

Call to Worship

“ZCRC, We are God’s people. How good it is that we have all come – women and men, young and old – to worship God who creates us; how good it is that we are gathered to meet Jesus Christ – God’s living word; how good it is that we seek together signs of the Holy Spirit, whom we cannot catch or subdue. Come, let us worship God.”

Psalm 96: 7-9

Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

⁸ Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts!

⁹ Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;^[a]
tremble before him, all the earth!

Invocation

We Lift up our eyes to the hills, from where does our help comes?
Our help is in the name of the Lord, Who made heaven & earth
(Ps 24:8)

God’s Greetings

Romans 1:7

To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us pray...

Heavenly Father, you call us together to be your holy people, and so we join to give you praise for the joy of our creation; for our redemption in Christ; for the empowerment of your Spirit. Gracious God, fill our hearts with your love and our lives with your glory as we come before you in worship and prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Song of Praise

“Sing to the Lord, Sing His praise” (Psalm 96) #187:1-4 , 6

Scripture Lessons

Deuteronomy 12: 29-32

Warning Against Idolatry

29 “When the Lord your God cuts off before you the nations whom you go in to dispossess, and you dispossess them and dwell in their land, 30 take care that you be not ensnared to follow them, after they have been destroyed before you, and that you do not inquire about their gods,

saying, 'How did these nations serve their gods?—that I also may do the same.' 31 You shall not worship the Lord your God in that way, for every abominable thing that the Lord hates they have done for their gods, for they even burn their sons and their daughters in the fire to their gods.

32 [a] "Everything that I command you, you shall be careful to do. You shall not add to it or take from it.

John 15:18-19

The Hatred of the World

18 "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

John 17:6-24

6 "I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. 7 Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. 8 For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. 9 I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. 10 All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. 11 And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. 12 While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. 13 But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. 14 I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15 I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.[a] 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them[b] in the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sake I consecrate myself,[c] that they also may be sanctified[d] in truth.

20 "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, 21 that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, 23 I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. 24 Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

Song of Preparation

"I Love to Tell the Story" #412: 1, 3-4

The Church Part 11: God's Chosen People in the World

Deuteronomy 12:29-32; John 15:18-19, 17:6-24

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Brothers & sisters: Consider this statement: "God makes Himself felt in the heart of each person. He also respects the culture of all people... God is open to all people. He calls everyone. He moves everyone to seek Him and to discover Him through creation." Ang statement na ito ay sinulat ni Pope Francis, Ipinakikita sa statement na ito ang kanyang pagiging Universalist at pagiging Arminian. Universalist dahi sa pahayag nya na ang Diyos ay tinatawag ang lahat ng tao, lahat ay kanyang kinikilos upang sya ay hanapin. Kung lahat ay tinawag at kinilos, lahat ay maliligtas. Arminian dahil depende daw sa "Free will" ng tao ang paghahanap nya sya Diyos. Kaya yung lahat ng tao nagagamitin ang kanilang pasya ng kanilang puso at kaisipan sa paglapit sya Diyos, iyun ang maliligtas.

The Bible clearly teaches that God only saves those whom he had chosen before the creation of the world (Eph 1:4ff). It is only "*according to the purpose of his will... and of his gracious grace*" that he elected some people from out of all humanity to be saved (Eph 1:4-11). In all Scripture, God calls these chosen people "God's people" (1 Pet 2:10), "my people" (Exo 9:1; Isa 1:3), and "chosen ones" (Psa 105:6; Col 3:12).

God commands his people to worship only him, and not any other gods, for all other gods are false gods (Exo 20:3-6). Ang tao ay dapat sumamba sa Diyos alinsunod lamang sa kapahayagan ng kanyang mga salita. Wala dapat **man-made** ceremonies, innovations, songs, prayers, and words na isasangkap sa totoong pagsamba. God commanded the Israelites his people then (Deut 4:2; 12:32) and all God's people today (Rev 22:18-19) **not to add to or subtract from his word**. Sa Deut 12, Bago ang pagpasok sa lupang pangako, ang Diyos ay nag babala sa mga tao na huwag tularan ang mga gawa ng mga pagano sa kanilang maingay at hindi kaaya-ayang paraan ng pagsamba sa diyos –diyosan at ang kautussang na ito ay nabigo nilang sundin.

We, the church, God's people today, are also commanded and warned against all kinds of idolatry and false worship in most evangelical churches around us and in our whole nation. As Israel was judged by the LORD because of their **pagan worship**, **so also churches today** will be judged because of its false worship copied from our pagan world and culture. Since the world hates Christ and his word, they hate churches that preach the **true gospel of Christ** from Scriptures. Nevertheless, our Lord said in his prayer that he **has sent his people into the world**.

Therefore, our theme today is, **The Church Part 11: God's Chosen People in the World**, under three headings.

1. "How Did These Nations Serve Their Gods"?
2. "The World Hates You"
3. "I Have Sent Them into the World"

Let us pray..

Blessed Lord, who has caused Holy Scripture to be written for our learning, grant that we may hear, read, learn, and inwardly digest them, that through the comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which You have given us in our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

"How Did These Nations Serve Their Gods"?

Many churches today call the Lord's Day worship service as "**worship experience.**" Emotional, romantic songs cater to feelings. Only during singing these songs do they have a sense of God "ministering," or "being real," or "speaking" to them. Nagiging decoration na lang ang word of God sa worship na nakasentro sa "Feelings o pakiramdam" as if may ina-antay silang malamig na hangin dadampi sa kanilang mga balat. Nakakalungkot na ngayon ang worshippers ay tinatawang na nilang "**Worship Junkies**" or sa madaling salita ay mga "addict sa pagsamba" . Mga kaptid sa ating pagsamba tayo po isang worshippers at hindi participants o spectators. We are to worship Him in awe & reverence. We are sinners na nangangailangan ng kaligtasan mula sa Diyos at dapat na magpakumbaba.

Ang mga youth concerts ay mas napagpapahalagahan kaysa sa pagdalo sa Lords Day service. Ganyan po ang gawain ng mga pagano kahit nuong una pa. Walang pinagbago, at wala ding natututo. Hindi na po natin iisa-isahin ang mga particular na bagay na ipinapalit nila sa totoong pagsamba. Subalit malalaman natin na kapag ang kanilang gawain ay naka-sentro sa kanilang sarili, hindi po ito ang totoong pagsamba.

Although modern, contemporary worship does not include direct pagan rituals, the principle is evident: **God's people in the church are forbidden to imitate the worship of the pagan world.** Our reading in Deuteronomy 12 mentions the abominable burning of children by the pagan Canaanites. Maihahalintulad po natin ang mga ganitong practice sa kung papaano ang mga tao ngayon sa ating mundo ay nawawalan ng pagpapa-halaga at regard sa buhay ng isang tao , and the irony of this false, pagan worship is the more churches copy the world's pagan worship, the more the world hates Christians.

Pangalawang bagay na dapat nating matutunan ay ang katunayan na ang sanlibutan ay may poot o galit sa ating mga mananampalataya..

"The World Hates You"

Jesus solemnly warned his disciples that the unbelieving world hates him, and therefore, they hate **his disciples, his people, his church.** Why? Because God's people are not of the world. Because God has chosen his people, his treasured possession, to be **holy** and **separate** from the world. **This means that our hearts and minds are opposed to the world's hearts and minds.** They would love us if we joined them, as the ancient saying goes, "When in Rome, do as the Romans do." Since we are in this world, the world demands, "When in the world, do as the world does."

At ito po ay direktang taliwas sa sinasabi ng 1 John 2:15-16, ***“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the *flesh* and the desires of the *eyes* and *pride of life*—is not from the Father but is from the world.”*** If then our minds and hearts conform to the world’s hearts and minds, then our Father is the devil himself, for the unbelieving world is under the wicked kingdom of Satan and darkness according to John 8:44. Sinulat din niya sa John 1:10 **na ang sanlibutan ay hindi nakikilala si Kristo. Kung kaya galit ang sanlibutan sa atin ay dahil wala silang kaalaman kay Kristo.**

Why does the world hate us, God’s people, and our Christian faith? They hate us because of our doctrines based on the Holy Scriptures. We have faith in God the **Creator**, and not in man the **creature**.

We believe that all human beings are born with a sinful nature, not basically good. We believe in exclusivity (in line with Gods Election unto salvation) , not in universalism (that all are save), that only those who have faith alone in Christ alone as Savior and Lord are heaven-bound, and everyone else is hell-bound.

They hate us because of our worship based alone on what Scripture commands in Deut 4:2, 12:32, that is without the idolatrous, immoral fanfare and entertainment that they love. They hate us when they look at our godly and righteous behavior, in contrast to their wicked desires and pleasures.

Such is the hatred of Christ and Christians by the unbelieving world. How do we respond to this unbelief and hatred? Walang ibang paraan mga kapatid kung hindi ang patuloy na panghahawakan , pag-papalaganap at pag-talima sa Ebanghelyo. The gospel preached to a culture that lost its view on the basic & classic truths about our morality.

Kaya po sa ating pang-huling heading, ang katotohanang ang Diyos ang nagdala ng mga mangangaral sa magulo at makasalanang sanlibutan.

“I Have Sent Them into the World”

In his prayer at Gethsemane the night before he was crucified, Jesus prayed for all his disciples then, and all his disciples who would believe in him through the preaching of the gospel. His answer to the question, “How do we respond to the world’s unbelief and hatred?” ay anduon po sa kanyang panalangin. He prayed to his Father in heaven that he has given his disciples the **truths** of his word. He says that those who would become his disciples are only those whom the Father has given him before the creation of the world.

Jesus prayed, ***“I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world”*** (14). Yet, Jesus also prayed, ***“I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one”*** (15). In the midst of this hatred by the world, he asked his Father **not** to remove them from the world, but **preserve** and **protect** them from the devil and his evil kingdom of the world. Why? Continuing his prayer, our Lord said to his Father, ***“As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world”*** (18).

Bakit tayong mga kawan ng Diyos, o ang kanyang Iglesya ay nananatiling andirito sa makasalanang mundo?, 2000 taun mula ng si Kristo ay ipinanganak, namatay, nabuhay na mag-uli at umakyat sa langit andirito pa din ang Iglesya , na patuloy na ipinaglalaman ang pananampalayatang minsang ibingay sa atin? Bakit po kaya? Dahil sya po ay nagtalaga ng kanyang mga lingkod upang ipahayag ang kanyang

ebanghelyo sa “LAHAT” ng mga bansa sa daigdig. Ang kanyang “GREAT COMMISSION” sa kanyang mga alagad ay kinapapalooban ng paghahayag ng kanyang salita sa makasalanang sanlibutan. Hinda po natin nababatid kung sino-sino ang “ELECT”, ang mga tao na ibinigay ng Diyos kay Kristo bago pa lalangin ang daigdig, kaya marapat na patuloy na ipahayag ang totoong ebanghelyo ni Kristo sa lahat lalo na sa araw ng Panginoon.

And we as members of His Church , we are to be witnesses for Christ to all our families, friends, colleagues at work or school, and those we meet in the marketplace. We are not to be scared or intimidated that they might be anti-Christian people who **hate us** because we are Christians. **This is the gospel** work appointed by Christ for us.

ZCRC Imus: You are God’s people whom he chose to save before the creation of the world. But he chose you not to sit idly around, doing nothing for Christ. He chose you to be saved in order that “*we should be holy and blameless before him*” (Eph 1:4). In eternity past, he has also prepared the good works that we would do for him (Eph 1:10). And one of these good works he appointed for us is **to be faithful witnesses for Christ in our words, deeds and thoughts**, so that when some of the unbelieving world sees and hears them, they too might believe and glorify God when Jesus returns from heaven.

But we do not know the day or the hour of his return. So as **we wait and watch** for his Second Coming, we are to do what he has appointed us to do. Even when we are hated by the world because we are Christians, **we are to persevere in our faith, doctrines, worship, preaching the true gospel, holy living, and witnessing for Christ.** In so doing, we face **persecution**, or even **ridicule and harassment.** So, in the midst of all this hatred from the unbelieving world, we are to always pray, “**Come, Lord Jesus! Come quickly!**” Yet, while we pray this, we are to be witnesses for Christ in this anti-Christian world.

Tayo po ay manalangin

Almighty God, graciously grant that Your Word, which we have heard, may be inscribed inwardly on our hearts.

As we receive Your Word meekly with pure affection, may our hearts be filled with love and reverence for You.

Cause us to bear the fruit of the Spirit and to live in holiness, diligently following Your commandments.

And may it please You to use us to lead those who are lost, wandering, and confused into the way of truth.

All this we pray for the honor and praise of Your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Song of Consecration

“I Know Not Why God’s Wondrous Grace” #378:1-4

Doxology
(GLORIA PATRI)

Benediction

1 Peter 5: 10-11

And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.