



**GRACE CITY
CHURCH**

Order of Worship

July 26, 2020

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 36:5, 7-9

All: *Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.*

Leader: How precious is your steadfast love, O God!
The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
They feast on the abundance of your house,
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

All: *For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light do we see light.*

SONG OF PRAISE

Who You Say I Am

SONG OF PRAISE

Belong to You

CONFESSION & RENEWAL

Hebrews 4:12-13

All: *Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot
free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not
loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as
ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive
us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in
your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen*

Take a moment to confess your sins, knowing that he hears you.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON & PRAYER

SONG OF RENEWAL

At The Foot of The Cross

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 15:21-28; 19:16-22

MESSAGE

The Stories Behind Culture

SONG OF COMMITMENT

Freedom

SONG OF PRAISE

The Lion And The Lamb

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CLOSING BLESSING

Numbers 6:24-26

Leader: The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make His face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
the LORD lift up His countenance upon you
and give you peace.



Message Notes: Evaluating Culture

1. Seek to understand others' _____.

a. Ask _____ - _____ questions.

b. Listen for underlying _____ and _____.

5 Questions that reveal a person's core beliefs/values:

1) _____: Where did we come from?

2) _____: What are we here for?

3) _____: How do you decide what's right or wrong?

4) _____: What's the essence of the good life?

5) _____: Where are you ultimately headed?

c. Identify the _____ of the heart.

2. Distinguish between _____ and _____ beliefs.

- Examples of corresponding ("A") beliefs:

- Examples of contradictory ("B") beliefs:

3. Strive to remove every offense but the _____ itself.

4. Share a better _____.

- The Gospel both _____ and _____ every cultural narrative.

Theme: Uncover the "gospel" narratives and beliefs of culture so that you can present Jesus as the _____ and _____ hope.



Questions for Gospel Reflection & Application

1. What would you say are some of your default standards for evaluating culture?
[e.g. evaluating a new idea or cultural movement you're hearing about, evaluating a Netflix series or a Top 40 song, evaluating a moral position, etc.]
2. What effect do you think these default standards have on you?
3. Give an example of an area of culture you've deliberately evaluated through the lens of the Gospel recently. What effect did that kind of evaluation have on the way you saw something? What effect did it have on your response/decision?
4. Why do you evaluate other people, ideas, beliefs, values, etc.? What is your purpose or goal? What do you hope to accomplish by your evaluation?
5. Which do you tend to see first and foremost: the good/corresponding/"A" beliefs or the bad/contradictory/"B" beliefs? What are you missing by not seeing the other? What are some benefits to intentionally looking for the other?
6. What is your default posture toward the world/culture? How does that posture show up in your words/actions/reactions? What is a more biblical posture? What "gestures" do you need to work on more?
7. How instinctively do you try to understand other people's underlying values and beliefs (rather than just reacting to their words/actions)? How would getting to the heart of the matter help you be more Christlike? How would it potentially help those you're trying to understand?
8. Give a specific example of something that really offends/angers/scares you in our culture right now. Why do you think people believe/think/act that way? What are some of their underlying fears/longings? Who or what is their hero? Their villain?
9. Using your example in #8, how does the Gospel confront that culture narrative? How does the Gospel more fully/perfectly satisfy that culture narrative?
10. What one thing will you do to act on this message?