 They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read.*

*9 Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and teacher of the Law, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, "This day is holy to the Lord your God. Do not mourn or weep." For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.*

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*10 Nehemiah said, “Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”*

*11 The Levites calmed all the people, saying, “Be still, for this is a holy day. Do not grieve.”*

*12 Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them.*

*18 Day after day, from the first day to the last, Ezra read from the Book of the Law of God. They celebrated the festival for seven days, and on the eighth day, in accordance with the regulation, there was an assembly.*

Sermon Audio and outline

### ***Smell the Flowers***

*Nehemiah 7:73b-8:12; v. 18*

Sermon for April 19, 2020

Situation of the people

- Returned from exile
- Homeland destroyed

They gather as a nation

- Reading God’s word
- Weeping and Mourning
- Remembering the law and God’s character
  - In God’s word
  - In the celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles

An invitation to know God better through His word

- An invitation to read God’s word
- An invitation to remember God’s character
- An invitation to slow down and smell the flowers

**Prayers for our church, community, nation, and world** (*Read each of these as you feel led, either out loud or silently. After each section, take time to pray in whatever way you feel led.*)

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit God,

We come to you with busy lives in a busy world

Father, you call us to slow down. You call us to take time in our week to stop and talk with you. You call us to take time each week to worship you and adore you. You call us to come to know you better through your word and prayer. Just as an earthly parent desires to know their child in a deep and meaningful way, so do you desire such a relationship with us. Forgive us when we don't slow down, when we don't heed your calling, when we don't spend time in your word. Draw us close to you, we pray. Speak to us through your word and help us to know you better through it. [*silent prayer*]

Holy Spirit, we pray that you would work in our hearts to desire deeper fellowship with you. We pray not only for ourselves, but also for those who do not know you, God. We pray that they would hear your voice calling, that they would seek you in your word. We pray that you would prompt the hearts of those we interact with to wonder at the joyous relationship we have with you. [*silent prayer*]

Jesus, we thank you that you have revealed the loving and righteous nature of the triune God in your work on the cross. If we are ever in doubt of your love for us, turn our eyes to see what you have done. Help us to remember that you have called your disciples friends. Help us to remember that you gave your life that we may have fellowship with you. [*silent prayer*]

It is in Jesus' precious and Holy name that we pray. Amen.

**Song of Faith and Hope** (*The words to the songs have been provided below. If you would like to sing along with a video, please either click on the link provided, look it up on Youtube, or play your own instrument if possible.*)

***Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak (Havergal, 1872)***

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SzsapXRYiGc>)

Lord, speak to me, that I may speak  
In living echoes of Thy tone;  
As Thou has sought, so let me seek  
Thine erring children lost and lone.

Oh, give Thine own sweet rest to me,  
That I may speak with soothing pow'r  
A word in season, as from Thee,  
To weary ones in needful hour.

Oh, fill me with Thy fullness, Lord,  
Until my very heart o'erflow  
In kindling thought and glowing word,  
Thy love to tell, Thy praise to show.

Oh, use me, Lord, use even me,  
Just as Thou wilt, and when, and where,  
Until Thy blessed face I see,  
Thy rest, Thy joy, Thy glory share.

### **Time for Discussion**

- What has God revealed to me about His goodness in this last week?
- How will I take time this week to read about God's goodness? How will I celebrate God's goodness?
  - I (pastor Chris) find it helpful to put a dedicated "Bible reading time" into my weekly schedule.

*When you have gone through this liturgy and discussion, **consider calling a friend or two from church to see how they are doing.***

*“The LORD bless you and keep you, the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.” Numbers 6:24-26 (New International Version)*