

PRELUDE

◇ A time of quiet preparation

My Faith Looks Up To Thee/ arr. R. Hughes

Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus/ arr. T. Kendall

WORDS OF GREETING

WE APPROACH GOD

IN WORD

Psalm 107:1-2, 21-22, 31, 43 (NIV)

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

People: **Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story — those he redeemed from the hand of the foe, those he gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south.**

Leader: Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men.

People: **Let them sacrifice thank offerings and tell of his works with songs of joy.**

Leader: Let them exalt him in the assembly of the people and praise him in the council of the elders.

People: **Whoever is wise, let him heed these things and consider the great love of the LORD.**

IN PRAYER

*WE PRAISE OUR GOD

HYMN OF PRAISE 4 (vss. 1-4, 6)

All Praise to God, Who Reigns Above

WE CONFESS OUR SIN

Morris Lapi

Unison: **Heavenly Father, forgive us. Though we should follow as you guide us, we seek to inform ourselves. Though we should submit to your rule over us, we attempt to control ourselves. Though we should seek our fulfillment in you, we try to sustain ourselves. For we think your truth too high, your will too hard, your power to remote, your love too free. But they are not! And without them, we are of all people most miserable. Heal our confused minds with your word, heal our divided wills with your law, heal our troubled consciences with your love, heal our anxious hearts with your presence, all for the sake of your Son, who loved us and gave himself for us. Amen.**

(adapted from *Reformation Theology*)

SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 11:1-10 (NIV)

Leader: Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for.

By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead.

By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

HYMN OF RESPONSE 34 (vss. 1-3, 6)

The God of Abraham Praise

WE GREET ONE ANOTHER

WELCOME TO VISITORS

WE SEEK GOD'S FACE

Prayers of God's People

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

OFFERING/ OFFERTORY

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross arr. by M. Ham and R. Vos
Rachel Vos, Violin; Jim Harris, Piano

***WE GO FORTH TO SERVE**

HYMN OF RESPONSE **705**
WORDS OF PEACE
ANNOUNCEMENTS
POSTLUDE

I Know Whom I Have Believed

Abiding Faith/ L. Stairs

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

I Corinthians 12:31b-13:13 (NIV)

³¹ And now I will show you the most excellent way.

¹ If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. ⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸ Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. ¹¹ When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. ¹² Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. ¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Hebrews 11:13 (NIV)

¹³ All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth.

SERMON

Firmly-fixed Faith
series: The Remaining Three
Rev. Dwight McKay