

**AS WE GATHER**

Not even the fall of humankind into sin has erased the central Biblical affirmation, so eloquently summarized by Martin Luther, that "God has made me and all creatures." No human being, however distinguishable from a human standpoint, is any less fully God's creature than any other human being since all are created in His image. In racist ideology, the worth or value of an individual or group is determined principally, if not solely, by genetic origin and/or biological characteristics. Scripture teaches, however, that the value of all human beings is grounded ultimately in the value God places upon them. The value of a person is not determined by observable degrees of relative worth.

**Gathering Song                      Thrive**

Here in this worn and weary land        where many a dream have died  
Like a tree planted by the water        we never will run dry  
So living water flowing through        God we thirst for more of You  
Fill our hearts and flood our souls        with one desire

Just to know You and to make You known    we lift Your name on high  
Shine like the sun make darkness run and hide  
We know we were made for so much more than ordinary lives  
It's time for us to more than just survive                      We were made to thrive

Joy unspeakable	Faith unsinkable	Love unstoppable	Anything is possible
Joy unspeakable	Faith unsinkable	Love unstoppable	Anything is possible
Joy unspeakable	Faith unsinkable	Love unstoppable	Anything is possible....

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Whoao-o-o o-o-o  
We were made to thrive

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**Welcome & Invocation**

**Opening Song                      He Reigns**

It's the song of the redeemed                Rising from the African plain  
It's the song of the forgiven                Drowning out the Amazon rain  
  
The song of Asian believers                Filled with Gods holy fire  
Its every tribe, every tongue, every nation    a love song born of a grateful choir  
  
It's all Gods' children singing  
Glory, glory, hallelujah        He reigns, He reigns  
It's all Gods' children singing  
Glory, glory, hallelujah        He reigns, He reigns  
  
And all the powers of darkness                Tremble at what they've just heard

Cause all the powers of darkness     Can't drown out a single word

It's all Gods' children singing

Glory, glory,    hallelujah     He reigns, He reigns

It's all Gods' children singing

Glory, glory,    hallelujah     He reigns, He reigns

It's all Gods' children singing

Glory, glory,    hallelujah     He reigns, He reigns

It's all Gods' children singing

Glory, glory,    hallelujah     He reigns

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### **Confession & Forgiveness**

Pastor:            If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**People:            But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

*Silence for self-examination.*

Pastor:            Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

**People:            I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor:            Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and given to us His only Son to suffer and die for our salvation. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore 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:            Jesus our brother, You revealed God through your words of Divine wisdom and loving deeds, and we encounter you still today in the faces of those whom society has pushed to the margins. Guide us, through the love you revealed, to establish the justice you proclaimed, that all people might dwell in harmony, united by that one love that binds us to each other, and to you.

**People:            Amen.**

### **Reader**

*Eden Genzmer*

### **First Reading**

*Ephesians 2:11–22*

*(One in Christ)*

<sup>11</sup>Remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— <sup>12</sup>remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup>But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup>For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility <sup>15</sup>by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, <sup>16</sup>and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. <sup>17</sup>And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup>For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. <sup>19</sup>So then you

are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup>built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, <sup>21</sup>in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup>In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Reader: This is the Word of our Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **Second Reading**

*Acts 17: 24-28*

*(Paul Addresses the "Unknown God")*

<sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, <sup>25</sup>nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. <sup>26</sup>And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, <sup>27</sup>that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, <sup>28</sup>for

“In him we live and move and have our being’;  
as even some of your own poets have said,  
“For we are indeed his offspring.’

Reader: This is the Word of our Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **Third Reading**

*John 13: 31-35*

*(Jesus Gives A New Commandment)*

<sup>31</sup>When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going you cannot come.’ <sup>34</sup>A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Pastor: This is the Word of our Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **Children’s Message / Kid’s Church**

#### **Song of the Day**

#### **The Summons**

<sup>2</sup> 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?

<sup>3</sup> Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?  
Will you set the pris’ners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,  
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

<sup>4</sup> 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?

<sup>5</sup> 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.

CCLI Song # 4668756 "The Summons," words and music by David Peacock, Graham Maule & John L. Bell. © 1987 Hope Publishing Company. Used By Permission. CCLI License #1530621

## Sermon

## Tough Topic Tackle Box: Racism

Pastor Aaron Boerst

### Creed – Catechism

#### *The Fifth Commandment*

Pastor: You shall not murder. What does this mean?

**People: We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.**

#### *The Eighth Commandment*

Pastor: You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. What does this mean?

**People: We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.**

#### *The Seventh Petition of the Lord's Prayer*

Pastor: But deliver us from evil. What does this mean?

**People: We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.**

### Prayers of the Church

Pastor: God of justice, in your wisdom you create all people in your image, without exception. Through your goodness, open our eyes to see the dignity, beauty, and worth of every human being. Fill us with courage that we might seek to heal wounds, build bridges, forgive and be forgiven, and establish peace and equality for all in our communities. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord of Love, so many people are hurting for love and acceptance. Many today do so out of the gender and sexuality you have created in them. Help those struggling with their bodies and minds to see value and worth not in themselves, but in your saving grace of your Son Jesus Christ. Help all of us be agents of love toward all people, while still also speaking your truth in love. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Almighty and most holy God, we thank and praise You for all You provide us freely by Your grace. We live in a nation and in communities where we are thankful to have brothers and sisters in Christ, yet there are also many who have either disconnected from You and Your Church, and often cause terror and violence. Lead us to share Your grace with others. Guide our conversations and grow our relationships with those who do not share the hope we have. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Heavenly Father, hear the cries of those who awaken to face another day of injustice, prejudice, and oppression. Comfort those considering or are faced with the possibility of aborting the life

of a child. Help all of us realize that all life is precious. Give us all hope in Your promises. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Give to all families grace to love one another, that husbands and wives live in fidelity toward each other and show compassionate care to their children. Bless all women in childbirth and sustain the aged in strength of body and mind. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Bless the married that they be faithful, bless the single that they be chaste and enjoy the company and support of Christian friends, and bless the aged and infirm that they know the loving care of family in their time of need. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Help us to be good stewards of Your creation, to share what You have supplied with those in need, and to support the work of Your Church in her mission here and throughout the world. 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 Peace

## Offering

## Guitar Duet – Seek Ye First

## 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 Cross Has the Final Word***

The Cross has the final word

The Cross has the final word

Sorrow may come in the darkest night

But the Cross has the final word

The Cross has the final word

The Cross has the final word

Evil may put up its strongest fight

But the Cross has the final word

The Cross has the final word

The Cross has the final word

The Savior has come with the morning light

The Cross has the final word

#### ***Instrumental***

There's nothing stronger nothing higher

Nothing greater than the name of Jesus

All the honor all the power

All the glory to the name of Jesus

The Cross has the final word

The Cross has the final word

He traded death for eternal life

The Cross has the final word

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### **Heal Our Land**

Forgive oh Lord and heal our land

And give us eyes to seek Your face

And hearts to understand

That You alone make all things new

And the blessings of the land we love

Are really gifts from You

**Chorus:**        If My people will humbly pray  
                      And seek My face and turn away  
                      From all their wicked ways  
                      Then I will hear them  
                      And move My hand  
                      And freely then will I forgive  
                      And I will heal their land

Unite our hearts in one accord  
And make us hungry for Your peace  
And burdened for the poor  
And grant us hope that we might see  
The future for the land we love  
Our life our liberty **Chorus**

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### **Your Great Name**

<sup>1</sup> Lost are saved find their way  
At the sound of Your great Name  
All condemned feel no shame  
At the sound of Your great Name  
Ev'ry fear has no place  
At the sound of Your great Name  
The enemy he has to leave  
At the sound of Your great Name

Jesus worthy is the Lamb that was slain for us, Son of God and man  
You are high and lifted up, And all the world will praise Your great Name

<sup>2</sup> All the weak find their strength  
At the sound of Your great Name  
Hungry souls receive grace  
At the sound of Your great Name  
The fatherless they find their rest  
At the sound of Your great Name  
The sick are healed the dead are raised  
At the sound of Your great Name

Jesus, worthy is the Lamb that was slain for us, Son of God and Man  
You are high and lifted up, and all the world will praise Your great name

Jesus worthy is the Lamb that was slain for us, Son of God and man  
You are high and lifted up, And all the world will praise Your great Name  
Your great Name

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### **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.

### **Announcements**

#### **Sending Song I Am**

There's no space that His love can't reach  
There's no place that we can't find peace  
There's no end to Amazing Grace

Take me in with your arms spread wide  
Take me in like an orphan child  
Never let go, never leave my side.

I am, Holding on to You.....I am, Holding on to You.  
In the middle of the storm,.....I am Holding on, I am!

Love like this, Oh my God to find!  
I am overwhelmed what a joy divine!  
Love like this sets our hearts on fire!

I am, Holding on to You.....I am, Holding on to You.  
In the middle of the storm,.....I am Holding on, I am!

This is my Resurrection Song  
This is my Hallelujah Come  
This is why it's to You I run

This is my Resurrection Song  
This is my Hallelujah Come  
This is why to You I run

I am, Holding on to You.....I am, Holding on to You.  
In the middle of the storm,.....I am Holding on

I am, Holding on to You.....I am, Holding on to You.  
In the middle of the storm,.....I am Holding on, I am!

In the middle of the storm,  
I am Holding on, I am!

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