



UNITED IN SUFFERING

1 PETER 4:12-14; 5:6-11

 PREVIEW ONLY

PRELUDE

OPENING SENTENCES

We have gathered—
new followers and lifelong disciples,
the powerful and the powerless,
those who have too little and those who have
too much.

We have gathered, for we are one in Christ.

We have come –
seekers and skeptics,
sinners and saints,
the poor in spirit and the rich in faith.

**We have come, for we are eager to hear
God's word.**

We are here, together.

Let us glorify the one true God.

HYMN #331 "God of the Ages"

God of the ages, whose almighty hand
Leads forth in beauty all the starry band
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies
Our grateful songs before thy throne arise.

Refresh thy people on their toilsome way.
Lead us from night o never ending day.
Fill all our live with love and grace divine,
And glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Since we are surrounded
by so great a cloud of witnesses,
let us also lay aside every weight
and the sin that clings so closely.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Lord Jesus,
you long for us to be one,
just as you and the Father are one.
But we gravitate toward those who
think like us,
behave like us,
pray like us,
because it is easier than looking beyond
difference
to discover what is good and kind and faithful
in those we call the other.
Even in our houses of worship,
we are slow to reach across the aisle
to embrace siblings in faith
with who we hold little in common.**

**Forgive us, we pray.
Wash us in the waters of our baptism,
so that, with one mind,
we might continue the work you gave us to do.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. (Romans 8:34)

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

GLORIA PATRI

SOLO: "I Vow to Thee my country" -Maria Goodrich

READING: 1 PETER 4:12-14; 5:6-11

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

⁶ Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

HYMN #339 Lift Every Voice and Sing

Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies;
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us,
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on, till
victory is won.

SERMON

HYMN # 340 "This is My Song"

This is my song, O God of all the nations,
A song of peace for land afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
But other hearts in other lands are beating
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's kingdoms;
Thy kingdom come; on earth they will be done.
Let Christ be lifted up till all shall serve him,
And hearts united learn to live as one.
So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations:
Myself I give thee; let them will be done.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Remember these words of Scripture from Acts 20:35: "we must help the weak, remembering the words the LORD Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "

OFFERING

OFFERTORY SONG:

"If My People

Maria Goodrich

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Majestic Lord, you unselfishly provide us with the sanctuary of your love. You wisely calm our imagined fears while nurturing our dream-filled hopes. Grant us the ability to serve you faithfully. Joyfully, we honor you with these tithes and offerings. Blessed be your name! **Amen.**

HYMN: "My Country, 'Tis of Thee/O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"

My Country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing:
Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrims' pride,
From every mountainside let freedom ring.

Our father's God, to thee, author of liberty, to thee we sing,
Long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light,
Protect us by the might, great God, our King.

O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!
America ! America ! God shed his grace on thee,
And corn thy good with brotherhood from sea to shing sea!

O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears!
America ! America ! May God thy gold refine
Till all success be nobleness and every gain divine!

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE God Bless America -Berlin

Organist: Jeff Seekins
Music: Maria Goodrich
Pastor: Jim Hardy