

ORDER FOR THE CORPORATE WORSHIP OF GOD
A Service of Celebration and Covenantal Renewal

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

—SCOTT ROLEY

UNVEILED HOPE
The Application of Hope: Loving As We Are Loved
Revelation 19:6-9

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

INVOCATION

—Jack Watkins

CALL TO WORSHIP

1 John 4:10-12 (NIV)

¹⁰This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

WORSHIP THROUGH SONG

Lyric sheets of today's music can be obtained from the ushers upon request

PASTORAL PRAYER

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

I. Revealing the spousal affection of Jesus (Revelation 19:7...the bride has made herself ready)

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, **just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her** ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

•Jesus Loves His Bride

- Husbands are to love their wives as a demonstration of the truth of the gospel.
- Christians are to love Jesus' Bride (the Church) as a revelation of His passionate love for us.

•Jesus' Bride Is Not What You'd Expect!

- She needs a bath.
- She is stained, wrinkled and blemished.
- One day, however, she will be filled with splendor!

•To Love Jesus' Bride Is to Love the Saints - All of Them

- To love the saints is to love stained, wrinkled, blemished people who need a bath.
- To love the saints requires that we grow in our knowledge and experience of the love of Christ.

SONG OF RELECTION

MINISTRY OF THE WORD, PART 2

II. Revealing the sacred romance to us and through us. (Revelation 19:7...the bride has made herself ready)

Ephesians 3:14 For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

“The exclusion of the weak and insignificant, the seemingly useless people, from everyday Christian life in community may actually mean the exclusion of Christ; for in the poor sister or brother, Christ is knocking at the door. We must, therefore, be very careful on this point. Like the Christian’s sanctification, Christian community is a gift of God to which we have no claim. Only God knows the real condition of either our community or our sanctification. What may appear weak and insignificant to us may be great and glorious to God. Just as Christians should not be constantly feeling the pulse of their spiritual life, so too the Christian community has not been given to us by God for us to be continually taking its temperature. The more thankfully we daily receive what is given to us, the more assuredly and consistently will community increase and grow from day to day as God pleases.” (Bonhoeffer, Dietrich... Life Together)

Ephesians 5:1-2 Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children 2 and **live a life of love**, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

SONGS OF RESPONSE

COMMISSIONING—10:45

China Team

Patricia Dean
Rinda Smith
Meg Stockham
Tim Tan

Malawi Medical Team

Meg Harmon
Abigail & Greg Morgan
Jack & Patsy Watkins
Jay Watkins
Ruth Stringfield

BENEDICTION



QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION:

1. What was the most insightful idea from today’s sermon?
2. When you think of being Jesus’ Bride, what feelings does it bring up? What does the scripture “The Bride has made herself ready” mean to you?
3. How is the Gospel central to our making Jesus’ Bride ready?
4. What is the significance of the Sacred Romance to us? How is it different from the Sacred Romance through us?
5. Pray for one another that we would understand the depth of Jesus’ love for us as we act in line with the truth of the Gospel.



“When “Jesus Christ crucified” is not proclaimed and lived out in love, the Church is a bored and boring society. There is no power, no challenge, no fire – no change. We make drab what ought to be dramatic.” Brennen Manning, “The Signature of Jesus”

LOOKING FORWARD:

Dear Friends and Family

As we prepare to celebrate Easter together on March 23rd, we are going to invest the next three Sunday in taking a closer look at the incredible and eternal implications of the cross of Jesus. This will not only be a series of services to enrich the hearts of our church family, it will also be a great opportunity for you to consider inviting neighbors, non-believing friends and strangers into our community as we examine the most profound expression of the love God has ever shown us—the giving of his Son on our behalf. Please be in prayer for this whole four-part series, and, indeed, think of those whom you might invite to join us as we “survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died.”

“LOVE SO AMAZING, SO DIVINE: The Message of the Cross”

Mar. 2 – Why Did Jesus Have to Die on the Cross? Galatians 3:10-14

Mar. 9 – What Did the Cross of Jesus Accomplish? Col. 2:13-15

Mar. 16 – How Does the Cross Change Me? Gal. 2:19-21; 6:14

Mar. 23 – EASTER - The Savior Who Suffered Now Sings! Heb. 2:5-18

