

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Founder's Day - February 20, 2015

PRELUDE - Come, Now is the Time to Worship

Welcome and Life Together

Hymns:

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

Blessed Assurance

OFFERING

PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 58:3-12

Psalms 119:63

James 1:19-27

SERMON

SONG - O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE - Give Us Clean Hands

Explanation of Order of Worship

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Founder's Day - February 20, 2015

PRELUDE - Come, Now is the Time to Worship

I chose this song as a way of gathering people because it is an invitation to come before God spontaneously, as we are with open hearts and gratitude by recognizing He is the Lord. He is Lord of our lives. Lord of our History. Lord of our Church. Lord of anyone who seeks His face with sincerity and transparency. Lord of our founders. Lord of our denomination. One day every single one will confess. One day every single human being will declare. One day everyone will bow down to say He is God. Today, as we celebrate our Founder's day, we all have the privilege

to come and remind ourselves He has been the same yesterday, today and will be the same forever!

Welcome and Life Together

This is a time where announcements are made and new people are welcomed. An intro will be given for those who are not Covenant. Covenant or not Covenant, we want to make everyone feel comfortable and loved among us. We want to emphasize the truly and powerful meaning of being church and having a life together as family by highlighting our goal and purpose in life that is in summary to love God and our neighbor as we love ourselves: loving the poor, loving the marginalized, loving the immigrant, loving and welcoming any individual among us because God is love and welcomes everyone who comes before Him with a sincere and broken heart.

Hymns:

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

(In German: Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott) I chose this hymn because undoubtedly it is one of the most well-known hymns in Protestant culture and history. It was written by Martin Luther in 1529. This hymn is based on Psalm 46. This hymn takes us back to our roots today. This hymn reminds us that our God is a mighty fortress and a very present God among His children and people.

Blessed Assurance

This hymn is also well-known and was written in 1873 by Fanny J. Crosby based on Hebrews 10:22 "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water." I chose to sing this hymn today because we are talking about our denomination's history, our founders' history, and our reformation history, and I would like to reflect and think about our own story with Jesus who is my Savior. Jesus of Luther. Jesus of Arndt. Jesus of Spener, Francke and Zinzendorf. Jesus of Wesley. Jesus of Waldenström, but also your Jesus, my Jesus!

OFFERING

I chose this moment for our offering after singing Blessed Assurance and reflecting on the importance of Jesus living and truly offering himself and his life to die on the cross for you and me. This is an invitation to give our lives and present them as an offering of love, gratitude and spontaneity to the One who has given us everything by His grace and unconditional love.

PRAYER

This is our moment of prayer and thanksgiving for what we have received from Him as fruit of his grace and love. We come before Him with a thankful heart for having the opportunity to celebrate this day, to be together as family, to express our love and be open to hear His voice through His Word.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 58:3-12

I chose this text because it is an exhortation for us from God. He is looking for pure and sincere hearts. He is looking for our internal attitude and not our external accomplishments. He is the One who sees us and reminds us that more than any sacrifice or “performance”, He invites us to pursue justice, love and mercy in a practical way.

Psalm 119:63

I chose this verse because it is our denomination's verse. It carries in one sentence the importance of our affirmations and our own history.

James 1:19-27

I chose this text because there is just one way to demonstrate my love for God: loving my neighbor, visiting the one who is in prison, listening to the marginalized, being sensitive to life and those around me. Therefore, I will find God when I realize He is present in my daily human encounters.

SERMON

I chose the title Head, Heart and Hands because it is the core of Pietism movement which reflects our origin and roots. Though this is a moment for reflection, it is also a moment to receive God's word in our hearts and make His words and message be a living message in our daily life through our actions, behavior and response to life.

SONG - O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

I chose this well-known hymn written by Samuel Trevor Francis in 1875 at the end of our worship service to express our love for Jesus and once again our gratitude for celebrating 130 years of the birth of our denomination. I chose this hymn because it shows us we today get together and love Him only because He loved us first. His deep love invites me to love and live life with responsibility, compassion, mercy and gratitude.

BENEDICTION

This is a moment where we receive God's blessing to go back to life, our homes, families, work, neighborhood and make real what we just heard. We receive His blessing in order to put what has been said during our Founder's day celebration into action and practice. At this moment, with open hearts, we believe God's love will be present with us. Jesus, our Savior, will manifest His mercy through our hands and the Holy Spirit will make us remember we are His people sealed to proclaim and demonstrate God's love on earth until our Savior comes back and takes His church.

POSTLUDE - Give Us Clean Hands

I chose this contemporary song because it is an invitation for all of us to present ourselves to God asking Him humbly to clean our hands and give us a pure heart to make difference in our

generation. Today is the day. Today is the time to go and live out what we believe, preach and proclaim as the core of our lives: Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord!

Fábio Muniz

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