

**ORDER FOR THE CORPORATE WORSHIP OF GOD**  
A Service of Celebration and Covenantal Renewal

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**WELCOME**

**INVOCATION**

—Elder Johnny Clark

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Psalm 116:5-9**

5 The LORD is gracious and righteous;  
our God is full of compassion.  
6 The LORD protects the simple-hearted;  
when I was in great need, he saved me.  
7 Be at rest once more, O my soul,  
for the LORD has been good to you.  
8 For you, O LORD, have delivered my soul from death,  
my eyes from tears,  
my feet from stumbling,  
9 that I may walk before the LORD  
in the land of the living.

**WORSHIP THROUGH SONG**

*Lyric sheets of today's music can be obtained from the ushers upon request.*

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

**9:00 A.M.**

Asher Richie  
Eliana Petit  
Rachel Watson  
Scarritt Purdy  
Alex Cundall

**10:45 A.M.**

Emma Towe  
Kimberly Buonaiuto  
Will Foushee  
Parker Phegley  
Emma Henschel  
Anna Bernstein  
Max McClure  
Parker Spruill

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

—Scott Roley

**MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

—Scotty Smith

**UNVEILED HOPE:  
LOVING JESUS WITH TEARS AND TRUTH  
Revelation 2:8-17**

**I. LOVING JESUS, OUR BRIDEGROOM**

As we saw last week, the primary relational story which runs through the whole Book of Revelation is Jesus' sacred romance with his Bride, the Church. Our calling, therefore, is to love Jesus, because he first loved us—to love him with **his** language of affection. To love well is costly. Just look at the price Jesus paid to make us his bride. Over the next three weeks we will consider what it means to love Jesus generously.

**GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**MINISTRY OF THE WORD CON'T, PART 2**

—Scott Roley

**II. LOVING JESUS WITH TEARS**

**To my beloved in Smyrna:** You have suffered much; you will suffer more. Fear not, for I am in control and I love you

2:8 "To the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again. 9 I know your afflictions and your poverty -- yet you are rich! I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. 10 Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life. 11 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death.

**Jesus is involved and engaged in our suffering:** "I know your afflictions...." Our pain matters to Jesus! No one understands like Jesus. No one comforts and loves like Jesus.

**Jesus is sovereign over our sufferings:** "You will suffer for 10 days". Jesus is Lord over all things, including our suffering! Even as he appoints our suffering, he limits our suffering.

**Jesus suffered the ultimate shame and pain for us:** He "died and came to life again." He is the Overcomer in whom we overcome! Though we might lose our lives in loving well in his kingdom story and service, we "will not be hurt **at all** by the second death."

**To love Jesus is to become good stewards of our tears, and the tears of others.**

### SONG OF REFLECTION

#### Tears of the Saints

*Verse 1*

There are many prodigal sons  
On our city streets they run  
Searching for shelter  
There are homes broken down  
People's hopes have fallen to the ground from failures  
This is an emergency

*Chorus*

There are tears from the saints  
For the lost and unsaved  
We're crying for them come back home  
We're crying for them come back home  
And all Your children will stretch out their hands  
And pick up the crippled man  
Father we will lead them home  
Father we will lead them home

*Verse 2*

There are schools full of hatred  
Even churches have forsaken  
Love and mercy  
May we see this generation  
In its state of desperation for Your glory  
This is an emergency

*Bridge*

Sinner reach out your hands  
Children in Christ you stand  
Sinner reach out your hand  
Children in Christ you stand

*Tag*

And all Your children will stretch out their hands  
And pick up the crippled man  
Father we will lead them home  
Father we will lead them home

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### III. LOVING JESUS WITH TRUTH

**To my beloved in Pergamum:** You love the gospel and defend the truth of my Word. Continue to do so... faithfully.

2:12-17 "To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. 13 I know where you live -- where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city -- where Satan lives. 14 Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality. 15 Likewise you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. 16 Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it.

**Christianity is a truth to be believed and a Person to be loved.**

*Fides qua creditur* (the faith-story we believe) and *fides que creditur* (the faithful Bridegroom we love).

**We love Jesus as our Bridegroom when we forsake our personal agendas for his transforming story.**

**To love Jesus is to live faithfully and love passionately in his story... to his glory... with the joy knowing we are his passionately loved Bride.**

## RESPONSE THROUGH SONG

## BENEDICTION



## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

1. What has the most impact on you today from our time in God's worship and God's Word? What was encouraging, convicting, and/or calling for more clarification?
2. Jesus is not the antidote to our tears, but the Lord of our tears. What do you take this to mean in light of today's study? Why is it impossible to love well if we refuse to suffer?
3. What broken stories in the community and culture do you find yourself drawn to? That is, where do you feel you are being drawn to invest your suffering and tears as a conduit of Jesus' mercy and grace?
4. As we heard and saw today, we are called to love and to live in God's story of reconciliation and redemption, not merely defend abstract doctrines. What's the difference between the two?
5. What did you feel when you gazed upon God's Story today? What other narratives are vying for the best parts of your heart, hands and resources... over against God's Story? Do you feel the love of Jesus, your Bridegroom, calling you to repent? What will that require of you?
6. Close with a good season of prayer for one another today... and make sure to order a print or glicee' of David Arms' painting!