

Covenant

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Changing People and Places Through the Power of the Gospel

March 22, 2020 - 10am

Welcome Guests, Friends, & Family!

As a Reformed church, we are part of long and enduring tradition that places worship as our highest calling. Therefore, we lean heavily on those who have gone before and see the value of creeds, catechisms, responsive readings and other forms that are part of our heritage. However, our services are not highly liturgical following a fixed pattern, nor spontaneous, but seek to follow a liturgical pattern that reenacts the gospel and renews us in God's grace. Rather than focusing on getting God to bless us, it focuses on the blessings, promises, and grace that we already have in Christ. Our basic gospel pattern is: We approach God based on His initiation and invitation, we see our sin and confess it, we are assured of forgiveness, we hear the good news, and we respond in faith and obedience.

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REFLECTION | God's people prepare for worship

"God's people have been chosen to be reconciled to God, to each other, and to the nonhuman creation and to draw others into that reconciliation. God's people are to be 'his reconciled and reconciling people.' ...Too often election is understood strictly in terms of its benefits and the blessing of God's salvation. Election, in this misunderstanding, is only for privilege and not for responsibility; election is so that the people of God might enjoy salvation, not be a [secondary] means of salvation for the world. Election is about being a reconciled community but not a reconciling community. In short, 'the missionary character of the doctrine of election is forgotten....[However, biblically speaking, the] chosen people are chosen for the sake of the world. The mission of the Church is the clue to the meaning and the end of world history. But the Church does not exist for itself, it exists for the sake of fulfilling God's purpose for the world.'"

- Michael W. Goheen, quoting Lesslie Newbigin

Prelude:

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

D \flat A \flat /C G \flat /B \flat A \flat ^{sus4} A \flat /C

1. Be-neath the cross of Je-sus I fain would take my stand
2. U - pon that cross of Je-sus mine eyes at times can see
3. I take, O cross, thy sha-dow for my a - bi - ding place

B \flat m A \flat /C Fm/D \flat D \flat /F G \flat A \flat ^{sus4} A \flat /C

The sha-dow of a migh - ty rock with-in a wear - y land.
The ver - y dy - ing form of One who suf - fered there for me.
I ask no o - ther sun - shine than the sun - shine of thy face.

B \flat m A \flat /C Fm/D \flat D \flat /F G \flat A \flat ^{sus4} A \flat /C

A home with-in the wil - der - ness a rest u - pon the way
And from my ri - ven heart with tears two won - ders I con - fess:
Con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,

D \flat /B \flat A \flat /F G \flat A \flat D \flat G \flat /B \flat A \flat /C

from the burn-ing of the noontide heat and the bur-den of the day.
The wonders of his glo-rious love and my unworthi - ness.
My sin - ful self, my on - ly shame, my glo-ry all the cross.

PRAISE | We praise our merciful & gracious God

The Lord Gathers Us—*Worship is dialogical, meaning it is a conversation between God and His people. Just as God is the initiator of grace in the Gospel, He continues to graciously summon His people to worship. We come and are graciously blessed and renewed by Him through the Gospel.*

Leader:

Give thanks to the LORD, Call on his name;
 Make known among the nations what he has done.
Sing to him, sing praise to him;
 Tell of all his wonderful acts.
Glory in his holy name;
 let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
Look to the LORD and his strength;
 seek his face always.
Remember the wonders he has done,
 His miracles, and the judgments he pronounced,
O descendants of Abraham his servant,
 O sons of Jacob, his chosen ones.

All:

He is the LORD our God;
 His judgments are in all the earth.
He remembers his covenant forever,
 the word he commanded, for a thousand generations.

- Psalm 105:1-5 (NIV)

Prayer—*The first prayer of the service is meant to invoke the presence and favor of the Triune God in the name of Jesus, giving praise, and asking the Holy Spirit to help us put aside all our distractions and worship God in “Spirit and truth.”*

Songs of Praise

[*I Sing the Mighty Power of God](#)

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

G G/B Em C/E D G C G/B C⁶ D G

1. I sing the migh - ty pow'r of God that made the moun-tains rise,
2. I sing the good-ness of the Lord that filled the earth with food;
3. There's not a plant or flow'r be - low but makes thy glo - ries known;

G G/B Em C/E D G C Em D^{sus4} D G

that spread the flo - wing seas a - broad and built the lof - ty skies.
that formed the crea-tures with his word and then pro-nounced them good.
and clouds a - rise and tem-pests blow by or - der from thy throne;

G D/F# G C D G D/F# G C D

I sing the wis - dom that or - dained the sun to rule the day;
Lord, how thy won-ders are dis - played where - e'er I turn my eye,
while all that bor-rows life from thee is e - ver in thy care,

D G/B Em C/E D G C Em D^{sus4} D G C/G G

the moon shines full at his com-mand and all the stars o - bey.
if I sur - vey the ground I tread or gaze u - pon the sky!
and e - v'ry - where that man can be, thou, God, art pre - sent there.

57

Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah, O My Soul

Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD, O my soul. I will praise the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. Ps. 146:1, 2


1. Hal - le - lu - jah, praise Je - ho - vah, O my soul, Je - ho - vah praise;
2. Hap - py is the man that choos - es Is - rael's God to be his aid;
3. Food he dai - ly gives the hun - gry, sets the mourn - ing pris - 'ner free,
4. Hal - le - lu - jah, praise Je - ho - vah, O my soul, Je - ho - vah praise;

I will sing the glo - rious prais - es of my God through all my days.
he is blessed whose hope of bless - ing on the Lord his God is stayed.
rais - es those bowed down with an - guish, makes the sight - less eye to see.
I will sing the glo - rious prais - es of my God through all my days.

Put no con - fi - dence in princ - es, nor for help on man de - pend;
Heav'n and earth the Lord cre - at - ed, seas and all that they con - tain;
Well Je - ho - vah loves the righ - teous, and the strang - er he be - friends,
O - ver all God reigns for - ev - er, through all a - ges he is King;

he shall die, to dust re - turn - ing, and his pur - pos - es shall end.
he de - liv - ers from op - pres - sion, righ - teous - ness he will main - tain.
helps the fa - ther - less and wid - ow, judg - ment on the wick - ed sends.
un - to him, your God, O Zi - on, joy - ful hal - le - lu - jahs sing.

Beneath the Cross of Jesus


1. Be-neath the cross of Je - sus I fain would take my stand
2. U - pon that cross of Je - sus mine eyes at times can see
3. I take, O cross, thy sha-dow for my a - bi - ding place


The sha - dow of a migh - ty rock with-in a wear - y land.
The ver - y dy - ing form of One who suf - fered there for me.
I ask no o - ther sun - shine than the sun - shine of thy face.


A home with-in the wil - der - ness a rest u - pon the way
And from my ri - ven heart with tears two won - ders I con - fess:
Con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,


from the burn - ing of the noontide heat and the burden of the day.
The wonders of his glo - rious love and my unworthi - ness.
My sin - ful self, my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all the cross.

RENEWAL | The Lord forgives His People

Confessing our Sin— *Confession is a time when we are truly honest with ourselves and God, and because He knows our every thought, there is no need to pretend. Thus we confess our sin and admit that we're not what we should be, nor what we will be.*

Gracious Father, we have searched for joy and contentment in all the wrong places. We have given in to self-pity because we have believed that You are not taking care of us. We have been frustrated when we did not get immediate answers to our prayers and angry with our circumstances. We have complained when we did not get our own way and have been anxious about our future. We have looked for joy in what You can do for us rather than in Who you are. Forgive us we pray and graciously restore to us the joy of your salvation and uphold us with a willing spirit. Amen.

Private Confession

Assurance of Pardoning Grace— *During the assurance of pardon, God powerfully speaks to the hearts of Believers, reassuring them of His infinite love and forgiveness provided through faith in Christ.*

“Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

– Hebrews 4:14-16

We Praise Our Merciful and Gracious God

[*All I Have Is Christ](#)

All I Have Is Christ

V/V/C/V/C/C

Verse

G Am F^{7 9} C

1. I once was lost in dar-kest night, yet thought I knew the way;
2. But as I ran my hell-bound race, in - dif-frent to the cost,
3. Now, Lord, I would be Yours a - lone and live so all might see

Dm F G/B C

The sin that pro - mised joy and life had led me to the grave.
You looked u - pon my help - less state and led me to the cross.
the strength to fol - low Your com-mands could ne-ver come from me.

C/E F Dm Am

I had no hope that You would own a re - bel to Your will,
And I be - held God's love dis - played: You suf-fered in my place;
Oh Fa-ther, use my ran-somed life in a - ny way You choose,

C/E F G^{sus4} G

and if You had not loved me first I would re - fuse You still.
You bore the wrath re-served for me; Now all I know is grace!
and let my song fo - re - ver be: My on - ly boast is You.

Chorus

G C/E F C G/B Am

Hal - le - lu - - jah! All I have is Christ!

F Am G⁷ C F/C C

Hal - le - lu - - jah! Je - sus is my life!

PROCLAMATION | God feeds His people

Scripture: Exodus 14

We believe the Bible is the inerrant word of the true and living God, and our infallible rule for faith and practice.

Sermon: “From Fear to Wonder”

The sermon is meant by God’s design to be ancient, timeless truth from His Word, explained, expounded, and applied, so that all who are listening will understand it and be changed by it. It is the way in which God speaks to His church. As J.I. Packer has stated, “God has spoken in the Bible and He has not stuttered.”

RESPONSE | We respond with thanksgiving

We Give—*Our offering is not simply the way our church “pays the bills;” it is an act of worship where we respond to God’s grace and generosity and give back to the Lord His resources as tangible evidence of our love for Him.*

*We Sing

Christ is Mine Forevermore

Christ is Mine Forevermore

1, 2, 3, C, B(3x), C, Tag(2x)



1. Mine are days that God has num - bered; I was made to walk with Him. Yet, I
2. Mine are tears in times of sor - row, dark - ness not yet un - der - stood. Through the
3. Mine are days here as a stran - ger, pil - grim on a nar - row way. One with



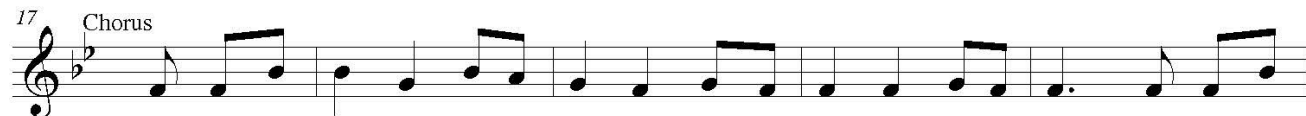
look for word - ly trea - sure and for - sake the King of kings. But mine is
val - ley I must trav - el where I see no earth - ly good. But mine is
Christ I will en - coun - ter harm and ha - tred for His name. But mine is



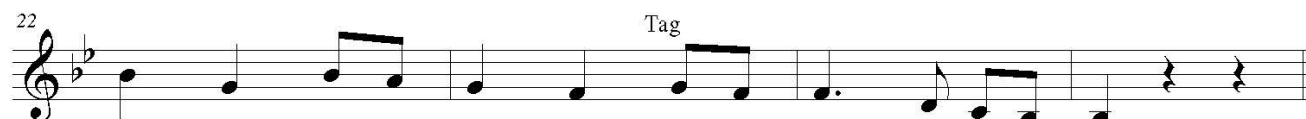
hope in my Re - deem - er; though I fall, His love is sure. For Christ has
peace that flows from heav - en, and the strength in times of need. I know my
ar - mor for this bat - tle, strong e - nough to last the war. And He has



paid for ev' - ry fail - ing; I am His for - ev - er - more. shore.
pain will not be wast - ed; Christ com - pletes His work in me.
said He will de - liv - er safe - ly to the gold - en



And mine are keys to Zi-on's ci - ty where be - side the King I walk. For there my



heart has found its trea - sure; Christ is mine for - ev - er - more.



Come re - joice now, O my soul, for His love is my re - ward. Fear is



gone and hope is sure; Christ is mine for - ev - er - more. Come re

Benediction | Please stand as you are able

From the Latin “beneficiary,” meaning “to bless,” this is the pronouncement of God’s blessing as we are sent out into our places of influence.

We Go—*Heeding His commission, we go to our places of influence to rescue other wandering and lost sheep like ourselves.*