

Date: February 21, 2021

Theme: Seven Last Words: Truth

God's People Gather

Threshold Moment

Opening Song

The Strong Name of Jesus

There is only one Lord that we cling to,
There is only one truth that we claim;
There is only one way that we walk in,
There is only power in one name.

And in the strong name of Jesus,
By the blood of the Lamb,
We are able to triumph,
We are able to stand.

In the power of His Spirit,
By the strength of His hand,
In the strong name of Jesus,
By the precious blood of the Lamb.

Though apart from Him we can do nothing,
By His Spirit we can do all things;
Covered by His blood we are made righteous,
Lifting up the name of Christ, our King!

And in the strong name of Jesus,
By the blood of the Lamb,
We are able to triumph,
We are able to stand.

In the power of His Spirit,

By the strength of His hand,
In the strong name of Jesus,
By the precious blood of the Lamb.

Call to Confession

Friends, if we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. We know that it is true that each of us has failed, missed the mark, done what we should not. But when we confess our sins, the One who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In trust and honesty, let us confess together:

Prayer of Confession

God of truth and mercy, our loyalties are divided, and we worship so many things other than you. We make you in our likeness, or place ourselves at the center. We use your name trivially, or claim you for our prejudices. We neglect quiet times and are obsessed with being busy. We fail to honor our elders; we glorify war, and permit violence. We disregard our promises, and we fail to live up to your truth. We take delight in gossip and indulge in greed and desire. Save us, God of truth and mercy. Turn us toward your truth. Amen.

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Believe the good news of the gospel. Jesus Christ is the Savior of all who lose their way, the Living Word of Truth, the one who is our Life. In him, there is truth and mercy.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God! Amen.

Response

Glory to God

Glory to God,

Whose goodness shines on me,

And to the Son,

Whose grace has pardoned me,

And to the Spirit

Whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning
Is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end,
Without end. Amen.
World without end,
Without end. Amen.

World without end,
Without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning
Is now and ever shall be. Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Response

Peace Song

Peace I leave with you my friends
Shalom my peace in all you do
Peace I leave with you my friends
I give to you so you can give to others too.

God's Word is Proclaimed

Time with Children

Scripture

Luke 23: 43 "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Psalms 25:4-5 Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

John 8: 2-11 Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, they

said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, sir." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again."

Sermon

Responding to God's Word

Affirmation of Faith

I Believe, by Bruce Prewer

I believe in truth as a living Reality, not captured in theory or a creed, but revealed to those who love; the truth of Jesus, the Spirit of truth, the truth of God.

Because I believe I trust, not blindly but open eyed and bold as a child climbing into a mother's lap; the truth of Jesus, the Spirit of truth, the truth of God.

Because I believe I serve, not as a slave that serves a tyrant but like farmers reaping a harvest; the truth of Jesus, the Spirit of truth, the truth of God.

Offering

If you are able, please continue to send in your offering and pledge. If you are enrolled in electronic funds transfer, there is no need to do anything different. If you would like to give online using Paypal, click this link: bit.ly/FPCsterling

Prayer of Dedication

Holy God, we cannot begin to list the ways you bless us. We know you don't need anything material from us, but we need to give as an expression of our gratitude. And so, blessed Lord, we give you our tithes and offerings now, but more importantly, we give you our love and our esteem. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Closing Song

Thy Word

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.

(repeat)

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

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.

(repeat)

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,
and I will love You to the end.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.

(repeat)

Benediction

Leader:....and let all God's people say...

People: Alleluia! Amen!