

Changing People and Places Through the Power of the Gospel

April 19, 2020

# Welcome Guests, Friends & Family!

As a Reformed church, we are part of a 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, is 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

"Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life. It is costly because it condemns sin, and grace because it justifies the sinner. Above all, it is costly because it cost God the life of his Son: 'ye were bought at a price,' and what has cost God much cannot be cheap for us."

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, The Cost of Discipleship

Prelude: How Sweet and Awesome Is the Place

## **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.

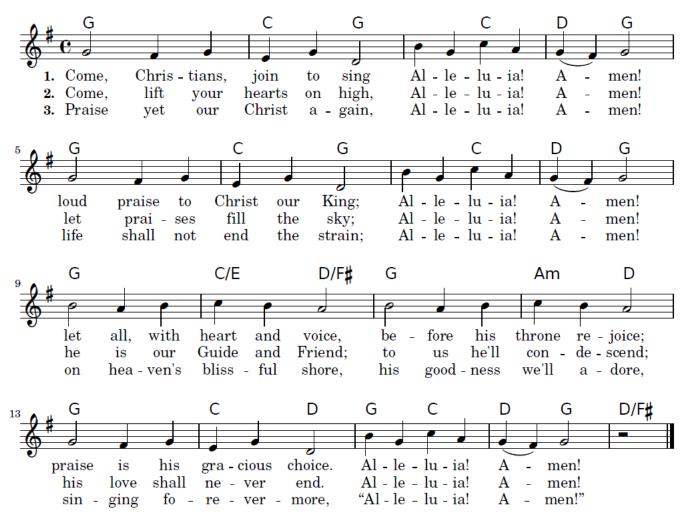
Praise the LORD, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples.For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.Praise the LORD.

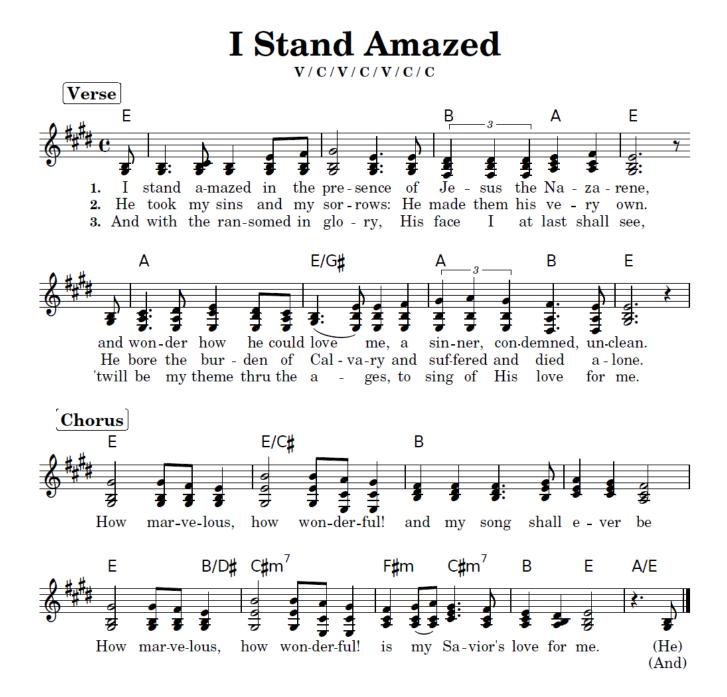
-Psalm 117 (NIV)

**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** (below) Come, Christians, Join to Sing I Stand Amazed

# **Come, Christians, Join to Sing**





## **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.

Almighty God, because we are not able to see You, have not heard an audible voice, have not seen a miracle, or had a vision, we have doubted Your love for us. Rather than waiting, we have turned to temporary satisfaction and sinned against You. Rather than trusting Your goodness, we have become angry at You and the ones we love. Rather than resting in Your grace, we have denied our sin. We admit and confess our sin, asking for Your forgiveness. Draw us to Your Word so that we may hear from You and know that You are never far away, nor will You turn against us even in the most difficult times. Amen.

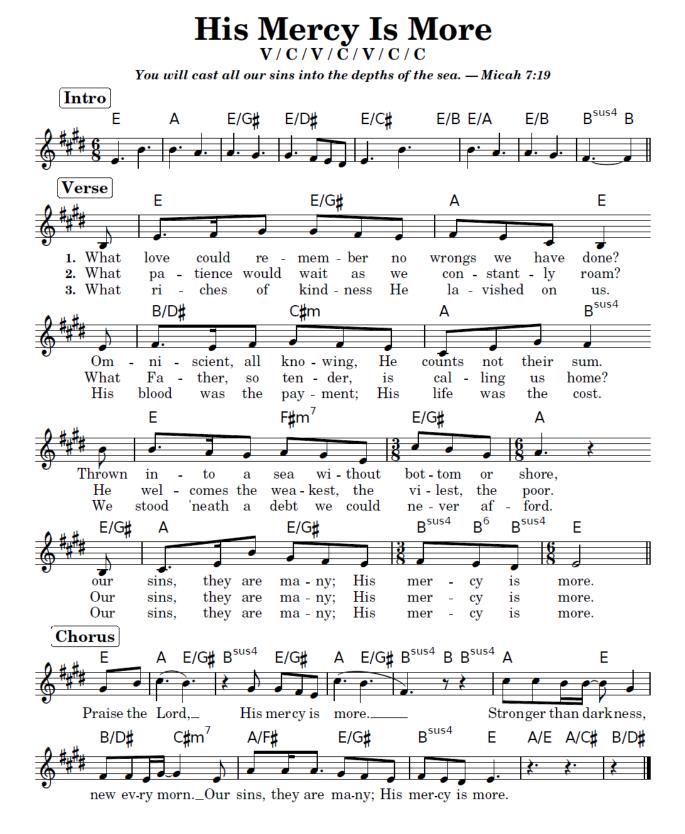
## **Private Confession**

#### Words of Encouragement

"Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits — who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's." Psalm 103:1-5 (NIV)

## We Praise Our Merciful and Gracious God

His Mercy Is More (below)



# PROCLAMATION | God feeds his people

#### Scripture: Psalm 16

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

#### Sermon: Joy in God's Presence

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

On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand (below)



## **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*