

WORSHIP WITH CAPITOL HEIGHTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

July 26, 2026

In the Season of the Spirit of Life



Every empire eventually creates stories to justify its violence. Rome praised conquest. European colonial powers claimed racial superiority. Fascist movements promoted images of strong men, obedient bodies, and pure nations. The strongman always claims that more force will save the world.

The thing is...Jesus offered another image.

On the night before his execution, he took off his outer robe, tied a towel around his waist and knelt before his friends. He washed their feet.

This was not giving in to tyranny. Jesus had stood up to religious leaders, challenged imperial power, and knowingly faced the violence ahead. He was brave, but his courage was never about dominating others. He did not need anyone beneath him in order to know who he was.

This might be the clearest difference between real strength and machismo. Strength is able to serve, while machismo needs to rule. Strength protects those who are vulnerable, but machismo looks down on vulnerability. Strength is confident enough to share power, while machismo pushes out anyone who might challenge the order.

The towel Jesus wore shows how false the strongman's image really is.

Jesus understood that real power is measured by how much it can protect, repair, and restore. He knew that true leadership takes courage to tell the truth, accept responsibility, and resist the pull of violence. He saw that tenderness and courage go hand in hand.

Rev. Cameron Trimble

*We gather in the light of our lamp lit blue in prayer for those struggling with aids and HIV infection,
of our candle lit amid barbed wire in concern for all bearing the load of oppression;
a red flower is placed on our table with prayer for those living with cancer,
and we light a candle to center in our Maker's peace . . .*

The promise given to us - You shall know the truth, and the truth will set you free!

Beyond A Dream

words and music by David Yantis

If you look beyond a dream to a time when the world wasn't cold
to hunger, to suffering, to need, and you found beyond a dream there were those
with their hearts filled with love, who reached out to answer that need.
Why then can't that time be now? Why then can't that time be now?

If you look beyond a dream to a place where the labor of love
had laid bare the seeds of distrust, and you found beyond a dream there were
those with their hearts seeking peace, who made hate a thing of disgust.
Why then can't that place be here? Why then can't that place be here?

If you look beyond a dream to a land where we all stood with pride
defending our right to be free, and you found beyond a dream there were those
with their hearts born of hope, who struggling had found unity.
Why then can't that land be ours? Why then can't that time be now?

*Let us share a Psalm - Lord, You have searched me and You know me;
You know my deeds and my thoughts, discerning my purpose far in advance.
You mark each digression and pause, familiar with all my habits.
There is not a word on my tongue before You know it completely.
Front and back You enclose me, and place Your hand upon me.
How can I comprehend such wonders, so far beyond my grasp!
Where could I go from Your Spirit? Where could I flee from Your presence?
If I climbed the skies, You'd be there; if I lay down in Hades, I'd meet You.
If I took the wings of the dawn, to go live beyond the sea, even there,
Your hand would lead me, Your right hand would hold me fast.
I might say, 'Darkness has snatched me away; night encloses me all around!'
But darkness is not too dark for You - You cause the night to shine like day.
For You created my inmost being; You wove me within my mother's womb.
I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are Your works;
that I know very well.*

My frame was not hidden from You, when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes beheld my unformed being.
In Your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none existed.
How weighty to me are Your thoughts, O God! I try to count them,
they're more than the sand; I come to the end - I am still with You.
Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.
See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

GRACIOUS SPIRIT

Gracious Spirit, dwell with me, I would gracious be; help me now Thy grace to see,
I would be like Thee; and, with words that help and heal, Thy life would mine
reveal; and, with actions bold and meek, for Christ, my Savior, speak.

Truthful Spirit, dwell with me, I would truthful be;
help me now Thy truth to see, I would be like Thee;
and, with wisdom kind and clear, Thy life in mine appear;
and, with actions brotherly, speak Christ's sincerity.

Holy Spirit, dwell with me, I would holy be;
Show Thy mercy tenderly, make me more like Thee;
separate from sin, I would and cherish all things good,
and whatever I can be give Him Who gave me Thee.

Mighty Spirit, dwell with me, I would mighty be;
help me now Thy pow'r to see, I would be like Thee;
'Gainst all weapons hell can wield, be Thou my strength and shield;
let Thy word my weapon be, Lord, Thine the victory.

In the way of Jesus we pray - God of all, our loving Parent, may Your character be sacred among us; may Your governance hold us all; may Your will be lived here, now in this Your wondrous creation. From the fruits of that creation, feed us all. Forgive the harm we've done, the neglect we've fostered; the injustices served, as we expand that forgiveness through our own lives and through our regard for others. Free us from such harmful ways for the truth in being human we've discovered in Jesus, for we believe this truth endures always and thrives in the beauty of Your everlasting way, amen.

In a context of controversy Jesus reportedly spoke these words in John 8:31-38 which include, you will know the truth and the truth will make you free; let us explore His meaning Who said "I am with you as one who serves."

In thanksgiving, our affirmation of faith - **WONDROUS LOVE**
What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this,
that caused the Lord of bliss, to send this perfect peace, to my soul,
to my soul, to send this perfect peace to my soul.

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing.
To God and to the Lamb I will sing. To God and to the Lamb,
Who is the Great I Am, while millions join the theme, I will sing,
I will sing, while millions join the theme I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,
I'll sing and joyful be, and through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and through eternity, I'll sing on.

Prayerfully, our celebrations, concerns, opportunities and reflections . , ,

Let us pray - Father of the heavens, Mother of the earth, here, to You we bring our hearts of celebration and concern. Hold all we pray that our love and the manner of our loving may convey Your grace and enable more of the life You will for us all.

Help us to live ever conscious of being in Your presence, and faithfully focused on imparting Your gifts, the devotion that serves justice and builds peace.

May such giving be true of us, now, here, in our blessing of life, amen.



LORD, WHOSE LOVE THROUGH HUMBLE SERVICE

**Lord, whose love through humble service bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken, offered mercy's perfect deed;
we, Your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart,
consecrating to Your purpose every gift that You impart.**

**Still Your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
As, O Lord, Your deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul,
use the love Your Spirit kindles still to save and make us whole.**

**As we worship, grant us vision, till Your love's revealing light,
in its height and depth and greatness, dawns upon our quickened sight,
making known the needs and burdens Your compassion bids us bear,
stirring us to tireless striving Your abundant life to share.**

**Called from worship to Your service, forth in Your dear name we go,
to the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, good will and comfort, counsel, aid, and peace we give,
that Your servants, Lord, in freedom may Your mercy know and live.**

Go freely to live the truth that loves and blesses life as long as we have breath, and go to live in the beauty of peace, amen.