

**Prairie Hill Evangelical Free Church
Sacred Assembly – February 21, 2021**

Welcome and Introduction

Rich Schoenert

Opening Prayer

Eric Bryhn

Scripture Reading – 2 Chronicles 34:29-33; Joel 1:13-14

1. Season of Worship: Exalting the Living God

Songs of Declaration

Worship Team

“What a Beautiful Name”

“Jesus Only Jesus”

Declaration of Intent and Desire (in unison)

Kevin Engdahl

We, the people of Prairie Hill Evangelical Free Church, desire to serve and proclaim the wonders of Almighty God and the free grace found in the gospel of Jesus Christ. We present ourselves to our Lord in Sacred Assembly to proclaim by the power of the Holy Spirit the wonders of Christ and turn our face toward God and the truth associated with Him:

- By declaring our pursuit of and allegiance to God and Christ our Savior, Sanctifier, Healer and coming King.
- By committing to serve all people and especially those who live in the Southwest Metro.
- By committing to live lives of encouragement and love toward one another.
- By committing to proclaim the beauty and loveliness of God to each other, and to those in our community, the United States, and around the world, by generous and loving actions.
- By committing to live joyful lives under the wonder of God’s grace shown in the gospel regardless of what happens to us or our church.

We, the people of Prairie Hill Evangelical Free Church, have sinned in word and in deed against Almighty God. We present ourselves to our Lord in Sacred Assembly to confess, renounce, and turn our back on our sins and the falsehood associated with them:

- For exchanging as a church, a community, and a nation a satisfying relationship with God for other things—even good things.
- For the idolatry of being a complacent, self-centered congregation focused on our own comfort rather than caring for those are currently far from God.
- For the idolatry of being satisfied with receiving biblical knowledge without consistently living out that knowledge in daily life.

- For failing to raise up and train ministry leaders.
- For failing to always be a welcoming and loving community toward newcomers and those who are different from us.
- For handling conflict poorly and being conflict avoidant, even with people we love.

Declaration of Submission to Christ (in unison)

Andy Pearson

We declare Jesus to be Lord, the Head of our church—His body, His bride, His building, His family, and His flock. We are His people, purchased by His shed blood on the cross. We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works...(Ephesians 2:10).

We declare Christ to be Chief Shepherd of our local church—we are His sheep and under His care. In submission to Him and His direction we look for that crown of glory that will never fade away...(1 Peter 5:4).

Silence before the Lord

Andy Pearson

Scriptures For Meditation During Silence:

The Lord as Shepherd (Psalm 23:1-3)

Psalm 23:1-3: “The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.”

The Lord as Counselor (Isaiah 9:6; 11:2-3)

Isaiah 9:6: “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Isaiah 11:2-3: “The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him — the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD — and He will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what He sees with His eyes, or decide by what He hears with His ears.”

The Lord as High Priest (Hebrews 4:15; 7:26)

Hebrews 4:15: “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin.”

Hebrews 7:26: “Such a high priest meets our need — one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens.”

The Lord as Warrior (Exodus 15:3-4; Isaiah 42:13)

Exodus 15:3-4: “The LORD is a warrior; the LORD is His name. Pharaoh’s chariots and his army He has hurled into the sea. The best of Pharaoh’s officers are drowned in the Red Sea.”

Isaiah 42:13: “The LORD will march out like a mighty man, like a warrior He will stir up His zeal; with a shout He will raise the battle cry and will triumph over His enemies.”

The Lord as King (Psalm 24:10; Revelation 19:16)

Psalm 24:10: “Who is He, this King of glory? The LORD Almighty — He is the King of glory.”

Revelation 19:16: “On His robe and on His thigh He has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.”

2. Season of Preparation and Private Confession

Instructions

Rich Schoenert

Songs of Invitation

Worship Team

“Holy Spirit”

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

Corporate Prayer (in unison)

Kevin Brase

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” (Psalm 139:23-24)

“Seek the LORD while He may be found; call on Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake His way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him, and to our God, for He will freely pardon.” (Isaiah 55:6)

“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His word has no place in our lives.” (1 John 1:8-10)

Silence before the Lord

Kevin Brase

3. Season of Dealing with Sin: Personal and Corporate

Instructions

Rich Schoenert

Scripture Reading

I. Corporate Confession of Local, State, and National Sin

Kevin Brase

Congregational Response

Congregational Renunciation (in unison)

Kevin Brase

In Jesus' name we renounce all local, state, national, and religious sins. We renounce our sins of adultery, fornication, racism, drunkenness, drug abuse, divorce, pornography, deceit, arrogance, condescension, disregard for the poor, greed and avarice, abortion, same sex marriage, misuse of power, disregard for the common laborer, and the like. We declare Your truth to be truth, Your laws to be righteous, and Your ways to be just and fair. We plead that You would be patient with us as a nation and bring us back to You, the giver of true life. Help us, Lord, to be a light to this world. Amen.

II. Corporate Confession of Heart Idolatry (in unison)

Andy Pearson

Our Father, we confess the sin of heart idolatry. We gloried in our knowledge of the Bible without consistently and faithfully applying it to our lives or training others to become Your servant leaders. We enjoyed the fellowship of those in our group without always including or loving others. We cared about ourselves without always caring for those around us who are far from You. We failed to make You, the living God, the center of our congregational life. We did all this while letting obvious congregational issues go unaddressed. We grieve these things. For this and other issues of heart idolatry we repent. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Congregational Response

Andy Pearson

Congregational Renunciation (in unison)

Andy Pearson

In Jesus' name we renounce all selfish desires and idolatry related to being a church that is proud of our knowledge without faithful application or training others to be Your servant leaders. We renounce any and all lack of love for people who are far from You. We declare that You alone are worthy of our praise and worship. And we acknowledge humbly that all significant ministry

flows from what You choose to do in and through us rather than from the expertise of our staff or our own personal activity. Amen.

III. Corporate Confession of being a Crowd not a Community

Eric Bryhn

Congregational Response

Congregational Renunciation (in unison)

Eic Bryhn

In Jesus' name we renounce our not always being a Christ centered community. We renounce the unfriendliness, and the unloving, and unwelcoming attitude that comes with it. While affirming without reservation the historic doctrines of the Christian faith, we renounce our complacency and the critical spirit toward those who are different from us. We commit to lovingly and generously give of ourselves to others, especially to those different than us. Amen

IV. Corporate Confession of Mishandling Conflict

Kevin Engdahl

Congregational Response

Congregational Renunciation (in unison)

Kevin Engdahl

In Jesus' name we renounce our unbiblical conflict practices. We renounce triangulation, condescending speech patterns, false peace, and the like and declare that those ungodly conflict patterns aren't Your way of peace. Furthermore, we turn our back on any other ungodly patterns of conflict resolution and relational disharmony: back-stabbing, gossip, outbursts of anger, negative emails, negative social media, blaming, and the use of the telephone to pass on ungodly and hurtful information. We declare that Your ways of resolving conflict are full of grace, pure, and true. We ask You to lead us into the future as peace makers rather than peace keepers. Amen.

V. Corporate Confession of Spiritual Blindness

Kevin Brase

Congregational Response

Congregational Renunciation (in unison)

Kevin Brase

In Jesus' name we renounce all forms of spiritual blindness. We renounce blame shifting, reactivity, excuse making, complacency, and religious comfort. We admit that these are contrary to the biblical admonition that we walk as children of light. Amen

Song of Declaration

Worship Team

"Amazing Grace/My Chains Fell Off"

4. Season of Healing and Commitment to the Next Season of Church Life

Instructions

Geoff Bohleen

Prayer

I. Congregational Commitment to Love God (in unison)

Tyler Magnuson

Our Father, our desire is to pursue You. Because You created us, the deepest chambers of our hearts cannot be satisfied with anything less. You alone are our true God. You are the pinnacle of perfection and holiness, beautiful beyond compare. All that is truly good and lovely has its source in You and flows effortlessly from You. You are not like us. We are created, but You have always existed. We dwell on earth, while You dwell in unapproachable light in heaven. You are glorious and we acknowledge that the exaltation of Your glory is the driving force of the gracious gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We affirm that this gospel of grace is Your pleasure to magnify Your glory. In it You give sinners like us the right and power to delight in Your great worth. We know that when we meet You and see Your deep loveliness, we will be compelled to act: to worship, serve, give, share, proclaim, declare, rejoice, and celebrate. Because we cherish You we will commend You to others. Let us become enamored with You and Your greatness above all things and all others for You alone will satisfy. Therefore, we declare together, the joy of the Lord is our strength. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Congregational Response**II. Congregational Commitment to Love Each Other, Other Churches, and Our Community (in unison)**

Melissa Sibinski

Our Father, we believe that love is the reflection of Your glory and the visible expression of the love You share with Your Son Jesus Christ. As such, love is the ground of all being and the core of the gospel. Since love flows from You, our God, it is the most basic staple of life. We want to love and be loved. Father, we desire to love others because You first loved us. Let our church be a center of love where relationships between those inside the church body are persuasive reflections of the utterly loyal, eternally accepting love between You and Your Son, Jesus. May Your Spirit, who produces the fruit of love in us, be ever-present in our midst. May that love spill over into our community and city and region. May we be known for our love for one

another and especially may we be known for our love of those outside the Christian faith. And in love and delight, may we declare Your great love for us as seen in the person and work of Jesus Christ. We pray in His name. Amen.

Congregational Response

III. Congregational Commitment to “make fervent disciples for Jesus Christ” (in unison)

Kevin Brase

Almighty God, merciful Father, we believe You desire to restore this broken world. We acknowledge and celebrate the redemptive gift of healing our church has had in our world. As followers of Christ, we affirm that full restoration and healing only takes place through the gospel of Jesus Christ. We commit ourselves to the proclamation of that gospel. We commit to proclaiming it in word and deed. We dedicate ourselves, motivated by the grace of God, to living out the implications of the cross of Christ and His kingdom lifestyle in Eden Prairie, MN and around the world. As a local church, make it our vocation to bring this gospel of restoration to our places of work, to our neighborhoods, to the poor and marginalized, and to all those who live in our community at large. We commit to seeing it happen as singles, as married couples, as parents, as grand-parents, and as extended family members. We devote ourselves to restoring our broken world by making disciples who make disciples, to bring this healing to all we come in contact with. We affirm this vocation, this calling, and this work in all the arenas of life which You give us. And we devote ourselves to living it out motivated primarily by the grace and beauty of Jesus Christ. In His name we pray. Amen.

Congregational Response

5. Season of Prayer to Break Strongholds

Instructions

John Roers

Prayer to Break Strongholds

Leader: Our Father, we forgive one another and every person who has hurt us, or our church.

People: *We forgive as the Lord has forgiven us. We forgive because the Lord has forgiven us.*

Leader: Father, where we have resisted your grace, we ask your forgiveness. We repent of the way we have allowed sin to rob us of our joy. We put our hope in Your all-sufficient grace.

People: *Forgive us for doubt, for anger, for self-pity.*

Leader: We ask You, Lord, to break any stronghold the evil one has upon our church for any reason. We come to You as the Great Physician, our Healer.

Leader and people: *Father we submit to you now—spirit, mind, and body—asking for your healing. We give our life to You. We give You our pain, our worry, our brokenness. We resist the devil and any foothold we have given by allowing the sun to go down on our anger. In Your Name, Lord, and on the basis of Your resurrection power, we resist the devil and reclaim any territory he has occupied in our personal and corporate lives.*

We reject the strongholds that the devil has held against our corporate life and ministry. In the name of Jesus Christ and by His power and authority, we reject the stronghold of sins of our nation. We reject the stronghold of the idolatry of activity. We reject the stronghold of being an unfriendly and unwelcoming congregation. We reject the stronghold of being a church that is proud of our knowledge without faithful application or training others to be Your servant leaders. We reject the stronghold of any and all lack of love for people who are far from You. We reject the stronghold of poor conflict resolution skills. We reject the stronghold of spiritual blindness. We say to the powers of hell behind these strongholds: “The Lord bind you! The Lord rebuke you! The Lord bring you down!”

And we resist all satanic attacks that have come against our church, our leaders, and members of the congregation. We resist them in the powerful name of the Lord Jesus Christ. We announce that we belong to Jesus and we invoke the power of His precious blood and His mighty resurrection to cast down all attacks against us. We do so in the name of Jesus!

Leader: We confess our sins. We forgive those who sin against us.

People: *We accept Your grace. We accept Your healing. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*

The Pardon of the Gospel

Kevin Engdahl

Leader: Surely this is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance.

People: *Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.*

Leader: If we confess our sins...

People: *He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Songs of Joy

Worship Team

“In Christ Alone”

“Great Are You Lord”

Communion

Rich Schoenert

The Sacred Assembly Has Ended.

We Move with the Lord into His Future for Our Church.