

# THE LORD’S DAY EVENING

September 17, 2017  
Six O’clock

## Welcome and Announcements

## Prelude

Micah 6:8 – *"O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you:*

Heavenly Father, you created us for a life of resting and rejoicing in your presence, and revealing your goodness, truth, and beauty... in every place, and every sphere of life. Our calling hasn't changed, but our circumstances have.

We now live in a fallen world as your beloved children, among fellow broken people. But through the riches of the gospel, and in union with Christ, we get to live to the praise of the glory of your grace. Hallelujah! The words from the Prophet Micah offer a perfect summary of this gospel-shaped lifestyle. We are...

*"to do what is right,"*

Father, thank you for saving us by Jesus' perfect goodness, so that our goodness might simply be for our neighbor's benefit. Intensify our passion for justice and righteousness--that is, for doing the next right thing, the next gospel thing. This summer has underscored the need for us, your people, to be warriors of love and justice. We lament the rise of evil in our culture and world. Light us up, and fire us up, to live as agents of truth, beauty, and redemption.

*"to love mercy,"*

And deepen our love for mercy, Father. Keep us ever mindful of your great mercy for us in Jesus. You don't give us what we deserve--judgment; instead, you gave us Jesus, full forgiveness, and abounding grace. Forgive us when we indulge a judgmental, irritated, critical spirit towards anyone.

Your mercy is also revealed by a life of advocacy for the poor, marginalized, and oppressed. Father, by the power of the gospel, make each of us more like the "good Samaritan"--with a heart of compassion and the generosity of grace.

*"and to walk humbly with your God."*

Walking humbly with you shouldn't be difficult for us, Father, because we have a lot to be humble about. We love humility in others; cultivate much more of it in us. Help us keep our conscience under the gospel--so we'll be convicted, not condemned. Grant us godly sorrow when we sin, quick repentances, and greater joy in honoring you. So very Amen we pray, in Jesus' exalted and loving name.

*(365 Everyday Prayers, Scotty Smith)*

**Call to Worship** ..... Micah 6:6-8

With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

**Invocation** .....Rev. Ben Griffith

**Hymn 246** ..... Man of Sorrows! What a Name

**Responsive Reading** ..... Isaiah 53:1-6, 11

Minister: Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

**People: For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.**

Minister: He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

**People: Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.**

Minister: But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

**People: All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.**

**All: Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.**

**Hymn 308**..... Jesus Paid It All  
*(Children will be dismissed to 4 Corners on last verse.)*

**Scripture Reading** ..... Mark 10:42-45

**Prayer of Illumination**

**Sermon**..... Rev. Ben Griffith  
*“A Lesson in Gospel Grammar”*

**Hymn insert** ..... My Hope Stands Firm

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

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From the Gospel Transformation Bible:

A significant mark of discipleship is that of Christlike humility, which arises from purification in and through suffering. Based on the substitutionary atonement of Christ (Mark 10:45), God works purity into the lives of his followers by means of purifying chastisement and discipline – as an expression of his love.

Servant leadership grows out of such God-surrendered humility, whereby the disciple intentionally serves those around him or her, seeking to employ his or her gifts for the sake of others. Christlike humility, especially in leadership, is neither oppressive (like the Gentile leaders; v. 42) nor spineless. The inner strength and power of humility lies in the fact that the follower of Christ relies fully on God: on his power, his purposes, and his resources. Such a humble person will be strong and persistent in God-dependent character and “weak” in self-reliance.



*September 17, 2017*  
*6:00 p.m.*

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA  
HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI