

Worship Service ~ *A Psalm of Cynicism & Purpose*

24th Sunday after Pentecost, Year C,

23rd November, 2025

Ephesians 1:3-14 / Psalm 73

Prelude

played by church musician Annie Center,

Gathering Together

Welcome

Good morning, It's my pleasure to welcome you to worship with Olympic View Community Church. Please stand with me, if you're able, and hear the Lord call us into worship.

Call to Worship

One: The Lord is my light and my salvation;

All: Whom shall I fear?

One: The Lord is the stronghold of my life;

All: of whom shall I be afraid?

One: One thing I ask of you, O Lord, and that I will pursue:

All: to live in your house all the days of my life, to behold your beauty and to seek you in your temple.

Invocation

O God, we are so often exposed to darkness, dullness, dimness; the ugliness of a world gone wrong; the calamity of sin gone astray; the suffering of bodies in decay.

But this morning we can be set in the direction of hope and light and beauty with just one glimpse of your glory. Through your mercy to us in Christ, Our God, we boldly respond to your call, to come into your presence, to behold you, to commune with you - and to be filled with your life.

Opening Hymn *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty ~ 19*

Engaging with God Together

Scripture Reading ~ Ephesians 1:3-14

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, **4** even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love **5** he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, **6** to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. **7** In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, **8** which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight **9** making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ **10** as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth in him.

11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, **12** so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. **13** In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, **14** who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Let's greet one another with the peace of Christ as we pass the peace.

Pass the Peace

Sharing Announcements and Prayer Requests

In a moment we are going to pray together, but before we do, does anyone have any announcements to share about anything in the life of the church coming up? Does anyone have any joys or concerns to share?

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer by pastor

Hymn

We Walk by Faith ~ 570

Hearing the Word Together

Sermon Passage ~ Psalm 73

- 1** Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.
- 2** But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled, my steps had nearly slipped.
- 3** For I was envious of the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
- 4** For they have no pangs until death; their bodies are fat and sleek.
- 5** They are not in trouble as others are; they are not stricken like the rest of mankind.
- 6** Therefore pride is their necklace; violence covers them as a garment.
- 7** Their eyes swell out through fatness; their hearts overflow with follies.
- 8** They scoff and speak with malice; loftily they threaten oppression.
- 9** They set their mouths against the heavens, and their tongue struts through the earth.
- 10** Therefore his people turn back to them, and find no fault in them.
- 11** And they say, "How can God know? Is there knowledge in the Most High?"
- 12** Behold, these are the wicked; always at ease, they increase in riches.
- 13** All in vain have I kept my heart clean and washed my hands in innocence.
- 14** For all the day long I have been stricken and rebuked every morning.
- 15** If I had said, "I will speak thus," I would have betrayed the generation of your children.
- 16** But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task,
- 17** until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I discerned their end.
- 18** Truly you set them in slippery places; you make them fall to ruin.
- 19** How they are destroyed in a moment, swept away utterly by terrors!
- 20** Like a dream when one awakes, O Lord, when you rouse yourself, you despise them as phantoms.
- 21** When my soul was embittered, when I was pricked in heart,
- 22** I was brutish and ignorant; I was like a beast toward you.
- 23** Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand.
- 24** You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory.

25 Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.

26 My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

27 For behold, those who are far from you shall perish; you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you.

28 But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord God my refuge, that I may tell of all your works.

Sermon ~ A Psalm of Cynicism & Purpose Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev. Jonny Finlayson

Responding to the Word Together

Welcome to the Table of the Lord *(Responsive Reading)*

One: God shows his love for us

All: in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

One: Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life;

All: whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

Prayer

Lord's Supper

(Short explanation of the supper and it's significance, then ask servers to come and assist)

Pastor: The Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26: "For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

We will eat and drink together).

All: *The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ.*
 (everyone eats their bread)

All: *The cup which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ.
(everyone drinks their cup)*

Reflection ~ Played during distribution of elements by church musician Annie Center,
Prayer

Hymn *Come Thou Fount* ~ 521

Benediction

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Short prayer by pastor

Postlude played by church musician Annie Center,

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