

Changing People and Places Through the Power of the Gospel

April 26, 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

"The pastures of the Great Shepherd are wide, but the sweetest grasses grow close to His pierced feet."

— Charles Spurgeon

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all."

— Isaiah 53:6

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

- Jesus (John 10:11)

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

– Jesus (Matthew 11:28)

Prelude: Be Still My Soul

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! Praise the name of the LORD, give praise, O servants of the LORD, who stand in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God! Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; sing to his name, for it is pleasant! For the LORD has chosen Jacob for himself, Israel as his own possession. For I know that the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods. Whatever the LORD pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps. He it is who makes the clouds rise at the end of the earth, who makes lightnings for the rain and brings forth the wind from his storehouses. O house of Israel, bless the LORD! O house of Aaron, bless the LORD! O house of Levi, bless the LORD! You who fear the LORD, bless the LORD! Blessed be the LORD from Zion, he who dwells in Jerusalem!

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."

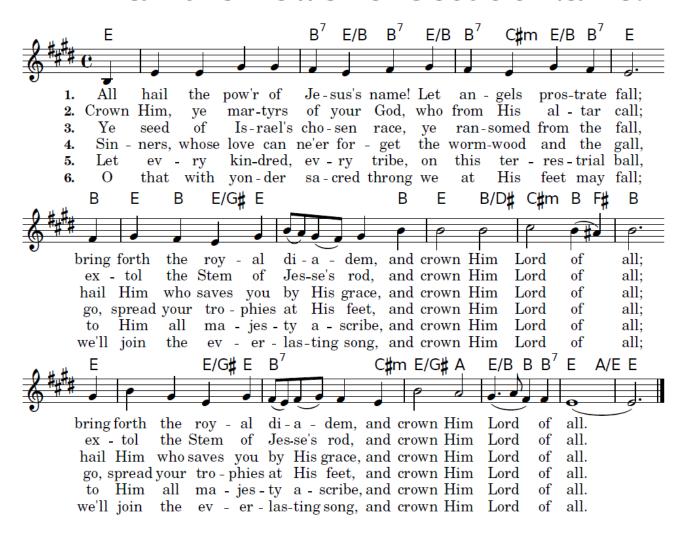
- Psalm 135: 1-7; 19-21 (ESV)

Songs of Praise (below)

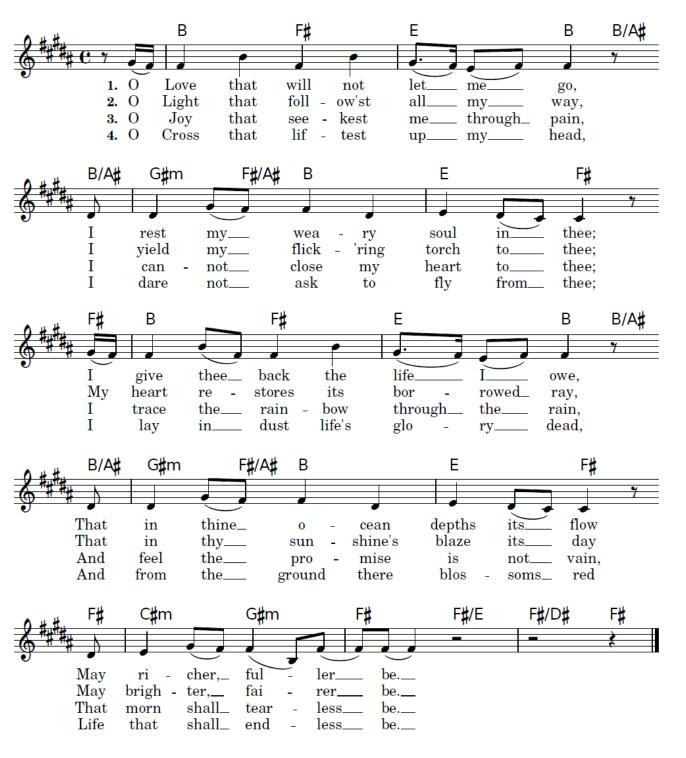
All Hail the Power of Jesus's Name
O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

Praise the LORD!

All Hail the Power of Jesus's Name!



O Love That Will Not Let Me Go



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 and merciful Father, we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned to our own ways rather than follow the path of our gentle Shepherd. We confess that we have taken our affections away from You and put them upon what has left us restless, hungry, and ashamed. Father forgive us and bring us back to Your green pastures and Your still waters that we might be settled in Your grace. Restore our restless souls and lead us in the paths of Your righteousness for Your name's sake. Amen

Private Confession

Words of Encouragement

"He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls."

- 1 Peter 2:24-25 (ESV)

We Praise Our Merciful and Gracious God

Jesus, I Am Resting, Resting (below)

Jesus, I Am Resting, Resting

V/V/C/V/C/C



Psalm 23 arr. Stuart Townend

The Lord's my Shepherd I'll not want He makes me lie in pastures green He leads me by the still still waters His goodness restores my soul

And I will trust in You alone And I will trust in You alone For Your endless mercy follows me Your goodness will lead me home

He guides my ways in righteousness And He anoints my head with oil And my cup it overflows with joy I feast on His pure delights

And I will trust in You alone And I will trust in You alone For Your endless mercy follows me Your goodness will lead me home

And though I walk the darkest path I will not fear the evil one For You are with me And Your rod and staff Are the comfort I need to know

And I will trust in You alone And I will trust in You alone For Your endless mercy follows me Your goodness will lead me home

PROCLAMATION | God feeds his people

Scripture: Psalm 23

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

Sermon: "The Shadow of Death"

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."

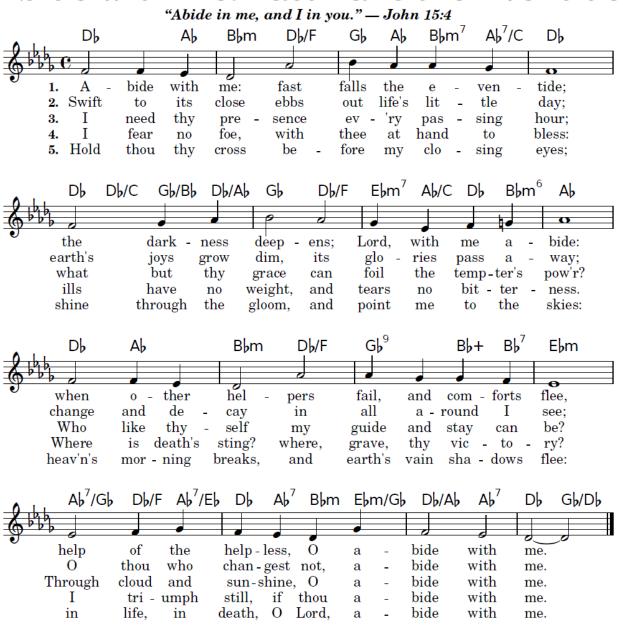
RESPONSE | We respond with thanksgiving

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

Abide With Me: Fast Falls The Eventide (below)

Abide with Me: Fast Falls the Eventide



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