

AS WE GATHER

Our society has changed. Systematic Racism, privilege, political correctness, woke, anti-racist, social justice are common words in the world today. What comes to mind when you hear them? Are you able to accurately define them? Being a victim seems to be in vogue. People are being "cancelled." While many pundits and politicians have now begun to voice their concerns about this new ideology of "wokeness" and its impact on society, it is time for us as Christians to be concerned about the impact this ideology has on a person's relationship with Christ. Together we analyze "wokeness" from a Biblical perspective. Above all, today we hear God's answer to the challenge of "wokeness." He calls His people to demonstrate courage in the face of challenges, confess the faith, and above all, share the love of His Son, Jesus, with all people.

Gathering Songs Build Your Kingdom Here

Come, set Your rule and reign
In our hearts again
Increase in us we pray
Unveil why we're made
Come, set our hearts ablaze with hope
Like wildfire in our very souls
Holy Spirit come invade us now
We are Your church
We need Your power in us

We seek Your kingdom first
We hunger and we thirst
Refuse to waste our lives
For You're our joy and prize
To see the captive hearts released
The hurt, the sick, the poor at peace
We lay down our lives for Heaven's cause
We are Your church
We pray revive this earth

Chorus: Build Your kingdom here
 Let the darkness fear
 Show Your mighty hand
 Heal our streets and land
 Set Your church on fire
 Win this nation back
 Change the atmosphere
 Build Your kingdom here We pray

Unleash Your kingdom's pow'r
Reaching the near and far
No force of hell can stop
Your beauty changing hearts
You made us for much more than this
Awake the kingdom seed in us
Fill us with the strength and love of Christ

We are Your church
We are the hope on earth **Chorus**

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Welcome & Invocation

Pastor Aaron Boerst

Opening Song Thy Word

Chorus: Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
 And a light unto my path
 Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
 And a light unto my path

When I feel afraid
And I think I've lost my way
Still You're there right beside me
Nothing will I fear
As long as You are near
Please be near me to the end. **Chorus**

I will not forget
Your love for me and yet
My heart forever is wandering
Jesus be my guide
And hold me to Your side
I will love You to the end. **Chorus**

And a light unto my path
You're the light unto my path

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Call to Worship *Based on John 1:10–12*

Pastor: Jesus Christ was in the world, and the world was made through Him,
People: **yet the world did not know Him.**
Pastor: He came to His own,
People: **and His own people did not receive Him.**
Pastor: But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name,
People: **He gave the right to become children of God.**

Confession and Forgiveness *John 1:14*

Pastor: God has come to us to make us His own children. Let us confess our sins of unbelief that He may give us faith to receive Him and His love.
People: **O God, we confess that we have ignored Your voice and Spirit by choosing to go our own way. Without You, we are lost and confused and without hope. Without You, we do not know love. Come now to us and forgive our waywardness and weakness. Give us Your gifts of faith, hope, and love. Receive us again into the family of Your redeemed. Amen.**
Pastor: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

Reader

Dan Macejkovic

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 45:3–15

(Joseph forgives his brothers.)

³ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence.

⁴ So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. ¹⁰ You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have.

¹¹ There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.' ¹² And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. ¹³ You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." ¹⁴ Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

Reader: This is the Word of our Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 15:21–26, 30–42

(Paul teaches regarding the resurrection of the dead.)

²¹ For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴ Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death. . . .

³⁰ Why am I in danger every hour? ³¹ I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! ³² What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." ³³ Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals." ³⁴ Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

³⁵ But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶ You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. ³⁹ For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. ⁴⁰ There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of

the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. ⁴¹There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

⁴²So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.

Reader: This is the Word of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Luke 6:27–38

(Jesus teaches about loving enemies.)

²⁷[Jesus said:] "But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. ³¹And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

³²"If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. ³⁵But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. ³⁶Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

³⁷"Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Message / Kid's Church

Song of the Day

Way Maker

You are here moving in our midst	I worship You I worship You
You are here working in this place	I worship You I worship You
You are here turning lives around	I worship You I worship You
You are here working miracles	I worship You I worship You

Chorus : You are Way maker, miracle worker
Promise Keeper, light in the darkness
My God that is who You are
You are Way maker, miracle worker
Promise Keeper, light in the darkness
My God that is who You are

You are here touching every heart	I worship You I worship You	
You are here healing every life	I worship You I worship You	
You are here turning lives around	I worship You I worship You	
You are here mending every heart	I worship You I worship You	Chorus x2

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Sermon

Christians in a Woke World: The Final Word – Love

Pastor Aaron Boerst

Creed *The Third Article of the Apostles Creed*

Pastor: The Third Article of the Creed is focused on the Holy Spirit and the ways in which the work of the Spirit intersects with our lives. In very few words, the Creed encompasses what really is important in our spiritual lives now and forever. We confess:

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Pastor: What does this mean?

**People: I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.
In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.
In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.
This is most certainly true.**

Prayers of the Church

Pastor: O God of love, thanks and praise be to You for sending Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to open Your kingdom by means of His love and deliverance and glory on the cross. Greater love has no one than this. Work in us, Your children, the gift of Your love, that we be enabled to endure the struggles of faith and hope and to reflect Your true glory all our days. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Establish Your whole Church and this congregation to be walking and serving together in love for You and love toward one another and the world, that many come to the knowledge of Your truth and salvation. Grant Your strength and blessing to all who preach Your life-giving Word and those who serve as Your loving hands to all who are in any need. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Grant Your grace and wisdom to all who serve in the government of our country. Give strength and integrity to those in the armed forces and to all who serve and protect us in our communities. Give all agencies dedicated to the service of helping and healing people the freedom to do their good works for the support of all people. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Hear also now our prayers for all who are sick or hospitalized, the injured and the lonely. Grant that Your healing love be administered faithfully by the medical professionals and those who supply the needy in any way. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: O Lord, Hear us now on behalf of those in our congregation and all who stand in need:

Local concerns may be added by congregational elder here.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Sharing the Peace

Offering Sanctuary

It was you Lord, who gave the Savior
Heart and soul, Lord, to every man

It is you , Lord who knows my weakness

You refine me with Thine own hand

Lead me O Lord, through temptation

You refine me from within

Fill our hearts with Your Holy Spirit

And take all our sins away

O Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary

Pure and holy tried and true

With thanksgiving I'll be a living

Sanctuary for you

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Presentation of Gifts

Pastor: Heavenly Father, You are the giver of all good things, and Your Word makes clear that every good and perfect gift comes from You. We ask that You accept these gifts back unto Yourself and use them to Your glory. [*Psalm 145:15, James 1:17*]

People: **Amen.**

Holy Communion

Preface

Pastor: The Lord be with you. [*2 Timothy 4:22*]

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. [*Colossians 3:1*]

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. [*Psalm 136*]

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

The Words of Our Lord [*Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*]

Proclamation of Christ

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
[*1 Cor.11:26*]

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.** [*Revelation 22:20*]

Lord's Prayer [*Matthew 6:9–13*]

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

People: **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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

Distribution

The Summons

¹ Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?

Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,

Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

² Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?

Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray'r in you and you in me?

⁴ Will you love the you you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Instrumental

⁵ Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

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How Deep the Father's Love for Us

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son
And make a wretch His treasure.

How great the pain of searing loss,
The Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross.
My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.

It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life -
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything.
No gifts no power no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.

Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart,
His wounds have paid my ransom.

Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer.

But this I know with all my heart,
His wounds have paid my ransom.

"How Deep The Father's Love For Us," Stuart Townend © 1995 Thankyou Music. Used By Permission. CCLI License #1530621

Open Our Eyes Lord

Open our eyes, Lord, We want to see Jesus,
To reach out and touch him And say that we love him.
Open our ears, Lord, And help us to listen.
Open our eyes, Lord, We want to see Jesus. **(Repeat)**

Announcements

Benediction [Numbers 6:24-26]

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

Sending Song

Forever

Give thanks to the Lord	Our God and King
His love endures forever	For He is good He is above all things
His love endures forever	Sing praise sing praise
With a mighty hand	And outstretched arm
His love endures forever	For the life that's been reborn
His love endures forever	Sing praise, sing praise! Sing praise, sing praise!
Forever God is faithful	Forever God is strong
Forever God is with us	Forever, and ever and ever
From the rising to the setting sun	
His love endures forever	By His grace we carry on,
His love endures forever	Sing praise, sing praise! Sing praise, sing praise!
Forever God is faithful	Forever God is strong
Forever God is with us	Forever and ever
Forever God is faithful	Forever God is strong
Forever God is with us	Forever and ever
His love endures forever	His love endures forever
His love endures forever	Forever, forever and ever

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