



RIVERSIDE HOME WORSHIP

Sunday, April 26

— ORDER OF SERVICE —

Call to Worship

From Isaiah 55

Opening Prayer

Opening Song

“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty”

Children’s Lesson

“Learning the Hard Way”

Time of Our Congregation’s Prayers

God’s Word & His Blessing

Text: Psalm 86

“Be...Teachable”

Closing Song

“Be Thou My Vision”

CALL TO WORSHIP

From Isaiah 55

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways.”
declares the Lord.

“As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

“As the rain and the snow
come down from heaven,
and do not return to it
without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,
so is my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.”

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God.

In You we find our way.
In You we find the truth.
In You we find every faithful promise according to Your Perfect Name.

And so, we come before You in this day...

To bring our praise and thanksgiving.
To glory in You, our God.
And to find the comfort and assurance of our faith strengthened by You once again.

Bless us, we pray, as we begin this time of worship.
And send upon us a fresh movement of Your Spirit.
That we might discover anew the life-giving power of Your Word.
And find our lives shaped in and for Your good purpose.

In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

OPENING SONG

“Holy, Holy, Holy”
(To be read, sung, or listened to)

Choir Version (verses 1, 2, 4)

Modern Version (verses 1,3,4)

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

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 pow'r, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

CHILDREN'S LESSON

(Parents can read this, talk more about it with the kids, or even find visuals to help)

“Learning the Hard Way”

In home church today, we're going to talk about learning from God.

Let's think about it like this...

Have you ever heard the saying, *“Learned their lesson the hard way”*?

If not, what that means is someone made a mistake. And then, through the bad things that happened because of their mistake, they learned their lesson not to do it again. That's the “hard way.”

(Just between us, Pastor Ben has learned a few lessons the hard way.)

But, you know what? There's another kind of lesson in our life that happens a hard way — and that's the lesson we can learn from God when things are hard — like right now when we can't go to school or see our friends. Or, when something sad happens to us. Or, when there is a big change in our lives.

Can you and your parents name something else that was hard?

Well, when those hard times happen — David tells us in Psalm 86 that we should turn to God in prayer — he says:

⁵ Lord, you are good. You are forgiving.

You are full of love for all who call out to you.

⁶ Lord, hear my prayer.

Listen to my cry for your favor.

⁷ When I'm in trouble, I will call out to you.

And you will answer me.”

Psalm 86:5-7 (NirV)

You see, when times are hard, God is there for us.

And because He is so good, and smart, and loving—even though we might not know why the hard time is happening—when we turn to God, He will use even hard times to help us grow-up to be better people and grow us closer to Him.

What an amazing God we have!

Prayer:

(Could be followed by singing the first verse of ‘Jesus Loves Me’)

Dear God, thank you for loving and caring for us. And thank you for always being there for us when times are hard. Help us always turn to you with our prayers. And help us to learn from you. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

TIME OF OUR CONGREGATION'S PRAYERS

Opening

Gracious and Almighty God,

As we come before you this morning to worship—and as we lift our hearts together in prayer—O God, we give you praise and thanks for the wonder of the works of your hands, the wonder of our life and being, the wonder of our salvation, and the wonder of our sure Hope.

For as the world around us shows its first signs of spring — we are reminded of Your sovereign care and continual providence.

As we find ourselves seen-through another week, knowing each daily blessing and new mercy — we are reminded that You are forever-faithful.

As we unite our hearts for worship as those called, saved, and made new-creations in Christ Jesus — we are reminded that You are a God of loyal-love, immeasurable-mercy, and amazing-grace.

And though our world and our lives rest amidst the chaotic time — we are reminded, once again, that all things rest in Your Almighty hands, that we belong - body and soul, in life and death - to our faithful Savior, and that we continue to be crafted by the Spirit for the life eternal of Kingdom Come.

For all of this, O God, we come before You to join our hearts and voices in praise.

Personal Prayers for Our World, Congregation, and Ourselves

And yet, Gracious and Loving God, we come as people in need - and knowing you are a Good God who cares for Your people - we bring those before you in prayer as well this morning.

Closing

And now, as we seek to continue in worship this morning, we pray that You will take joy in our songs of praise, incline Your ear to our prayers, and strengthen us in faith through the study of Your Word — that you may be glorified in this day, and that we may be prepared to walk by faith in our week ahead.

We ask all this in the perfecting power of Your Spirit, and in Jesus' precious Name.

Amen.

GOD'S WORD & HIS BLESSING

Psalm 86

"Be...Teachable"

CLOSING SONG

"Be Thou My Vision"

(To be read, sung, or listened to)

Choir Version

Modern Version

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art--
thou my best thought by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father, I thy true son;
thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

— The Love, Mercy and Grace of God be with you all —

Pastor Ben