

Changing People and Places Through the Power of the Gospel

June 21, 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

"According to a word of Scripture we pray for the clarification of our day, for preservation from sin, for growth in sanctification, for faithfulness and strength in our work. And we may be certain that our prayer will be heard, because it is a response to God's Word and promise. Because God's Word has found its fulfillment in Jesus Christ, all prayers that we pray conforming to this Word are certainly heard and answered."

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Life Together

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.

I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the LORD;
let the humble hear and be glad.
Oh, magnify the LORD with me,
and let us exalt his name together!

-Psalm 34:1-3 (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

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Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

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



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.

Heavenly Father, we come before You fully aware that You know us better than we know ourselves. You know our every thought and attitude though we try to hide them from You and others. You see our pride, envy, competitiveness, selfish ambition, temptations and struggles. Forgive us and lavish us with Your grace so we don't drown in ourselves, but give fully to You and others. Give us a deeper awareness of who we are in Christ, and strengthen us each day by Your Holy Spirit to serve you in joy. Amen.

Private Confession

Words of Encouragement

"I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more."

- Isaiah 43:25 (NIV)

We Praise Our Merciful and Gracious God

Blessed Be Your Name (below)

Blessed Be Your Name

V/V/C/V/V/C/B/B/B/C



PROCLAMATION | God feeds his people

Scripture: Luke 18:1-8

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

Sermon: "Persistent Prayer"

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

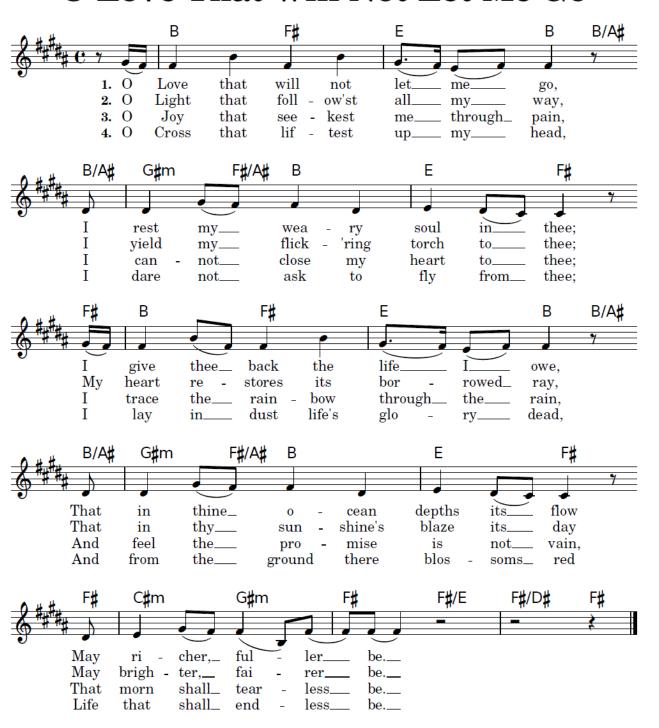
We Give – Our offering is not simply the way our church "pays the bills;" it is an act of worship where we respond to God's grace and generosity and give back to the Lord His resources as tangible evidence of our love for Him.

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

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go (below)

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go



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