



Covenant

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Changing People and Places Through the Power of the Gospel

June 28, 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

"Believers sometimes forget that we have been set free. Freedom scares us and more important, it scares those religious leaders who are into control. Jesus said, 'Therefore if the Son sets you free, you shall be free indeed.' We want to change that, to create some parameters and to ameliorate the dangers of the freedom Jesus gives. When we do that, we miss the joys of being free from the bondage of our slavery to rules and manipulation...Being free enables us to go to God without the need to act like a proper slave...Being free means that , in prayer, we don't have to work for 'slave's wages'...Being free means that we don't have to worry about every word and every thought that is uttered in the presence of God...God says...'You aren't a slave, Quit acting like one.'"

- Steve Brown, When Being Good Isn't Good Enough

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.*

Leader: Sing the praises of the Lord, enthroned in Zion;
proclaim among the nations what he has done.

People: **I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart;
I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.**

I will be glad and rejoice in you;

I will sing the praises of your name, O Most High.

- Psalm 9:11, 1-2 (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)

Holy, Holy, Holy

The Humble Shall Hear

Holy, Holy, Holy!

Day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come." Rev. 4:8

C **Am** **G** **C** **F** **C** ⁷

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
 2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
 3. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,
 4. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

G **C** **Am** **G** **D7** **G**

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 though the eye of sin - ful man thy glo - ry may not see,
 All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.

C **Am** **G** **C** **F** **C**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!

Am **C** **F** **C** **F** **G7** **C** ⁷

God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 who wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
 per - fect in pow'r, in love, and pur - i - ty.
 God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

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!

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.*

God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, You have blessed us richly through Your Son Jesus Christ the only hope and anchor for our souls. Yet we confess we have doubted Your promises and given in to doubt, worry, anxiety, and self-pity. Rather than wait on You we have impulsively tried to solve our problems on our own and in our own way. Father, give us grace to believe Your promises, faith to trust that You are loving, good, and kind, and strength to flee and “take hold of the hope set before us that we may be greatly encouraged.” Amen. (from Hebrews 6:18)

Private Confession

Words of Encouragement

“We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.” Hebrews 6:19-20 (NIV)

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

G/B A/C# D^{sus2} G/B A/C# D/F#

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._

G/B A^{sus2}/C# D^{sus2} G^{maj7} A D

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, _

G^{maj7} A^{sus2}/C# D^{sus2}/F# Bm A G^{maj7}

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, _

G/B A/C# D/F# G^{maj7} A D

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

G^{maj7} A/C# D/F# Bm F#m/A G

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

G^{sus2}/B A^{sus2}/C# D^{sus2}/F# G^{maj7} A D

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

PROCLAMATION | God feeds his people

Scripture: Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23

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

Sermon: "Choked by Life"

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**

Christ Is Mine Forevermore (below)

Christ is Mine Forevermore

1, 2, 3, C, B(3x), C, Tag(2x)

Verse

1. Mine are days that God has num - bered; I was made to walk with Him. Yet, I
2. Mine are tears in times of sor - row, dark - ness not yet un - der - stood. Through the
3. Mine are days here as a stran - ger, pil - grim on a nar - row way. One with

5

look for word - ly trea - sure and for - sake the King of kings. But mine is
val - ley I must trav - el where I see no earth - ly good. But mine is
Christ I will en - coun - ter harm and ha - tred for His name. But mine is

9

hope in my Re - deem - er; though I fall, His love is sure. For Christ has
peace that flows from heav - en, and the strength in times of need. I know my
ar - mor for this bat - tle, strong e - nough to last the war. And He has

13

paid for ev' - ry fail - ing; I am His for - ev - er - more. shore.
pain will not be wast - ed; Christ com - pletes His work in me.
said He will de - liv - er safe - ly to the gold - en

17 Chorus

And mine are keys to Zi - on's ci - ty where be - side the King I walk. For there my

22 Tag

heart has found its trea - sure; Christ is mine for - ev - er - more.

26 Bridge

Come re - jice now, O my soul, for His love is my re - ward. Fear is

31

gone and hope is sure; Christ is mine for - ev - er - more. Come re

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*