

Changing People and Places Through the Power of the Gospel

June 14, 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

"Seek God, not happiness – this is the fundamental rule of all meditation. If you seek God alone, you will gain happiness that is its promise" – Detrick Bonhoeffer

"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

- Jesus (Matthew 6:33)

"To desire the aid of grace is the beginning of grace."

- James K.A. Smith

# We Recognize Our Class of 2020 Graduates

#### High School

Abby Mackey (Haddonfield High School)

Alexis Parsi (Baptist Regional School)

Eddie Rourke (Cherokee High School)

Bronwyn Rowton (Baptist Regional School)

Valerie Sheetz (The King's Christian School)

#### **College**

Nicholas Sneller (Covenant College)

Andrew Lem (Dec., TCNJ)

Sergio Parsi (Dec., Rowan University)

#### **Graduate School**

Taylor Blauvelt (Holy Family University, Masters in Education)

Me-Linh Gunther (University of Pennsylvania, Masters in Nursing)

# 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.

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High

will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress,

my God, in whom I trust."

Surely he will save you

from the fowler's snare

and from the deadly pestilence.

He will cover you with his feathers,

and under his wings you will find refuge;

his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

- Psalm 91:1-4 (NIV)

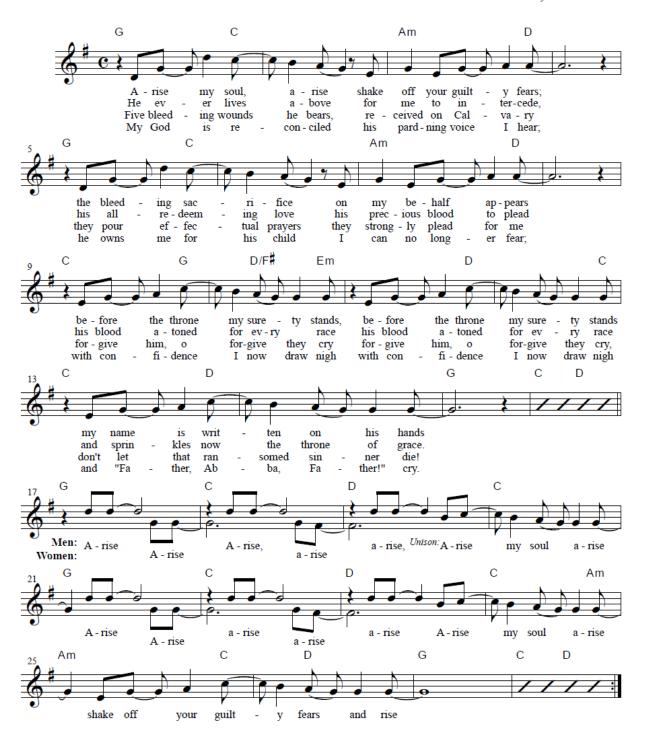
**PRAYER** The first prayer of the service is meant to invoke the presence and favor of the Triune God in the name of Jesus, giving praise, and asking the Holy Spirit to help us put aside all our distractions and worship God in "Spirit and truth."

#### Songs of Praise (below)

Arise, My Soul, Arise You Are My All In All

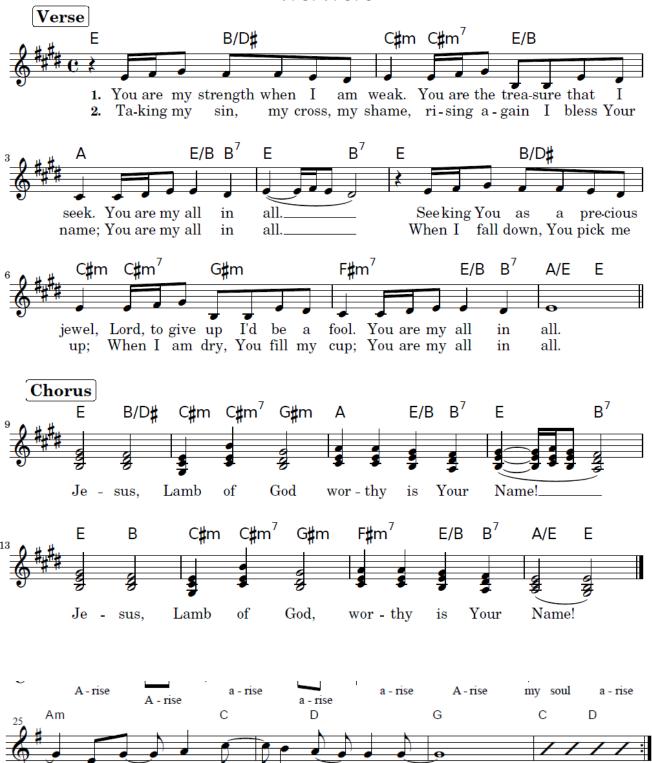
# ARISE, MY SOUL, ARISE

Words by Charles Wesley alt. by Kevin Twit Music by Kevin Twit



# You Are My All in All

V/C/V/C/C



fears

and

rise

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shake off

your

guilt

### **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.

Father, we confess that we have resisted Your work in our lives and have become angry with the troubles and difficulties that have come our way. We acknowledge that rather than resting in Your compassion and comfort, we have run to idols that have left us empty, disappointed, and discouraged. Give us grace to "taste and see that You are good," that we are blessed when we take refuge in You, and in suffering there is abundant comfort through Christ. Help us be a people that see our challenges as a way to advance the Gospel and be a source of hope and comfort to those around us. Amen.

#### **Private Confession**

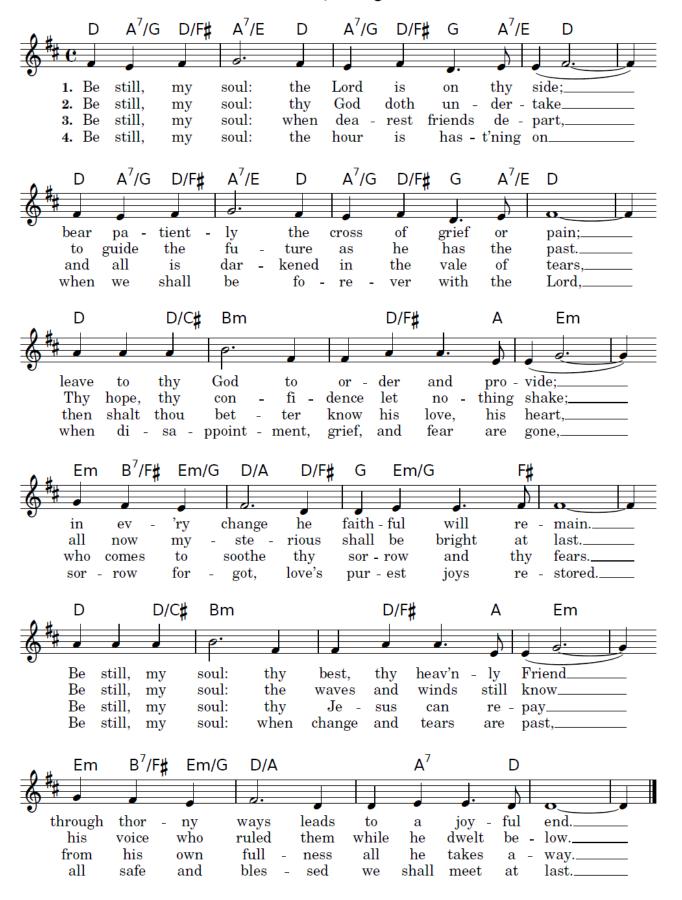
#### **Words of Encouragement**

"My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense — Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world." — 1 John 2:1-2 (NIV)

#### We Praise Our Merciful and Gracious God

Be Still, My Soul (below)

# Be Still, My Soul



# **PROCLAMATION** | God feeds his people

Scripture: Psalm 34

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

Sermon: "Savor and Delight"

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 <u>this link.</u> It is a secure and convenient way to continue your financial support.

### \*We Sing

What a Friend We Have in Jesus (below)

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Phil. 4:6



# **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