Scripture Text

When I came to Troas to proclaim the good news of Christ, a door was opened for me in the Lord; but my mind could not rest because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I said farewell to them and went on to Macedonia.

But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads in every place the fragrance that comes from knowing him. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; to the one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? For we are not peddlers of God's word like so many; but in Christ we speak as persons of sincerity, as persons sent from God and standing in his presence.

Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Surely we do not need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you or from you, do we? You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all; and you show that you are a letter of Christ, prepared by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are competent of ourselves to claim anything as coming from us; our competence is from God, who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of letter but of spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

Service Outline

Prelude
Welcome
God's Greeting

Praise

Psalm 103:1
“Welcome into This Place”

Welcome into this place. Welcome into this broken vessel. You desire to abide in the praises of your people, so we lift our hands and we lift our hearts as we offer up this praise unto your name.

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Confession
Psalm 103:2–6
Prayer of Confession
“Hush, Hush, My Soul”

Words: S.S. Morris
Music: Edward C. Deas

Hush! Hush! My soul be calm and still. Come,

blessed Savior, enter in. Forgive our sins,

heal all our ills, give strength for tasks, give peace of mind.

And make our spirits wholly thine. And we shall

praise thee ever more. Amen, amen, amen.
Assurance
Psalm 103:7–12
“Oh, How I Love Jesus”
Hope

Psalm 103:13–22

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

1 O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
2 Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure;
3 Before the hills in order stood or earth received its frame,
4 A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone,

our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:
sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.
from everlasting you are God, to endless years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream, soon bears us all away;
   we fly forgotten, as a dream
   dies at the opening day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
   our hope for years to come,
   still be our guard while troubles last,
   and our eternal home!

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1719), 1719, alt., P.D.
Music (ST. ANNE 8.6.8.6): William Croft, 1708, P.D.
God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination

2 Corinthians 2:12–3:6

Sermon: Aroma of Christ

Response to God’s Word

“Take, O Take Me As I Am”


Prayer

“Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer”
Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

Words: William Williams, 1745; st. 1 tr. Peter Williams, 1771, alt.; st. 2-3 tr. William Williams, 1772, alt., P.D.
Music (CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7): John Hughes, 1907, P.D.

Parting Blessing

Participants:
Pablo Jiménez, preacher
Amanda Benckhuysen, Associate Professor of Old Testament, Calvin Theological Seminary, liturgist
James Abbington, pianist and organist
The James Abbington Church Music Academy alumni, song leaders