

THE LORD'S DAY EVENING

March 19, 2017
Six O'clock

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Heavenly Father, first of all, please know we don't presume on the privilege of calling you Abba, Father. What a sacred, comforting and joyful privilege. It's only because of what Jesus has done for us that we claim such intimacy and security. How we praise you for adopting us into your covenant family and writing us into your glorious future. What matchless grace and living hope you've given us.

Indeed, Father, holy ache and eager expectation flood our hearts as we meditate on the future you've planned for us and for the whole of creation—a future that puts our sufferings and anguish, confusion and disappointments into perspective. Just when we start doubting your mercy and might, yet again, the Spirit starts groaning within us, and we reconnect with our hope. May our groaning become much, much louder than our whining.

“Glorious freedom”—that's our destiny, that's our inheritance. May those two words be tattooed on our hearts; an irrepressible melody in our spirits; the lens through which we see all things and participate in your work in the world. Not just “freedom” but “glorious freedom”—freedom filled with your glory!

No more frustration or decay will be found anywhere or in anyone. Mountains will dance and trees will clap their hands. Justice and mercy will flow like a mighty river through the new heaven and new earth. All of your children will be as lovely and as loving as Jesus. Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Father, right now, a lot of things hurt, a lot of things don't make sense, a lot of things don't add up, but when we consider the glory to be revealed, the mathematics of your mercy trump the calculations of our self-centeredness. In the midst of decay, we want to be for your delight. In the frustrations of creation, let us savor the firstfruits of your salvation. Rather than being weighed down by our present sufferings, we want to be hope-filled by our future liberation. So very Amen we pray, in Jesus' strong and saving name. Amen.

Corporate Call to WorshipIsaiah 51:11

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

InvocationMr. Andrew Harwell

***Hymn 580**..... Lead On, O King Eternal

Hymn 691..... It is Well with My Soul

Responsive Reading Psalm 120 (Pew Bible p. 516)

***Hymn** Psalm 120 (tune of HIGHER GROUND)
(Children will be dismissed to 4 Corners on last verse.)

I cried to God in my distress, and by the Lord my prayer was heard; O save me, Lord, from lying lips and from the false, deceitful word.

What woe for falsehood can atone or punish the deceitful tongue, the tongue whose speech consumes like fire, whose words like deadly shafts are flung?

Alas for me, whose lot is cast with those who find their joy in strife! With those who hate the paths of peace, I long have dwelt and spent my life.

In thought and act I am for peace, peace I pursue and ever seek; but those about me are for strife, though I in love and kindness speak.

Prayer of Illumination

SermonMr. Andrew Harwell

“Peace, I Want Peace!”

Hymn (insert) Eternal Weight of Glory

Peace of God

Postlude

Can you not see death as a friend and deliverer? . . .
What is there to be afraid of? . . . Your sins are confessed. . . .
Has this world been so kind to you that you should leave with regret?
There are better things ahead than any we leave behind. . . .
Our Lord says to you, "Peace, child, peace. Relax. Let go. I will catch you."
(Letters to an American Lady, C. S. Lewis)



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6:00 p.m.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI