



# Covenant

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Changing People and Places Through the Power of the Gospel*

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**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, 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

*"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!

Praise the LORD!

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

**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)**

    All Hail the Power of Jesus's Name

    O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

# All Hail the Power of Jesus's Name!

E B<sup>7</sup> E/B B<sup>7</sup> E/B B<sup>7</sup> C#m E/B B<sup>7</sup> E

1. All hail the pow'r of Je-sus's name! Let an - gels pros-trate fall;
2. Crown Him, ye mar-tyrs of your God, who from His al - tar call;
3. Ye seed of Is-rael's cho-sen race, ye ran-somed from the fall,
4. Sin - ners, whose love can ne'er for - get the worm-wood and the gall,
5. Let ev - ry kin-dred, ev - ry tribe, on this ter - res-trial ball,
6. O that with yon-der sa-cred throng we at His feet may fall;

B E B E/G# E B E B/D# C#m B F# B

bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown Him Lord of all;  
 ex - tol the Stem of Jes-se's rod, and crown Him Lord of all;  
 hail Him who saves you by His grace, and crown Him Lord of all;  
 go, spread your tro - phies at His feet, and crown Him Lord of all;  
 to Him all ma - jes - ty a - scribe, and crown Him Lord of all;  
 we'll join the ev - er - las-ting song, and crown Him Lord of all;

E E/G# E B<sup>7</sup> C#m E/G# A E/B B B<sup>7</sup> E A/E E

bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown Him Lord of all.  
 ex - tol the Stem of Jes-se's rod, and crown Him Lord of all.  
 hail Him who saves you by His grace, and crown Him Lord of all.  
 go, spread your tro - phies at His feet, and crown Him Lord of all.  
 to Him all ma - jes - ty a - scribe, and crown Him Lord of all.  
 we'll join the ev - er - las-ting song, and crown Him Lord of all.

# O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

B F# E B B/A#

1. O Love that will not let me go,  
 2. O Light that follow'st all my way,  
 3. O Joy that seekest me through pain,  
 4. O Cross that liftest up my head,

B/A# G#m F#/A# B E F#

I rest my weary soul in thee;  
 I yield my flick'ring torch to thee;  
 I can not close my heart to thee;  
 I dare not ask to fly from thee;

F# B F# E B B/A#

I give thee back the life I owe,  
 My heart restores its borrowed ray,  
 I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
 I lay in dust life's glory dead,

B/A# G#m F#/A# B E F#

That in thine ocean depths its flow  
 That in thy sun-shine's blaze its day  
 And feel the promise is not vain,  
 And from the ground there blossoms red

F# C#m G#m F# F#/E F#/D# F#

May richer, fuller be.  
 May brighter, fairer be.  
 That morn shall tearless be.  
 Life that shall end less be.

## **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

## Verse

B $\flat$ /D C/E F<sup>sus2</sup> B $\flat$ /D C/E F/A

1. Je-sus, I am res - ting, res - ting in the joy of what Thou art.\_
2. Oh, how great Thy lov - ing-kind-ness, vaster, broad - er than the sea.\_
3. Sim-ply trust-ing Thee, Lord Je - sus, I be - hold Thee as Thou art.\_

B $\flat$ /D C<sup>sus2</sup>/E F<sup>sus2</sup> B $\flat$ <sup>maj7</sup> C F

I am find-ing out the great - ness of Thy lov - ing heart.\_  
 Oh, how mar-vel-ous Thy good - ness lav-ished all on me.\_  
 And Thy love so pure, so change-less sat - is - fies my heart, \_

B $\flat$ <sup>maj7</sup> C<sup>sus2</sup>/E F<sup>sus2</sup>/A Dm C B $\flat$ <sup>maj7</sup>

Thou hast bid me gaze up - on Thee, as Thy beau - ty fills my soul\_  
 Yes, I rest in Thee Be - lov - ed, know what wealth of grace is Thine, \_  
 sat - is - fies its deep-est long - ings, meets, sup - plies its ev - 'ry need, \_

B $\flat$ /D C/E F/A B $\flat$ <sup>maj7</sup> C F

for by Thy trans-form - ing pow - er, Thou hast made me whole.  
 know Thy cer - tain-ty of prom - ise and have made it mine.  
 com-pass-eth me 'round in bless-ings, Thine is love in - deed.

## Chorus

B $\flat$ <sup>maj7</sup> C/E F/A Dm Am/C B $\flat$

Je-sus, I am res-ting, res - ting in the joy of what Thou art.\_

B $\flat$ <sup>sus2</sup>/D C<sup>sus2</sup>/E F<sup>sus2</sup>/A B $\flat$ <sup>maj7</sup> C F

I am find-ing out the great - ness of Thy lov - ing heart.

**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

*"Abide in me, and I in you." — John 15:4*

Db Ab Bbm Db/F Gb Ab Bbm<sup>7</sup> Ab<sup>7</sup>/C Db

1. A - bide with me: fast falls the e - ven - tide;
2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
3. I need thy pre - sence ev - 'ry pas - sing hour;
4. I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless:
5. Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clo - sing eyes;

Db Db/C Gb/Bb Db/Ab Gb Db/F Ebm<sup>7</sup> Ab/C Db Bbm<sup>6</sup> Ab

the dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide:  
 earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;  
 what but thy grace can foil the temp - ter's pow'r?  
 ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.  
 shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies:

Db Ab Bbm Db/F Gb<sup>9</sup> Bb+ Bb<sup>7</sup> Ebm

when o - ther hel - pers fail, and com - forts flee,  
 change and de - cay in all a - round I see;  
 Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?  
 Where is death's sting? where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?  
 heav'n's mor - ning breaks, and earth's vain sha - dows flee:

Ab<sup>7</sup>/Gb Db/F Ab<sup>7</sup>/Eb Db Ab<sup>7</sup> Bbm Ebm/Gb Db/Ab Ab<sup>7</sup> Db Gb/Db

help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.  
 O thou who chan - gest not, a - bide with me.  
 Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bide with me.  
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me.  
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

**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*