



ONE VOICE

FELLOWSHIP

Worship Service

March 28, 2021

Welcome

Clément Tendo

24 这是耶和华所定的日子，
(*This is the day that the Lord has made;*)

let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Call to Worship | Psalm 118: 15-29

Kevin & May Faulkner | *English & Chinese*

25 耶和华啊！求你施行拯救；
耶和华啊！求你使我们亨通。
(*Save us, we pray, O Lord!*
O Lord, we pray, give us success!)

Psalm 118:15-29

15 在义人的帐棚里，
有欢呼和得胜的声音，说：
(*Glad songs of salvation*
are in the tents of the righteous:)
“The right hand of the Lord does valiantly,

26 **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!**
We bless you from the house of the Lord.

27 耶和华是 神，
他光照了我们。
(*The Lord is God,*
and he has made his light to shine upon us.)

16 **the right hand of the Lord exalts,**
the right hand of the Lord does valiantly!”

Bind the festal sacrifice with cords,
up to the horns of the altar!

17 我必不至于死，我要活下去，
并且要述说耶和华的作为。
(*I shall not die, but I shall live,*
and recount the deeds of the Lord.)

28 你是我的 神，我要称谢你；
你是我的 神，我要尊崇你。
(*You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;*
you are my God; I will extol you.)

18 **The Lord has disciplined me severely,**
but he has not given me over to death.

29 **Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;**
for his steadfast love endures forever!

19 请你们为我打开正义的门，
(*Open to me the gates of righteousness,*)
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the Lord.

Song of Praise | Hosanna

Praise team | *English*

20 这是耶和华的门，
义人才可以进去。
(*This is the gate of the Lord;*
the righteous shall enter through it.)

I see the King of glory
Coming on the clouds with fire
The whole earth shakes
The whole earth shakes

21 **I thank you that you have answered me**
and have become my salvation.

I see His love and mercy
Washing over all our sin
The people sing
The people sing

22 建筑工人所弃的石头，
成了房角的主要石头；
(*The stone that the builders rejected*
has become the cornerstone.)

23 **This is the Lord's doing;**
it is marvelous in our eyes.

Chorus
Hosanna Hosanna



Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna Hosanna
Hosanna in the highest

I see a generation
Rising up to take their place
With selfless faith
With selfless faith

I see a near revival
Stirring as we pray and seek
We're on our knees
We're on our knees

Bridge

Heal our hearts and make them clean
Open up our eyes to the things unseen
Show us how to love
Like You have loved us

Break our heart for what breaks Yours
Everything we are
For Your kingdom's cause
As we walk from earth into eternity

Chorus

Hosanna Hosanna
Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna Hosanna
Hosanna in the highest

Song of Praise | Hosanna (Hosanna in the Highest)

Praise team | English

Hosanna, Hosanna, hosanna in the highest
Lord we lift up your name
With our hearts full of praise
Be exalted O Lord our God
Hosanna in the highest

Sing glory, sing glory sing glory to the King of kings
Lord we lift up your name
With our hearts full of praise
Be exalted O Lord our God
Hosanna in the highest

Opening Prayer

Abrham | English & Amharic

Scripture Reading | Matthew 21:1-11

Kebron & Nebiat | Amharic

Matthew 21: 1-11

- ¹ Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples,
- ² saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me.
- ³ If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once."
- ⁴ This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,
- ⁵ "Say to the daughter of Zion, Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.' "
- ⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them.
- ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them.
- ⁸ Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.
- ⁹ And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"
- ¹⁰ And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?"
- ¹¹ And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee."

Membership Vows

All

Prayer | Our Father

All

Matthew 6: 9-13

- ⁹ "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
- ¹⁰ Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
- ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread,



¹² and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever. Amen.

Baptism

Song of Praise | Yesu Azali Awa

Praise team | *Swahili, Spanish, & English*

[Swahili]

Yesu azali awa

Yesu azali awa

Yesu azali awa na biso

Alleluia, O Alleluia, Alleluia na Yesu!

[Spanish]

Jesucristo está aquí

Jesucristo está aquí

Jesucristo está en este lugar

Aleluya, Oh Aleluya, Aleluya a Jesús

[Spanish]

Jesus Christ is here with us

Jesus Christ is here with us

Jesus Christ is here with us, He is here

Alleluia, O Alleluia, Alleluia... He is here

[Swahili]

Yesu azali awa

Yesu azali awa

Yesu azali awa na biso

Alleluia, O Alleluia, Alleluia na Yesu!

Leader: Louez Louez Louez

All: Amen, Alleluia

Leader: Louez Louez Louez

All: Amen, Alleluia

Leader: Louez Louez Louez

All: Amen, Alleluia

Song of Praise | Jalali Yesu

You are full of grace & truth (*men*)

You are full of grace & truth (*ladies*)

Jalali Yesu (*men*)

Jalali Yesu (*ladies*)

Chorus

Jalali Yesu (*men*)

Jalali Yesu (*ladies*)

[Spanish]

Grande y bueno eres tú (*men*)

Grande y bueno eres tú (*ladies*)

Glorioso Cristo (*men*)

Glorioso Cristo (*ladies*)

Bridge (*All*)

You are glorious

Over all the earth (3x)

You are glorious!

You are making all things new (*men*)

You are making all things new (*ladies*)

Jalali Yesu (*men*)

Jalali Yesu (*ladies*)

Jalali Yesu (*men*)

Jalali Yesu (*ladies*)

Tithes & Offerings

Clément Tendo

Sermon | Ephesians 4:1-8

Clément Tendo | *English*

The sermon will be in your language on page 5.

Respond in Song | Digne/Digno/Worship

Praise team | *French, English & Spanish*

Tu es digne

You are worthy

Eres digno

Digno de recibir

Mi pasado

Mi futuro

Eres digno

Digno de recibir

**Chorus**

Toda la gloria
Toda la honra
Lord, You are worthy
Lord, You are worthy, forever worthy!

God

You are worthy
Eres digno
Tu es digne
Digne de recevoir
Tout mon bonheur
Toutes mes souffrances
Tu es digne
Digne de recevoir

Bridge

Lord you are worthy, forever worthy
Lord you are worthy, forever worthy
Lord you are worthy, forever worthy
God

Chorus

Toda la gloria
Toda la honra
Lord, You are worthy
Lord, You are worthy, forever worthy!

God

Communion

Chris Sicks | *English*

Who can participate in the Lord's Supper?

The Lord's Supper is a sacrament—a holy interaction between God and His people. It celebrates the spiritual union that Christians have with Christ. It is also called communion, because it strengthens the community we share with every brother and sister who trust in Jesus alone for salvation.

God's Word warns us that "Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord." (1 Corinthians 11:27) We must think carefully about this sacrament. It is only for those who:

1. have examined their conscience,

2. who truly understand the nature of the body of Christ,
3. who have committed their entire life to following Him,
4. who are members of a bible-believing church.

Before you come to the table you must first come to Jesus in faith!

We are not to judge people's hearts. Ask the Holy Spirit to examine your heart. If you are not sure about your relationship with Christ, do not participate in the sacrament. Instead, please let us pray for you. We love you and want you to join our community! But first you must be joined to Christ. Our leaders are available to talk and pray with you, to help you on your journey.

"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved." (Romans 8:9-10)

Communion Song | Tera Lahoo Say Pap

Kashif | *Urdu*

Prayer of Thanks

Mae Klinger | *English*

We Respond, Rejoice, and Reach | Our promise as a church

Chris Sicks | *English*

ALL: By the power of the Holy Spirit, we live in harmony with our brothers and sisters in Christ's Body. We worship and glorify God the Father together with one voice. And we welcome our neighbors as Christ welcomed us, for the glory of God.

Benediction

Chris Sicks | *English*



Sermon:

Unity in the Christian Walk

Sermon for: Sunday, March 28, 2021

Clément Tendo

Let us pray

Father, we come before you today with a thankful heart. We thank you for your word and for One Voice Fellowship. We thank you that we can hear your voice in your Word today. As we hear you speak to us, open our eyes and ears. Help us to respond joyfully. As I speak to your people, use me as an instrument to communicate what you want them to hear. This we pray trusting in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Outline

I. The Christian Walk (vv. 1-3)

II. Foundations of our Unity (vv. 4-6)

III. Gifts of our Unity (vv. 7-8)

Ephesians 4: 1-8

- ¹ I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,
- ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,
- ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
- ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—
- ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
- ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.
- ⁷ But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.
- ⁸ Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men."

Introduction

We have been going through the book of Ephesians for quite some time now. In this book, Paul is not only talking about doctrine. He also talks about how we must live it out. He writes that we are not saved by race, but by grace alone through faith alone in Christ Jesus alone as taught by the Scriptures alone and for the glory of God alone.

Wherever you are from, the moment you are united to Christ by grace through faith, you are part of Christ's body. In this passage, Paul wants us to know that our unity is founded on Jesus Christ who has made us one body through union with Himself. As Christ's body, we share one common faith, one baptism, and one hope. We are called to maintain the unity of the Spirit **in our Christian Walk**. This is our focus today.

I. The Christian Walk (vv. 1-3)

The Christian walk maintains unity. Let us look at verse 1:

1. The Christian call precedes the Christian walk. It is because we have been saved by God that we are able to walk according to His voice. This is why we are able to obey Him.
2. As believers, we live a life of humility and gentleness.

The ancient Roman world did not value humility and meekness. Everybody wanted honor. People put others down in order to promote themselves. Here, Paul is teaching the Ephesians not to seek honor for themselves, but to humble themselves for the sake of other believers. This is a call for us to be meek in the ways we walk with others. The word translated gentleness can also be translated "meekness."

The meek man or woman does not provoke or offend, he also does not get easily provoked or offended. Friends, this is not something common to you and I. It is a heavenly virtue that comes with the Christian calling.

Christ is the best example of true humility and meekness. In Philippians 2:5-11 we read:

Philippians 2: 5-11

- ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,
- ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,
- ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.



⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,

¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Christ chose to come to live with us sinners even though He was sinless. He died a death that we deserved. Yet, he still remained meek. While facing death, he said, "Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." (Luke 23:34) This is hard, but it is what we are called to be and do. The more you know Jesus, the more you become like him.

In this walk, long-suffering and forbearance must be kept together. It is the long-suffering man or woman who also bears with others. And I can assure you we are going to test one another because that is what sinners do. But when Christ-given meekness comes in, we will be empowered to be patient, forgiving, kind, and gentle.

Back home say that **"it is cows that graze together that hit each other's horns."** Well, obviously, we are not cows. But sinful people always step on one another's toes. Friends, as long as we are all together, we will hurt one another. We will test each other's patience. But Paul is calling us to be long-suffering and meek.

Here is an example... A man from Nicaragua said that on the day of his wedding, his parents came approximately 45 minutes after the set time. The family of his bride (an American family) came 45 minutes before the set time. Imagine being in such a situation on such an important day as your wedding day. How would you feel seeing your in-laws coming late? I would personally feel hurt. But as Christians, we are called to be long-suffering.

But long-suffering is not "dying from inside." This is an expression from my hometown used when people are hurt but we pretend to be okay. If we choose "to die from inside," we are hypocrites. We are not honest and that is sin before God. We are not being truthful to our friend and we are ultimately untruthful to God.

Instead, Paul calls us to speak the truth in love. In Ephesians 4:15-16, Paul writes:

Ephesians 4: 15-16

¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,

¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working

properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Friends, we cannot build Christ's church into one body by pretending that things are okay when they are not. We must speak the truth in love. This is how we grow.

In verse 3, we see that... The walk of the Christian life maintains the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

a. Unity only comes from the Spirit of God.

b. We maintain this bond of peace by loving and speaking the truth in love to one another.

You remember the example that I gave about the couple's wedding day? The groom's family came 45 minutes late while the bride's family came 45 minutes earlier. Do you think that this was a source of conflict for the new husband and wife? Yes, of course.

Friends, like this couple, we are in a covenant with one another. And because of this, we will need to speak the truth in love when one of us is hurt. If I offend you by not being kind to you intentionally or unintentionally, please come to me. Speak the truth in love to me. This is what God calls us to do. And I need it.

But how will this be possible? We need a strong foundation for our unity. This leads us to our second point.

II. Foundations of our Unity **(vv. 4-6)**

How many "ones" did you count here? 7 "ones." Three of these apply to the persons of the Trinity while four others are about the Christian life that come as a gift from the persons of the Trinity. Let's look at these repeated "ones" in detail.

1. One Body

For the body to work well, the members have to work together. I grew up in a city that experienced lots of volcanic eruptions. My home city, Goma is rocky. We do not buy cheap shoes. When I was 15, I fell down hard, and it hurt my left knee. I could not walk properly. I was worried about my knee and wondered when I would get well. My mind was troubled. Although my whole body was not my leg, it was affected. My whole body suffered this pain.

Friends, we are Christ's body. If one of us is hurt, we all suffer with them and pray for them and love them. We all are one body. You and I are bricks of God's temple. In the body of Christ, there is unity and diversity. One Voice is a good example of this.



We have members from literally five continents. Let's see what Paul says in 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 (Focusing on vv. 12-14, & 26).

1 Corinthians 12: 12-14

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

¹³ For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴ For the body does not consist of one member but of many.

1 Corinthians 12: 26

²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

Christ has united us to Himself and to one another. Even the differences that we have are God-given differences. They are not to be a source of conflict, but rather a cause for us to celebrate God's goodness and glory.

2. One Spirit

We are all given life by the same and one Spirit of God. Illustration: Now, the word Spirit "pneuma" can also be translated as "air" necessary for life. We all breathe the same air. Brother Kashif, do you breathe Pakistani air here in the US? What about you brother Yaovi? Do you breathe Togolese air here in the US? Of course, not! We have different lungs, but we all breathe the same air. We are all Christians from different countries because God has given us life by His Spirit.

And because we have one Spirit, we live in unity as the body of Christ.

3. One Hope

We all share one hope. Whoever believes in Jesus Christ has eternal life. This is our hope. And as we prepare for eternity, we need to practice that here. Thanks be to God for One Voice Fellowship. One day we will be with Christ and we will enjoy perfect unity in God's presence forever, together. That gives me great hope.

4. One Lord

We all have the "one and same" Lord that we serve. So, why should we compete or quarrel with one another? In the ancient Roman World, the Christians were hated because they claimed to have another Lord rather than Caesar. They would have been

allowed to have Christ as their Lord as long as they accepted to also consider Caesar as their lord. But Caesar and Jesus were two different lords, ruling two different kingdoms. But we have the "one and same" Lord Jesus Christ, who makes us one.

The French say, "L'union fait la force" literally meaning, "unity makes strength." The Bible also makes this point. Two are better than one (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12). We are called to maintain unity because of the one Lord that we have. The good thing is what our Lord requires He provides the strength to accomplish. So, let's pray for strength.

5. One Faith

We are all here because we believe in Christ Jesus as our personal Savior and Lord. If you do not believe in Christ as personal Lord and Savior, this is an opportunity for you to believe in Christ alone, repent of your sins, and surrender all your life to Jesus Christ.

Nobody can work hard enough to achieve salvation. It is by grace through faith that we have all been saved, not because of anything we have done. Knowing this humbles us and calls us into a life of unity with other believers from all over the world. It calls us to welcome one another as together as we respond to the gospel, rejoice in worship, and reach out to others so that they may know about our faith in Christ and experience it (Romans 15:5-7). This grace compels us to love the lost, because we were lost, too.

6. One Baptism

We have all been washed by the blood of Christ and this is the basis of our unity. The sacrament of baptism was administered today as a sign that we have been born again (John 3). It is a sign of unity that God gives to the covenant family. We who share this sign ought to be united in Christ their Savior and Lord.

7. One God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all and in all

Our God and Father is the Supreme and Sovereign Ruler. We see His glory in all the earth (Psalm 19). We can see that He rules it all. We do not need to fear, we can rely on Him for all the resources that we need. We can cast all our anxieties (1 Peter 5:7) and our frustrations with one another instead of being impatient and unkind. As we do that, we acknowledge that God is in control. When we are impatient, we are trying to be sovereign and supreme over our situations or our friends, and yet our God and Father is above it all. He has it all. We must trust in Him as the true foundation of our unity.



Illustration: Now, we all know what it means to be children of one father. Children are different. They like different things. But being united through one common father makes their unity stronger. As Christians, our unity is founded on our heavenly Father. Because of this, our unity is much stronger.

Because our Father is over all, He has provided the gifts we need in Christ His Son to maintain this unity. **And this is our next point.**

III. Gifts of our Unity (vv. 7-8)

Christ gives the gifts of our unity

Verse 8 is a quotation from Psalm 68:18. It pictures a lord of war who captures his enemies as captives following His victory over them. And Jesus Christ is the one who “led captives captives.” You and I are trophies of His victory.

Illustration: I played soccer as a kid. I sometimes enjoyed watching the FIFA World Cup. The final was always great to watch. It was especially wonderful to watch how the trophy was handed over to the winning team.

Now, Jesus did not just win a game. He won a battle for your soul. We are the trophies of His victory. He went through all the pain, all the suffering just to free you from slavery to sin, so that you may not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

We are saved from slavery to sin to being slaves of Christ. Except that Christ is a good master. Christ pours the Holy Spirit to the church along with the gifts of service so that His body may grow. He wants us to serve Him. He knows how we cannot serve Him without Him. So, He gives us what we need, namely, the Holy Spirit and the Spiritual gifts to build each other up. We respond by giving thanks to Him from whom all blessings flow.

From Verse 8 and verse 7, we notice that Christ is the measure of grace.

We have received what we do not deserve. It’s all the fruit of Christ’s gift of salvation. He gives all these gifts for building up His church. **Friends, gifts of grace give God glory.** We are not in competition, but we are all running the same race under the same Lord, same God, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

In 1 Corinthians 4:7 we read,

1 Corinthians 4: 7

7 ... What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?

In Christ, we have one God, one Lord, one Spirit, one baptism, one faith, one hope and one body as the foundation of our unity. Paul does not want us to separate our unity as believer from the gift of salvation that we have through our union with Christ. At the end of His mission, Christ gave gifts to **men** (τοῖς ἀνθρώποις = **men and women**).

Each of us has gifts. There are no small and big gifts. Christ gives us gifts that He sees fit for us. We do not do the same things and yet we serve the one body of Christ. Because of this, we seek to serve one another humbly and patiently. This is how we give glory to Christ.

Illustration: Our band is a good example of how different gifts can glorify God. I sing and play guitar, but I cannot drum. Though I sing, I do not sing very low voices like Kashif for instance. And neither can I sing a lady’s voice because that is a voice given to ladies. But the moment we brings these voices together in harmony, we all enjoy glorifying God together. The diverse gifts that God has given us become a source of blessing and joy as we glorify Him together.

Conclusion

Like Paul let’s pray for more grace so that we may be able to please God in our Christian walk while maintaining the bond of unity and peace, in truthful love and service to one another. As members of One Voice, may God help you and I to maintain the unity His church.

Let us pray

Father, thank you for Your word. Thank you for the gift of salvation in Christ Jesus by the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit. Thank you for bringing us to life through the waters of baptism. As we think about what you have done for us, help us to think, feel and act accordingly. Enable us to walk in humility, meekness, patience and forbearance as we respond to your call, rejoice in worship and reach out to the nations, beginning with our neighboring communities. May our chief end be to glorify you by enjoying you forever and together. We pray all this in Jesus’s name. Amen!