

"Here's My Heart" - 11 August 2019
Order of Worship

Welcome - Sue Ellen

Prelude - "Down in the River to Pray"

(One begins, women join in on second verse, all join in on verse three, including the congregation.)

As I went down in the river to pray, studying about that good old way
And who shall wear the starry crown, Good Lord, show me the way!

O **sisters**, let's go down, Let's go down, come on down

O sisters, let's go down, down in the river to pray

(Brothers, Fathers, Mothers, Sinners)

As I went down in the river to pray, studying about that good old way
And who shall wear the starry crown, Good Lord, show me the way!

CALL TO WORSHIP Liturgist, Bailey Davitt

(Please stand if you are able for the Call to Worship)

Leader: The heavens declare the righteousness of God.

People: The earth declares God's beauty.

Leader: From the rising of the sun to its setting

People: God's word shines forth in glory.

Opening Hymn: #396 - "Brethren, We Have Met to Worship"

(Bailey invites the children and the young at heart to come forward. Youth should go if there are no kids.)

Time with Children: Alex Sexton - Night Owl Camp

CALL TO CONFESSION - Bailey

My brothers and sisters, remember that God loves us; therefore by the mercy of God, let us cease to do evil and learn to do good. Please join me in the unison Prayer of Confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, you call us to do good, seek justice, and care for those in need, yet how often we place our own comforts above compassion for others. Forgive us, we pray, and cleanse us from these and all our offenses through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Silent Prayer of confession.....Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON - Bailey

God is merciful and kind; though our sins are like scarlet, they become like snow. Be at peace, for your sins are washed clean by the goodness of God.

“Glory to God in the Highest”

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION - Bailey

(Please be seated. Let us pray.)

God of Hope, by faith we know that you created the world, and that what is seen is made by things that are not visible. Open our eyes to your presence among us that we may hear your word with clarity and a sureness of hope, as we follow you in all righteousness. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

“Here’s My Heart” - Triennium report

“Prone to Wander” - Griffin Johnson

Luke 15:11-24 Then Jesus said, “There was once a man who had two sons. The younger said to his father, ‘Father, I want right now what’s coming to me.’

“So the father divided the property between them. It wasn’t long before the younger son packed his bags and left for a distant country. There, undisciplined and dissipated, he wasted everything he had. After he had gone through all his money, there was a bad famine all through that country and he began to hurt. He signed on with a citizen there who assigned him to his fields to slop the pigs. He was so hungry he would have eaten the corncocks in the pig slop, but no one would give him any.

“That brought him to his senses. He said, ‘All those farmhands working for my father sit down to three meals a day, and here I am starving to death. I’m going back to my father. I’ll say to him, Father, I’ve sinned against God, I’ve sinned before you; I don’t deserve to be called your son. Take me on as a hired hand.’ He got right up and went home to his father.

“When he was still a long way off, his father saw him. His heart pounding, he ran out, embraced him, and kissed him. The son started his speech: ‘Father, I’ve sinned against God, I’ve sinned before you; I don’t deserve to be called your son ever again.’

“But the father wasn’t listening. He was calling to the servants, ‘Quick. Bring a clean set of clothes and dress him. Put the family ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Then get a grain-fed heifer and roast it. We’re going to feast! We’re going to have a wonderful time! My son is here—given up for dead and now alive! Given up for lost and now found!’ And they began to have a wonderful time.

In 3 days I will be making a drive to Fort Worth. When I get there, I will be moving into my dorm, preparing for the next chapter of my life. By attending Triennium, I hoped to not only have fun and make memories, but take away an experience that would strengthen my faith as I enter this new chapter.

On the third day of camp, we participated in an activity with our Arkansas Presbytery called “Stand up for your sister/brother.” In this activity, each person is given a piece of paper with a set of statements on them. Each participant marks which statement applies to them, and then every participant switches papers. As a leader calls out each statement, if the paper you have has the statement marked, you stand. However, these statements weren’t ordinary. These statements were things that no one would want to admit to. They were statements that we have been taught our whole life not to do, but day after day, we find ourselves doing them anyways. By going through and marking each statement, we were practically confessing our sins; our

shortcomings; our imperfections. As Ruth called out each statement, it was no surprise that after each one, majority of the participants stood up.

*However, it wasn't until later that day that it all clicked. As I sat in worship, listening to 6,000 kids pour their heart into a song, it all came together. Looking across the sea of people, each person had their own story. Each person had their own difficulties, and hardships, and shortcomings. Each person had their own sins. And it didn't matter if the person next to me was more or less of a sinner than I was. **Much like the parable of the lost son,** everyone has their own sins, and we must learn not to compare or contrast our sins to others.*

At the end of the day, all that mattered was that all 6,000 of us sinners were there, in that time and place, in order to worship and give our hearts to God. At the end of the day, we all came together to worship and praise with our lost brothers and sisters.

Sitting in worship that day, I finally realized that there is never a reason to let your sins weigh you down and make you think less of yourself. Because the sins that you carry are just as heavy as those of your brothers and sisters. But by simply giving your heart, your whole heart, to God, a new whole new strength can be found. A strength that I discovered in worship that day at Triennium. So next time that you feel that you are (prone to wander) or not strong enough to stand up and admit your faults,

know that there is a brother or sister just like you, who will stand up for you.

“Jesus Sought Me” - Seth Sexton

Luke 19: 1-10 Then Jesus entered and walked through Jericho. There was a man there, his name Zacchaeus, the head tax man and quite rich. He wanted desperately to see Jesus, but the crowd was in his way—he was a short man and couldn’t see over the crowd. So he ran on ahead and climbed up in a sycamore tree so he could see Jesus when he came by.

When Jesus got to the tree, he looked up and said, “Zacchaeus, hurry down. Today is my day to be a guest in your home.”

Zacchaeus scrambled out of the tree, hardly believing his good luck, delighted to take Jesus home with him. Everyone who saw the incident was indignant and grumped, “What business does he have getting cozy with this crook?”

Zacchaeus just stood there, a little stunned. He stammered apologetically, “Master, I give away half my income to the poor—and if I’m caught cheating, I pay four times the damages.”

Jesus said, “Today is salvation day in this home! Here he is: Zacchaeus, son of Abraham! For the Son of Man came to find and restore the lost.”

*Triennium 2019 was a wild but fun ride full of new friends and getting closer to old ones. I didn't know what to expect going into triennium but I learned a lot about myself and I learned a lot about God. I learned the most out of my small group. A small group for triennium is a group of people from all around the nation set out to learn about each other and to go in-depth about our worship services. It's crazy how a group of people from all around the nation can be so diverse which made me think that these people may be different from me but we are all at triennium for one thing which was to worship god. We all might have been different but we all embraced our differences and became better people for it. On the last day of small group I had grown close to everyone in my group. When we were saying our goodbyes we all had to write a small prayer on a balloon I did not think much of it and I simply wrote "love yourself" and left the building. The day after during worship they were getting ready for a (big reveal) I was very confused then swoosh the curtains fall and every balloon is together and created a giant beautiful heart. That made me realize that every one is different but we all have two things in common we all sin and we all were here for one thing which was to worship our lord. **(And like Zaccheus, Jesus seeks all of us and calls us to follow him.)***

"Here's My Heart" - Ethan Davitt

Matthew 14:22-33 As soon as the meal was finished, Jesus insisted that the disciples get in the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he dismissed the people. With the crowd dispersed, he climbed the mountain so he could be by himself and pray. He stayed there alone, late into the night.

Meanwhile, the boat was far out to sea when the wind came up against them and they were battered by the waves. At about four o'clock in the morning, Jesus came toward them walking on the water. They were scared out of their wits. "A ghost!" they said, crying out in terror.

But Jesus was quick to comfort them. "Courage, it's me. Don't be afraid."

Peter, suddenly bold, said, "Master, if it's really you, call me to come to you on the water."

He said, "Come ahead."

Jumping out of the boat, Peter walked on the water to Jesus. But when he looked down at the waves churning beneath his feet, he lost his nerve and started to sink. He cried, "Master, save me!"

Jesus didn't hesitate. He reached down and grabbed his hand.

Then he said, "Faint-heart, what got into you?"

The two of them climbed into the boat, and the wind died down. The disciples in the boat, having watched the whole thing, worshiped Jesus, saying, "This is it! You are God's Son for sure!"

We are all different and one thing one sentence, one word even, can affect us all in completely different ways.

If I said hey do you wanna hold this snake. You might freak out because you don't like snakes but if I was asked that I would jump all over it because to me that's something that I think would be interesting. That's the far fetched example of what I'm trying to say. At triennium we had 4 two hour sermons and that's a while I'm not gonna lie but it was an amazing experience and there was one day that we were all singing come thou fount something told me to stop and look around so I did and as I was looking around everyone singing this one song I realized that I am listening and I am understanding the song in my own unique way and that every single person in the building was doin the Same thing understanding this song in their own unique way and it was amazing to think. This is something that is important to think about when speaking or preaching or just talking to multiple people at once because everyone understands things in a different way this can be helpful when you can listen to everyone and see why they think the way they do but also can be hard to deal with because as humans we love to argue I mean let's just

*be honest but really we all think that what we think is right and that's how we work but if we can just take a step back and listen to others then many problems could be solved. (**But we also need to keep focused on Jesus.. When Peter listened to him, he could walk on water!**)*

*(Please stand and join me in affirming what we believe) - Ethan
Affirmation of Faith from A Brief Statement of Faith*

**We trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.**

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.(

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.**

**In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,**

**to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,**

to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,

and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,

we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks

and to live holy and joyful lives,

**even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

With believers in every time and place,

we rejoice that nothing in life or in death

**can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our
Lord.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy
Spirit. Amen.***

Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Hymn # 475 - "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

((Invitation to write on the hearts... Collect with offering.))

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING - Bailey

Jesus said, "Sell your possessions, and give alms. For
where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Honor God with a sacrifice of thanksgiving and come
into God's courts with praise. Let us now offer our treasures and
our hearts to God.

Offertory Anthem - "Oceans"

You call me out upon the waters, the great unknown where feet may fail
And there I find You in the mystery, in oceans deep my faith will stand

And I will call upon Your name and keep my eyes above the waves

When oceans rise, my soul will rest in Your embrace

For I am Yours and You are mine

Your grace abounds in deepest waters, your sovereign hand

Will be my guide

Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me

You've never failed and You won't start now

So I will call upon Your name and keep my eyes above the waves

When oceans rise, my soul will rest in Your embrace

For I am Yours and You are mine

BRIDGE: Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders

Let me walk upon the waters

Wherever You would call me

Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander

And my faith will be made stronger in the presence of my Savior. "Doxology"

PRAYER OF DEDICATION - Bailey

Lord, you look down from heaven, see all humankind, and long to call us home. Accept these gifts on behalf of your people, that they would increase faith, nurture hope, and be reckoned as righteous in your sight. Amen.

Prayers of the people and Lord's Prayer - Griffin

Loving God, remember the whole human family, especially those who hunger for food or justice, those who lack homes or human dignity;

so many are unknown to us, yet each known to you and each a child of your love.

Remember your people in every part of the world, redeemed by Christ, dedicated to service, called to love.

Remember your Church in this place, set in this community to light the way to your grace and truth.

Remember those who are ill or sorrowing, those who are concerned for dear ones, those who have difficult choices to make, especially any known to us whom we commend to you now

May they know that nothing is able to separate them from your love in Christ Jesus. By your mercy, bring us at the last, with all your faithful people, to the peace and joy of your nearer presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray...

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Closing Hymn #720 - "Jesus Calls Us"

CHARGE and BENEDICTION - Seth?

Although we are prone to wander, God never stops seeking us out and loving us. Take our hearts as we grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and forever. Amen

Choral Benediction #747 - "The Lord Now Sends Us Forth"