

Covenant

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Changing People and Places Through the Power of the Gospel

May 3, 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

"Pride gets no pleasure out of having something, only out of having more of it than the next man. We say that people are proud of being rich, or clever, or good-looking, but they are not. They are proud of being richer, or cleverer, or better-looking than others. If someone else became equally rich, or clever, or good-looking there would be nothing to be proud about. It is the comparison that makes you proud: the pleasure of being above the rest. As long as you are proud you cannot know God. A proud man is always looking down on things and people: and, of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is above you."

- C.S. Lewis

*"Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full in His wonderful face
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace"*

- Helen Howarth Lemmel

"Humble yourselves before the Lord and he will exalt you."

- James 4:10

Prelude: Bless the Lord, 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.*

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
 for his steadfast love endures forever.
Give thanks to the God of gods,
 for his steadfast love endures forever.
Give thanks to the Lord of lords,
 for his steadfast love endures forever.
It is he who remembered us in our low estate,
 his steadfast love endures forever.
And rescued us from our foes,
 his steadfast love endures forever.
He who gives food to all flesh,
 his steadfast love endures forever.
Give thanks to the God of heaven,
 his steadfast love endures forever.

-Psalm 136:1-3, 23-26 (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)

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing
O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

457

Samuel ... named it Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far has the LORD helped us." 1 Sam. 7:12

♯ D A⁷ D A D G D A⁷ D

1. Come, thou fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2. Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer; hith - er by thy help I'm come;
3. O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be;

A⁷ D A D G D A⁷ D

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - d'ring heart to thee.

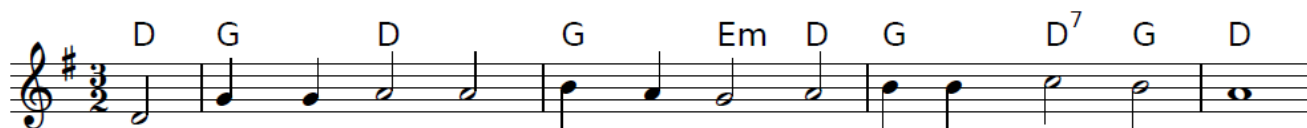
A⁷ D G D A⁷ D G D

Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove;
Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of God:
Prone to wan - der—Lord, I feel it—prone to leave the God I love:

A⁷ D A D G D A⁷ D

praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love.
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing



1. O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re - dee - mer's praise,
2. My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,
3. Je - sus, the Name that charms our fears, that bids our sor - rows cease;
4. He breaks the pow'r of reign - ing sin, He sets the pris - 'ner free;
5. He speaks and, list - 'ning to His voice, new life the dead re - ceive;
6. Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb, your loo-sen'd tongues em - ploy;



the glo - ries of my God and King, the triumphs of His grace.
 to spread through all the earth a - broad the ho - nors of Thy Name.
 'tis mu - sic in the sin-ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
 His blood can make the foul-est clean, His blood a - vailed for me.
 the mourn - ful, bro - ken hearts re - joice; the hum-ble poor be - lieve.
 ye blind, be - hold your Sa - vior come; and leap, ye lame, for joy.

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 confess that though You sought us out to be true worshipers, we have not offered ourselves to You as living, holy, and pleasing sacrifices. We have conformed ourselves to a pattern of self-centeredness and personal desires, looking for what we get out of life, instead of honoring, praising and glorifying You. Forgive us Father! Give us the grace to die to ourselves and be a people of bowed knee doing the priestly service of acknowledging You in spirit and in truth. Amen.

Private Confession

Words of Encouragement

"The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down. The Lord is righteous in all his ways and loving toward all he has made. The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth."

- Psalm 145:14, 17-18 (NIV)

We Praise Our Merciful and Gracious God

The Humble Shall Hear (below)

The Humble Shall Hear

(Psalm 34)

C/V/C/V/C/C

Chorus

Am F C G/B Am F C G/B
I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise shall be ever in my mouth. My

9 Am F G Am Dm G C
soul shall make its boast in the Lord; the humble shall hear it and re-joice.

Verse 1

17 C Dm G/B C Dm G
Magni-fy the Lord with me, and let us ex - alt His Name to-gether.

25 Am F G Am F Dm G
I sought the Lord and He answered me, and de-livered me from all my fears!

Verse 2

32 C Dm G/B C Dm G
They looked to Him and were ra-diant, and their fac-es will never be ashamed;

40 Am F G Am F Dm G
O taste and see that the Lord is Good! How blessed is the man who trusts in Him!

PROCLAMATION | God feeds his people

Scripture: Daniel 4

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

Sermon: "A Captive Set Free"

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.*

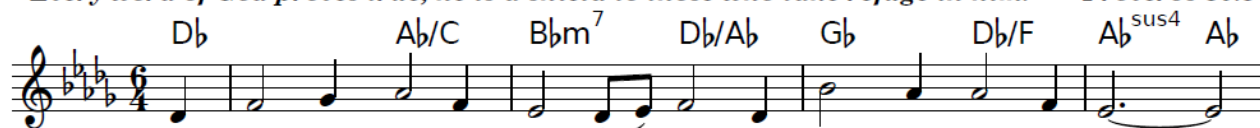
We are grateful for your ongoing generosity to the church. It is your gifts that sustain our ministry here in Cherry Hill and around the world. Please remember that you can give on line by going to [this link](#). It is a secure and convenient way to continue your financial support.

***We Sing**

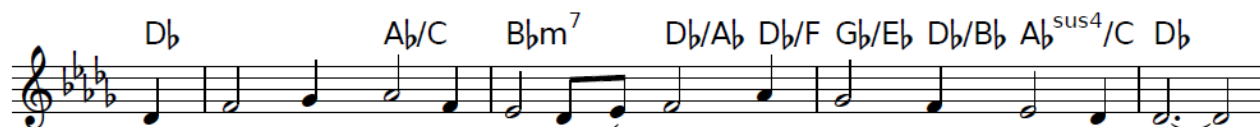
Dear Refuge of My Weary Soul (below)

Dear Refuge of My Weary Soul

"Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him." — Proverbs 30:5



1. Dear re - fuge of my wea - ry soul, on Thee, when sor - rows rise,
2. But oh! When gloo - my doubts pre - vail, I fear to call Thee mine;
3. Hast Thou not bid me seek Thy face, and shall I seek in vain?
4. Thy mer - cy seat is o - pen still, here let my soul re - treat;



On Thee, when waves of trou - ble roll, my fain - ting hope re - lies.
The springs of com - fort seem to fail, and all my hopes de - cline.
And can the ear of sov - 'reign grace be deaf while I com - plain?
With hum - ble hope at - tend Thy will, and wait be - neath Thy feet.



To Thee I tell each ri - sing grief, for Thou a - lone can heal;
Yet gra - cious God, where shall I flee? Thou art my on - ly trust;
No, still the ear of sov - 'reign grace at - tends the mour - ner's prayer;
Thy mer - cy seat is o - pen still, here let me soul re - treat;



Thy Word can bring a sweet re - lief for
And still my soul would cleave to Thee, though
O may I e - ver find ac - cess to
With hum - ble hope at - tend Thy will, and



ev - 'ry pain I feel.
pros - trate in the dust.
breathe my sor - rows there.
wait be - neath Thy feet.

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*