



Wednesday, March 26, 2025

I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. John 15:15

Invocation and Call to Worship

P: We gather for worship today to be encouraged by the powerful presence of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: May the God of endurance and encouragement grant us

C: To live in harmony with one another and in accord with Christ Jesus. (Romans 15:5)

P: So if there is any encouragement in Christ,

C: Any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit,

P: Any affection and sympathy,

C: Complete my joy by being of one mind,

P: Having the same love,

C: Being in full accord and of one mind. (Philippians 2:1-2)

P: Therefore encourage one another

C: And build one another up, just as you are doing. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

Opening Hymn ... "Be Thou My Vision"

(Slane 10 10 10 10)

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Encourage us, our Savior, Servant, Friend, with your word of forgiveness as we confess our sins.

C: My heart is weighed down by shame and guilt, by my sins and failures.

P: My words have discouraged and torn others down.

C: My confidence has been misplaced and misdirected.

P: My faith has faltered as I have trusted in idols and myself.

C: My soul is tried and burdened by the loads that I have carried.

P: My spirit needs a word of forgiveness and encouragement.

C: Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!

(Please silently reflect on our need for the encouraging friendship of Jesus.)

P: Take courage, friends! Jesus forgives you of all of your sins.

Let your hearts be strengthened, your souls be refreshed, your

minds be renewed and your spirits be encouraged. Jesus has nailed your sins to the cross and thrown them into the tomb. Having been forgiven by Jesus, let us now live for him.

C: What a friend we have in Jesus.

Prayer of the Day

P: Lord Jesus, life in this world leaves us disheartened and discouraged, lost and lonely. Come to the aid of your people with your friendship and love. Encourage us with your Word and your promises. Strengthen our faith to live for you alone. Grant us your Holy Spirit so that we have the courage we need to face all that we encounter in this life. Amen.

Old Testament Reading ... *Isaiah 41:8-11*

Epistle Reading ... *1 Thessalonians 5:5-11*

Gospel Reading ... *Matthew 8:5-13*

Sermon Hymn ... "How Firm a Foundation"

(Foundation 11 11 11 11)

Sermon

Offering & Attendance/Involvement Cards

Prayers

P: We are not worthy to come under your roof and enter into your presence, our Savior, Servant, Friend, And still you welcome us to come and draw near to you in prayer. You promise that when we gather in your name, you will be present among us. And so, you encourage us to pray. Jesus, hear us now as we lift our prayers and raise our petitions to you.

C: Lord, hear our prayer.

P: Fortify our wavering hearts and encourage us with your unflinching love.

C: Lord, hear our prayer.

P: Encourage the leaders of this world to be about the work of

peace and justice, fostering care for the sojourner, the lonely and the forgotten.

C: Lord, hear our prayer.

P: Build up the faith of those who are wandering in doubt, rescue those who are lost in sin and redeem all who are plagued by shame and guilt.

C: Lord, hear our prayer.

P: Strengthen the souls of those who are near the point of death or mourning the loss of loved ones.

C: Lord, hear our prayer.

P: Embolden our faith so that we can be witnesses for you in this world and that many may come to know you and your love.

C: Lord, hear our prayer.

P: Give hope and joy to your Church so that we can faithfully live as the Body of Christ amongst our neighbors.

**C: Lord, hear our prayer, and encourage us as only you can.
Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

P: And now may the strength and promises, the peace and blessing of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit go with you and encourage you! Amen.

C: What a friend we have in Jesus!

Closing Hymn ... "Rock of Ages"
(Toplady 77 77 77)