



GUEST PASTOR: TIM KEEP

FREED FOR FREEDOM

EXODUS 20:1-20

11-22-20

All = bold sections – read together

Leader = regular font – leader reads (choose or rotate leaders)

Sung together = italics

NOTE: Please have a white candle ready to light.

Reflect

Romans 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

Welcome

Good Morning and welcome to worship! This week our country focuses on what we are thankful for. What are you thankful for this morning?

May the love and joy of the Father, the grace and peace of the Son and the courage and comfort of the Holy Spirit be ours in abundance!

Call to Worship – Psalm 30 .. A PSALM OF DAVID. A SONG AT THE DEDICATION OF THE TEMPLE

The God we worship turns mourning into dancing so that we might give thanks to him forever! King David is rejoicing at the dedication of the temple of God – the place where God’s presence with his people is visibly portrayed. God is with us. God is for us. Listen to David navigate the troubles of this world with his faith in the “Present God”. Notice over and over again that he turns to the Lord God and sees himself in a story that he is not the author, but a character. Notice what he understands that God has done in his life and what God can do in his life and what God will do in his life.

I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up and have not let my foes rejoice over me. O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me. O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol; you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.

Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name. For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning. As for me, I said in my prosperity, “I shall never be moved.”

By your favor, O LORD, you made my mountain stand strong; you hid your face; I was dismayed. To you, O LORD, I cry, and to the Lord I plead for mercy: “What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness? Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me! O LORD, be my helper!”

You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever!

Song – Now Thank We All Our God -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ecqss2ZvN2c>

*Now thank we all our God,
With heart and hands and voices,*



*Who wondrous things has done,
In Whom this world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms
Has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.*

*O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace,
And guide us when perplexed;
And free us from all ills,
In this world and the next!*

*All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given;
The Son and Him Who reigns
With Them in highest Heaven;
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and Heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.*

Centering Prayer – Jonah's Prayer (Jonah 2:1–9)

Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of a fish, saying, "I called out to the LORD, out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice. For you cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all your waves and your billows passed over me.

Then I said, 'I am driven away from your sight; yet I shall again look upon your holy temple.' The waters closed in over me to take my life; the deep surrounded me; weeds were wrapped about my head at the roots of the mountains. I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me forever; yet you brought up my life from the pit, O LORD my God.

When my life was fainting away, I remembered the LORD, and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple. Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their hope of steadfast love. But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay.

Salvation belongs to the LORD!"

Song – Come Thou Fount Of Every Blessing -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X1rXneeti9s>

*Come, Thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy, never ceasing call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount, I'm fixed up, on it
Mount of Thy redeeming love*



*I was lost in utter darkness 'til You came and rescued me
I was bound by all my sin when Your love came and set me free
Now my soul can sing a new song, now my heart has found a home
Now Your grace is always with me
And I'll never be alone*

*Come, Thou Fount, come, Thou King; Come, Thou precious Prince of Peace
Hear Your bride, to You we sing, come, Thou Fount of our blessing
Come, Thou Fount, come, Thou King; Come, Thou precious Prince of Peace
Hear Your bride, to You we sing, come, Thou Fount of our blessing*

*O, to grace, how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to Thee
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it
Seal it for Thy courts a-bove*

*Come, Thou Fount, come, Thou King; Come, Thou precious Prince of Peace
Hear Your bride, to You we sing, come, Thou Fount of our blessing
Come, Thou Fount, come, Thou King; Come, Thou precious Prince of Peace
Hear Your bride, to You we sing, come, Thou Fount of our blessing*

Song – Lord I Need You -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LuvfMDhTyMA>

*Lord, I come, I confess
Bowing here I find my rest
Without You I fall apart
You're the One that guides my heart*

*Lord, I need You, oh, I need You
Every hour I need You
My one defense, my righteousness
Oh God, how I need You*

*Where sin runs deep Your grace is more
Where grace is found is where You are
Where You are, Lord, I am free
Holiness is Christ in me*

*Lord, I need You, oh, I need You
Every hour I need You
My one defense, my righteousness
Oh God, how I need You*

*So teach my song to rise to You
When temptation comes my way
When I cannot stand I'll fall on You
Jesus, You're my hope and stay*

*Lord, I need You, oh, I need You
Every hour I need You*



*My one defense, my righteousness
Oh God, how I need You
My one defense, my righteousness
Oh God, how I need You*

Offering – Community Sharing

We remember that giving is an act of faith, a practice of hope and an expression of love.

(You can give by sending your offering to the church, P.O. Box 217, Oakdale Ca 95361 or consider giving online through your bank. Our deacons can help you with this if necessary.)

Youth Celebration –

Scripture Reading – Exodus 20:1-20 (Pastor Tim Keep from Visalia CRC Is Preaching Today)

Devotional – A Devotional from Ligonier Ministries (RC Sproul)

The Law of God

“God spoke all these words, saying, ‘I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery’” (vv. 1–2)

Following the commandments of God is one mark of the true Christian. After all, Christ lives in His people ([Gal. 2:20](#)), and since Jesus’ food is to do the will of His Father ([John 4:34](#)), He certainly works in us so that we see following God as essential to our sustenance. Yet may we never forget that our obedience is always grounded in grace, for apart from the Lord changing our hearts, we have no desire to please Him ([Rom. 8:7–8](#)). Following God’s law, therefore, does not mean obeying it to secure our right standing in His heavenly court, for we can stand before Him by His grace alone ([Eph. 2:8–9](#)). Also, following God’s law does not mean obeying it in order to boast of how we are more godly than others. We are always to confess our failures and remember that “there but for the grace of God go I” ([Luke 18:9–14](#)).

Until we trust Christ, God’s law can merely restrain the extent of our sinning, encourage us to love sin, and condemn us as sinners who need the Savior ([Rom. 7:8](#); [Gal. 3:23–25](#); [1 Tim. 1:8–11](#)). But once we are converted, God’s law becomes something in which we rejoice. Redeemed hearts no longer experience the Lord’s regulations as burdensome ([1 John 5:3](#)), and they see the importance of keeping “the commandments of God” ([1 Cor. 7:19](#)). Through obedience, we thank Him for the right standing granted to us by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone ([Rom. 5:12–6:14](#)).

What, then, are the commandments of God that we must keep? This question is not a simple one, especially since Paul and the other New Testament writers use the word law in a number of different ways. Clearly, however, God’s eternal law is not coterminous with the Mosaic law, at least for the new covenant believer. After all, Paul draws a distinction between circumcision, which was an old covenant commandment, and the commandments of God ([1 Cor. 7:19](#)). Still, God’s eternal moral law is found within the Mosaic law, which also includes many regulations (for example, the sacrifices) that were in force only for a time in order to point Israel to Christ.

Historically, as exemplified in question and answer 92 of the Heidelberg Catechism, Reformed theology has viewed the Ten Commandments as the heart of God’s law. These ten elaborations of the fundamental principles of love of God and neighbor ([Matt. 22:34–40](#)) form the basic outline of what it means to please our Creator.



Read Exodus 20:1-20

What commandments stand out for you today? Why do you think that is?

Why is it vitally important to remember that good works follows the good news (the gospel). What happens if we get that reversed?

How does law-keeping image God? Which ones might stand out more today than say, 50 years ago?

Coram Deo (means “in the presence of God”)

In recent years, there has been a lot of controversy in the United States as to the placement of the Ten Commandments in public. In all of this rancor, however, we should never forget that the commandments should first be inscribed on our hearts. It is a good idea to memorize the Ten Commandments that we might know God and His will better, worship Him rightly, serve Him with gladness, and love Him more fully.

Communion Meditation

Professing: (Apostles Creed)

We believe in God the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,

Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,

Suffered under Pontius Pilate,

Was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose and ascended to heaven

Where he is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come to judge the living and the dead.

We 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.

Proclaiming: 1 Corinthians 11:23b-25 (Paraphrased)

On the night of his betrayal, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it saying, “this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” After the meal he took the cup of wine and pouring it out said, “this wine is my blood, a new covenant of grace poured out for the forgiveness of sins.”

Remember and believe that the body & blood of Jesus was given & shed for the forgiveness of sins.

Song – Turn You Eyes -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZJDELcuYX3g>

Turn your eyes upon Jesus

Look full in His wonderful face

And the things of earth will grow strangely dim

In the light of His glory and grace

Turn your eyes to the hillside

Where justice and mercy embraced



*There the Son of God gave His life for us
And our measureless debt was erased
Jesus, to You we lift our eyes
Jesus, our glory and our prize
We adore You, behold You, our Savior ever true
Oh Jesus, we turn our eyes to You
Turn your eyes to the morning
And see Christ the Lion awake
What a glorious dawn, fear of death is gone
For we carry His life in our veins
Jesus, to You we lift our eyes
Jesus, our glory and our prize
We adore You, behold You, our Savior ever true
Oh Jesus, we turn our eyes to You
Turn your eyes to the heavens
Our King will return for His own
Every knee will bow, every tongue will shout,
'All glory to Jesus alone!'
Jesus, to You we lift our eyes
Jesus, our glory and our prize
We adore You, behold You, our Savior ever true
Oh Jesus, we turn our eyes to You*

Sending as Disciples of Jesus: Matthew 28:18-20 (Paraphrased)

We are free in Christ as his disciples and as children of God by grace through faith. This freedom wasn't free. It cost God the sacrificial and substitutionary life and death of his one and only Son. We disciples, therefore live in deep transformative gratitude for what God has done for us. We disciples, therefore live in deep transformative delight in what God is doing today in the world through His Spirit and through his Church. We disciples, therefore live in deep transformative hope in what God will do to complete his work of making all things new. May we make Christ crucified central to our identity and practice of discipleship. May we make meeting together, supporting each other, and seeking first the kingdom of God together central priorities to being obedient in faith to Jesus of Nazareth and his kingdom here on earth.

Let us go out into the world ready, prepared and willing to be his witness both verbally and visibly.

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Jesus. Therefore, as we are sent into the world by him, let us make disciples of all, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that Jesus has commanded us. And let us remember and treasure that Jesus is with us always, even to the end of the age. Amen!