

Order Of Worship :: March 4, 2012 :: The First Sunday of Lent

Lent is a 40-day period before Easter, beginning on Ash Wednesday (this year, February 22). We don't count Sundays because they are always 'feast' days, commemorating Jesus' Resurrection. Lent is a season of soul-searching, repentance and reflection. This tradition originated in the early Church as a preparatory time for Easter, when Christ's followers sought to rededicate themselves to obedience, sacrifice and acts of service. By observing the 40 days of Lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for 40 days.

GREETING

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION: based on Ephesians 3:18-19

O God, by your power may we, with all the saints, comprehend the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that we may be filled with your fullness. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 86

We will praise you, O Lord our God, with our whole hearts; we will glorify your name forever. For you have delivered us from the power of death.

Bring joy to your servants, O Lord, for to you we lift up our souls. There is none like you; no deeds can compare with yours.
All the nations you have made will come and worship before you. They will bring glory to your name, for you alone are God.
Teach us now your way, O Lord, and we will live in your truth. Give us undivided hearts that we may fear and praise your great name.

SONG OF APPROACH: O Love that Will Not Let Me Go

By George Matheson 1882; arr. by Christopher Miner

O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in Thee,
I give Thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

O Light that follow'st all my way, I yield my flick'ring torch to Thee.
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to Thee,
I trace the rainbow through the rain and feel the promise is not vain
That morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from Thee.

I lay in dust life's glory dead
and from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

O love that will not let me go (O love that will not let me go)
O love that will not let me go (O love that will not let me go)
O love that will not let me go!!

CONFESSON OF SIN

Let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Gracious Lord, we confess now that we dishonor you in all our words and thoughts and deeds. Depending on our own strength we stumble; proclaiming our own goodness, we sin; glorying in our own righteousness we corrupt everything we touch. Turning our faces from you Lord, we desire the things of this world to satisfy us. We pray now Lord, for you to forgive all of our many sins; to cleanse the darkness from our lives, and to turn our faces and our hearts back towards you. We pray these things in the name of your most precious son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Now is a time of silent confession for specific and personal sins.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON: Psalm 130:3-4

If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared.

Thanks Be to God!

SONG OF CONFESSION: With Melting Heart and Weeping Eyes

Words by John Fawcett (1740 - 1817); Music by Clint Wells, 2005

With melting heart and weeping eyes,
my guilty soul for mercy cries;
What shall I do, or whither flee, to rid the vengeance due of me?
To rid the vengeance due of me?

Till late I saw no danger nigh, I lived at ease nor feared to die;
Wrapped up in self-conceit and pride,
"I shall have peace at last," I cried.
"I shall have peace at last," I cried.

But when great God thy light divine,
had shone on this dark soul of mine,
Then I beheld with trembling awe, the terrors of Thy holy law.
The terrors of Thy holy law.

Should vengeance still my soul pursue,
death and destruction are my due;
Yet mercy can my guilt forgive, and bid this dying sinner live.
And bid this dying sinner live.

Does not Thy sacred word proclaim, salvation free in Jesus' name?
To him I look and humbly cry,
"Lord, save a wretch condemned to die!"
"Lord, save this wretch condemned to die!"
"Lord, save this wretch condemned to die!"

SONG OF PRAISE: At Calvary

Words by William R. Newell, 1895; arr. by Village Church E.A. 2011

Years I spent in vanity and pride
Caring not my Lord was crucified,
Knowing not it was for me He died On Calvary

Mercy there was great and grace was free
Pardon there was multiplied to me
There my burdened Soul found liberty
at Calvary!

By God's Word at last my sin I learned
Then I trembled at the law I'd spurned
Till my guilty soul imploring turned to Calvary

Chorus

Oh the love that drew salvation's plan
Oh the grace that brought it down to man
Oh the mighty Gulf that God did span at Calvary
Chorus

CONFESION OF FAITH: The Apostles Creed

Christian what is it that you believe?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

Who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

SERMON:

The Rev. Matthew Armstrong
Acts 9:31 - 43 (p. 918 in pew Bible)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Notes

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children, crawling - 5 years old, are dismissed to Sunday School at this time.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SONG OF REFLECTION: Sweet Hour of Prayer

By William Walford, 1845; arr. by Village Church, 2011

Sweet hour of prayer, Sweet hour of prayer
that calls me from a world of care,
and bids me at my Father's throne
make all my wants and wishes known
In seasons of distress and grief
My soul has often found relief
and oft escaped the tempter's snare
by thy return sweet hour of prayer

Sweet hour of prayer, Sweet hour of prayer
the joys I feel the bliss I share
of those whose anxious spirits burn
with strong desires for thy return
With such I hasten to the place
Where God my Saviour shows His face
And gladly take my station there
And wait for thee sweet hour of prayer

Sweet hour of prayer, Sweet hour of prayer
Thy wings shall my petition bear
to him, whose truth and faithfulness
Engage the waiting soul to bless
And since He bids me seek His face
Believe His word and trust His grace
I'll cast on Him my every care
And wait for Thee sweet hour of prayer

OLD TESTAMENT READING: 1 Kings 17:17-24

Page 299 in pew Bible.

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God.

People: Praise to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

THE OFFERING

The offering is a part of our worship for those who consider Village Church their home. Visitors should not feel any obligation to give.

SONG OF PRAISE: Holy, Holy, Holy

arr. by Sufjan Stephens

Words by Reginald Heber, 1826. Music by John Dykes, 1861.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
There is a sign at the sight of Thee,
Merciful and mighty
God in three Persons,
God in three Persons, Blessed Trinity

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in power, perfect in power,
In love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in
Earth, and sky, and sea;
There is a sign at the sight of Thee,
There is none beside thee,
God in three Persons, God in three Persons,
God in three Persons, God in three Persons, Blessed Trinity

COMMUNION

*Invitation to the Table
Prayer of Thanksgiving*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

Breaking Bread Together



DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
Amen

SONG OF THANKSGIVING: There is Power in the Name of Jesus

Words and Music By Will Reagan 2009

*There is power in the name of Jesus
There is power in the name of Jesus
There is power in the name of Jesus
to Break every chain
to break every chain
to break every chain*

All sufficient sacrifice
So freely given, such a price for
Our redemption, Heaven's gates
Swing wide

repeat Chorus

Village Church of East Atlanta

602 Brownwood Ave SE

Atlanta, GA 30316

Sundays at 10:00 am

Website: <http://www.villagechurchofeastatlanta.org>

Office Phone: 404.865.1443

Mailing Address:

457 Flat Shoals Ave

Suite 1-B

Atlanta, GA 30316

Pastor: Matthew Armstrong

Email: matt@villagechurchofeastatlanta.org

Administration & Finance: Helen Kynes

Email: helen@villagechurchofeastatlanta.org

Worship Director: Jeremy Ezell

Email: jeremy@villagechurchofeastatlanta.org

BENEDICTION: Hebrews 13:20-21

The God of peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will, working among us that which is pleasing in God's sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever!
Amen

SENDING: Colossians 3:17

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday Hospitality - The Sunday Hospitality volunteer schedule is out and uploaded to google docs! If you have not received a link to it or would like to be added to the schedule please contact Ruthanne Burch (ruthanneclare@gmail.com)

Hymn Sing - Sunday March 11th at 7pm
at the Home of David and Mary Fraser. The Hymn sing is a time for us to learn hymns together and fellowship so that we can approach Sunday morning worship with more freedom and confidence. It's totally laid back and a whole lot of fun!
For more info email: jeremy@villagechurchofeastatlanta.org

Village Church Seder - Saturday March 31st 7:00 pm-10:00pm
Come join us as we eat, sing, and learn about Jesus' final meal with his disciples. The cost is \$10 per person. Please RSVP using the link in the weekly email update or email Ruthanne Burch at ruthanneclare@gmail.com by Sunday March 25th. We encourage children 6 and over to attend the service. However, if you feel that your child will be able to understand and be attentive, they are welcome to attend.

Stay Connected - Want to know about upcoming events and happenings at Village Church and the neighborhood? Sign up for our weekly emails on our website:
www.villagechurchofeastatlanta.org/connect.



VILLAGE CHURCH

of EAST ATLANTA

WELCOME TO VILLAGE CHURCH!

Our desire is to be a church that is *in, of, and for* East Atlanta Village and its surrounding neighborhoods. We believe that the church is not a place to go, or an event to attend, but *a community of people* who have been changed by the love and grace of God in Jesus Christ. As those who have been so loved, the church is called to love and bless whatever place it finds itself. That's why we hope to not only be a church that meets *in* the neighborhood, or is simply made up *of* people from the neighborhood, but we desire to be *for* the neighborhood, working for its care and welfare.