

Hillcrest CRC
January 22, 2012 – Evening Worship
Sanctity of Life

*“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.
Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy”*
Proverbs 31:8

Prelude: “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us” – arr. Gaines
“Think About His Love” with “Jesus Loves Me” – arr. Fettke
“Children of the Heavenly Father” with “Jesus Loves Me” – arr. Page

Welcome

Anthem: “Psalm 139” – Pote

*Lord, you have searched me and known me, You know everything I do.
When I rise up, when I lie down, you are with me through and through.
Before a word is on my tongue, you know what I will say,
Your presence follows me day by day.*

*Where can I flee from your spirit? Where can I go to run away?
If I go to heaven, or to the depths, you are there.*

*Search me, O God, and know me, try me and know my heart.
See if there be any wicked way in me,
And lead me in the way everlasting. Amen.*

*Prayer of Adoration

God of the past, who has created and nurtured us,
we are here to thank you.

God of the future, who is always ahead of us,
we are here to thank you.

God of the present, who is here in the midst of us,
we are here to thank you.

God of life, who is beyond us and within us,
We rejoice in your glorious love.

*Opening Song: “God of Great and God of Small” (SFL 29:1-4)

*God’s Greeting (*Congregation responds with “**Amen!**”*)

*Mutual Greeting

*Song of Praise: “He Knows My Name” (vs. 1-2)

1. **I have a Maker, He formed my heart;**
Before even time began my life was in His hands.
He knows my name. He knows my ev’ry tho’t.
He sees each tear that falls and hears me when I call.

2. **I have a Father, He calls me His own.**
He’ll never leave me no matter where I go.
He knows my name. He knows my ev’ry tho’t.
He sees each tear that falls and hears me when I call.
He knows my name. He knows my ev’ry tho’t.
He sees each tear that falls and hears me when I call.

Prayer for Life:

God, our Creator,
through Jesus Christ you promise to hear us
when we pray to you in his name.

Confident in your love and mercy
we offer our prayer.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Hear the cries of the world's hungry and suffering.

Give us, who consume most of the earth's resources,
the will to reorder our lives,
that all may have their rightful share of food,
medical care, and shelter,
and so have the necessities of a life of dignity.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer

Guard the life of each unborn child,
help us to see your handprint on everyone you have created,
protect the vulnerable and needy in our nation today,
strengthen those who tirelessly work to preserve life,
and turn our nation to abundant life in you.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Look with compassion on all who suffer.

Support with your love those who have special needs,
Heal and strengthen all who suffer any sickness or weakness,
provide rest and understanding to those who are disturbed or troubled,
give fellowship and love to all who are lonely and alienated,
provide help to those who are aged and frail.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

O God,

in your loving purpose
answer our prayers and fulfill our hopes.

In all things for which we pray,
give us the will to seek to bring them about,
for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Song of Response: "Children of the Heavenly Father" (PH 440:1-4)

Mystery Message

Evening Prayer and Offertory Prayer

Offering and Offertory: "O God, Your Justice Towers" – arr. Ham

(Tonight's offering is received for Right to Life. Please pass the Friendship Folders at this time.)

*Song of Preparation: "O God, Your Justice Towers" (vs. 1-4)

1. **O God, your justice towers above our human plane,
while nation vies with nation in restless search of gain.
Where lust for wealth corrupts us, God, turn our hearts again.
Let justice roll like waters, a mighty, cleansing stream!**
2. **O God, your eye, unsleeping, beholds inequity,
while we, replete with riches, grow blind to poverty.
Correct our darkened vision until the truth we see.
Let justice roll like waters, a mighty, cleansing stream.**
3. **O God, your heart is breaking where wretched millions lie,
where people wander homeless and famished children die.
Renew in us compassion and teach our hearts to cry:
"Let justice roll like waters, a mighty, cleansing stream!"**
4. **Where evil still is coursing, a foul, defiling stream,
fulfill among earth's people your prophet's ancient dream!
God, stir us with your passion; this wayward world redeem,
till justice rolls like waters, a mighty cleansing stream!**

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*Scripture: Romans 1:18-23 (p. 1747), Psalm 36:1-4 (p. 874)

Pastor: Keep the Word of God always on your lips; meditate on it day and night.

Congregation: We will be careful to do everything written in it.

Amen.

(based on Joshua 1:8)

Message: "The Wrath of God Is Real"

Prayer of Confession:

**Gracious Father, the God of life,
teach us ever more to respect and love all the lives you create.
Forgive us our lack of concern and love for those
who are yet unborn, who are born with impairments, who are rejected by their parents.
Teach us to open our hearts and our homes to all your children.
Forgive us when we are negligent and uncaring
for those who are elderly, for those who are forgotten in nursing homes,
who merely exist in their old age, who cannot afford medical care,
who suffer from a careless society.
Teach us to open our hearts, to open our homes and churches,
to visit the lonely, to bring your love into their lives on this earth.
Through Christ, our Lord, Amen.**

Words of Assurance

*Song of Application: "Grace Alone" (vs. 1-2)

- 1. Every promise we can make, every prayer and step of faith;
Every difference we will make is only by his grace.
Every mountain we will climb, every ray of hope we shine;
Every blessing left behind is only by his grace.**

***Refrain: Grace alone which God supplies; strength unknown he will provide.
Christ in us, our cornerstone, we will go forth in grace alone.***

- 2. Every soul we long to reach, every heart we hope to teach;
Everywhere we share his peace is only by his grace.
Every loving word we say, every tear we wipe away;
Every sorrow turned to praise is only by his grace.
(Refrain)**

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*God's Parting Blessing

*Parting Song: "We Receive Your Blessing"

**We receive your blessing; we receive your grace,
As we walk in the light shining from your face.
May the peace that you give change the way that we live.
We receive your blessing as we leave this place.
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise him, all creatures here below.
Praise him above, you heavenly hosts.
Praise Father, Son and praise the Holy Ghost. (sung twice)**

We receive your Blessing as we leave this place.

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*Moment of Reflection

*Postlude: "Let There Be Glory and Honor and Praises" – arr. Hayes

**Please rise in body and/or in spirit*

Participants:

Pianist: Lori Plaisier

Liturgist and Preaching: Pastor Brian Bosscher

Ministry of Music: Hillcrest Choir

Director: Lori Plaisier; Accompanist: Chris Brinks

All Worshipers

MESSAGE NOTES

“The Wrath of God Is Real”

Romans 1:18-23 (p. 1747), Psalm 36:1-4 (p. 874)

The discipleship questions:

What is God saying to me?

How does this apply to my life?

Guests: Bulletins and a weekly event listing can be found at the Information Booth. If you are looking for more information about Hillcrest's ministries, check the bottom row of the church mailboxes located in the hallway between the Narthex and Fellowship Room. Each week the information about our ministries that is given to members will also be put in "Visitor" mailboxes. Children's bulletins are available in the back of the narthex.