

A REPENTANCE SERVICE

before you begin, fill the building with your heavenly language and worship; invite the Presence of the Holy Spirit

Welcome!

Opening Scriptures: Psalm 22: 27-28
Psalm 51: 1-17

1. Short message by the pastor: were Godly roots planted in our State? in our Nation? How have recent actions locally and nationally pulled up those roots?

Do we have any power? is there any point in our opposing these actions?

1 Samuel 14:6." *Then Jonathan said to the young man who bore his armor, 'Come, let us go over to the garrison of those uncircumcised; it may be that the LORD will work for us. **For nothing restrains the LORD from saving by many or by few.**'*

God can work with only two of us to defeat an enemy; there are more than two of us here!

2. It's not by our might, our power; GOD HAS A SOLUTION ! One, among several, is set forth in 2 Chronicles 7:13-14. Our forefathers knew this well and used it often; over 800 times since the Pilgrims !!:

*13 When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send **pestilence** among My people, 14 if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and **turn** from their wicked ways, **then** I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

When the Lord sends drought, locusts, or pestilence, He wants His People to return to Him; He has His Solution in 2 Chronicles 7: 13-14 to solve it.

The definition of "Pestilence" in the dictionary includes MORAL pestilence

those of us who are His People can now take time to 1) humble ourselves , 2) pray, 3) seek His face, and individually and collectively 4) TURN from our

wicked ways. THEN He will hear from heaven, forgive sin and heal a land. 2 Chronicles 7: 14.

TURN means to repent. It is a 180% change of direction in one's thinking, pivoting from the world and the flesh to His Word, His Way, from this point forward. **It also includes showing a sincere change in character thanks to repentance so that others notice--- one has to "bear fruit worthy of repentance"**

3. REPENTANCE IS GOD'S GIFT TO US, AS WAS HIS BLOOD

Repent was John the Baptist's message. Matthew 3:1

Repent was Jesus' **first word** as a preacher. Matthew 4:17

Repent was the message his first disciples preached for all to come into His Kingdom: Mark 6: 12

Repent was required of all souls: Luke 13: 3,5. Jesus said: "***Unless you repent you will all likewise PERISH.***"

The Risen Christ then directed those disciples then, and us today, to preach repentance to everyone in the world. **Repentance**, even before remission of sins, was to be preached to all the world, beginning at Jerusalem. Luke 24:47

REPENT was then the center of Peter's powerful sermon bringing 3,000 into the Kingdom after Pentecost. Acts 2: 38: "*Then Peter said to them, 'REPENT, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'*" And then shortly thereafter Peter said, "*REPENT therefore and be CONVERTED, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord...*" Acts 3:19:

Instead of being lukewarm the Risen Christ now calls all of us to be zealous to REPENT. Revelation 3:19.

Many are sitting in churches who have never truly repented; many have never converted from their old lives. Perhaps even some pastors/ priests are not yet converted, and may be simply mouthing old empty words.

All humans were born children of wrath (Ephesians 2:3), repentance is necessary to join His Kingdom. "*But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive*

together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus." (Ephesians 2: 4-7).

Instead of being lukewarm we are now called to prepare as His Bride to be holy and without spot (Ephesians 5: 27) and to be zealous to repent.

Even before John the Baptist and Jesus preached repentance, the Jews each year then, and now, honor a Day of Atonement [Leviticus 23: 26-32] to "*afflict their souls*"-- to repent.

And Daniel [Daniel 9: 4-19] and then Nehemiah [Nehemiah 1: 4-11] both confessed the sins not only their own sins and the sins of their families, but also the sins of their nation-- committed hundreds of years earlier.

4. Now we invite the Holy Spirit to help us confess personal sins and national sins. This will be a private time of several minutes with your Teacher, the Holy Spirit, the One Who comforts us and also rightfully convicts us of our sins.

At any point when in private with the Holy Spirit you can ask Him if that sin applies to you. If it does, and you confess it to Him, He will forgive you. (1 John 1:9). You can then take the key next step and repent, renouncing in Jesus' Name that old sin pattern, choosing instead His Word as your path to His Purity.

5. *the first issue for personal repentance: killing of innocents*

a. personal: [please take 3 minutes in silence with the Holy Spirit, seeing if this is an old sin issue for you, a residue that is not yet removed. Ask the Lord to help you see it; then you can confess it privately to Him. He will forgive you-- and then you can also take the final step to decide to repent, to remove that old sin pattern forever]

b. national: now the issue of killing of innocents in our Nation [please take 3 minutes in silence with the Holy Spirit, seeing if this is a sin issue for our nation that you wish to confess, as did Nehemiah and Daniel for their nation]

6. *the next issue for personal repentance: idolatry*

a. personal: please take 3 minutes in silence with the Holy Spirit, seeing if this is an old sin issue for you, a residue that is not yet removed. Ask the Lord to

help you see it; then you can confess it privately to Him. He will forgive you-- and then you can also take the final step to decide to repent, to remove that old sin pattern forever

b. national ---now the issue of idolatry in our Nation-- please take 3 minutes in silence with the Holy Spirit, seeing if this is a sin issue for our nation--- humanism, self, mammon---- that you wish to confess, as did Nehemiah and Daniel for their nation

7. *the next issue for personal repentance: sexual perversions*

a. personal: please take 3 minutes in silence with the Holy Spirit, seeing if this is an old sin issue for you, a residue that is not yet removed. Ask the Lord to help you see it; then you can confess it privately to Him. He will forgive you-- and then you can also take the final step to decide to repent, to remove that old sin pattern forever

b. national : now the issue of legalizing, approving sexual perversions in our Nation please take 3 minutes in silence with the Holy Spirit, seeing if this is a sin issue for our nation that you wish to confess, as did Nehemiah and Daniel for their nation

8. *the next issue for personal repentance: failure to stand for God's plan for your life---John 15:16*

a. personal: please take 3 minutes in silence with the Holy Spirit, seeing if this is an old sin issue for you, a residue that is not yet removed. Ask the Lord to help you see it; then you can confess it privately to Him. He will forgive you-- and then you can also take the final step to decide to repent, to remove that old sin pattern forever

b. national : now the issue of apathy, fear of others, failing to stand for God's plan for our Nation please take 3 minutes in silence with the Holy Spirit, seeing if this is a sin issue for our nation that you wish to confess, as did Nehemiah and Daniel for their nation

9. *Sharing of testimonies of anyone who may wish to share*

Closing prayer

Ongoing worship and JOYFUL FELLOWSHIP which ALWAYS follows!!