



Covenant

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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, 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

"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



1. Come, Chris - tians, join to sing Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 2. Come, lift your hearts on high, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 3. Praise yet our Christ a - gain, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!



loud praise to Christ our King; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 let prai - ses fill the sky; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 life shall not end the strain; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!



let all, with heart and voice, be - fore his throne re - jice;
 he is our Guide and Friend; to us he'll con - de - scend;
 on hea - ven's bliss - ful shore, his good - ness we'll a - dore,



praise is his gra - cious choice. Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 his love shall ne - ver end. Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 sin - ging fo - re - ver - more, "Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!"

I Stand Amazed

V/C/V/C/V/C/C

Verse

1. I stand a-mazed in the pre-sence of Je - sus the Na - za - rene,
2. He took my sins and my sor - rows: He made them his ve - ry own.
3. And with the ran-somed in glo - ry, His face I at last shall see,

and won-der how he could love me, a sin-ner, con-demned, un-clean.
 He bore the bur - den of Cal - va-ry and suffered and died a - lone.
 'twill be my theme thru the a - ges, to sing of His love for me.

Chorus

How mar-ve-lous, how won-der-ful! and my song shall e - ver be

How mar-ve-lous, how won-der-ful! is my Sa-vior's love for me. (He)
 (And)

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)

His Mercy Is More

V/C/V/C/V/C/C

You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. — Micah 7:19

Intro

E A E/G# E/D# E/C# E/B E/A E/B B^{sus4} B

Verse

E E/G# A E

1. What love could re - mem - ber no wrongs we have done?
2. What pa - tience would wait as we con - stant - ly roam?
3. What ri - ches of kind - ness He la - vished on us.

B/D# C#m A B^{sus4}

Om - ni - scient, all kno - wing, He counts not their sum.
 What Fa - ther, so ten - der, is cal - ling us home?
 His blood was the pay - ment; His life was the cost.

E F#m⁷ E/G# A

Thrown in - to a sea wi - thout bot - tom or shore,
 He wel - comes the wea - kest, the vi - lest, the poor.
 We stood 'neath a debt we could ne - ver af - ford.

E/G# A E/G# B^{sus4} B⁶ B^{sus4} E

our sins, they are ma - ny; His mer - cy is more.
 Our sins, they are ma - ny; His mer - cy is more.
 Our sins, they are ma - ny; His mer - cy is more.

Chorus

E A E/G# B^{sus4} E/G# A E/G# B^{sus4} B B^{sus4} A E

Praise the Lord, His mercy is more. Stronger than darkness,

B/D# C#m⁷ A/F# E/G# B^{sus4} E A/E A/C# B/D#

new ev - ry morn. Our sins, they are ma - ny; His mer - cy is more.

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)

On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand

V/V/V/C/V/V/C/C

Verse

D G/D D A/C# Bm⁷ A/C#

1. On Jor-dan's stor - my banks I stand, and cast a wish-ful eye
2. Oh what a wide and plea-sing scene that ri - ses to_ my sight!
3. All o'er those wide ex - ten - ded plains shines one e - ter_ nal Day:
4. When shall I reach that bles-sed place, and be fo - re_ ver blessed?
5. When shall I reach that hap - py place, where night shines as_ the_ day?

D D/F# G D/F# Em⁷ A^{sus4} A D

to Ca-naan's fair and hap - py land, where my po - sse - ssions lie.
 Sweet fields ar - rayed in bril-liant green, and ri - vers of de__light.
 there God the Son fo - re - ver reigns, and scat-ters night a__way.
 When shall I see my Fa-ther's face, and in His bo - som__rest?
 When shall I see my Fa-ther's face, that scat-ters night a__way?

Chorus

D A/C# G/B A/C# D

I am bound, (I am bound,) I am bound, (I am bound,) I am bound for the Promised Land!

A G A D

I am bound, (I am bound,) I am bound, (I am bound,) I am bound for the Promised Land!

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*