



Covenant

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Changing People and Places Through the Power of the Gospel

August 23, 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

*"I fled Him, down the nights and down the days;
I fled Him, down the arches of the years;
I fled Him, down the labyrinthine ways
 Of my own mind; and in the midst of tears
I hid from Him, and under running laughter...
From those strong Feet that followed, followed after.
 But with unhurrying chase,
 And unperturbed pace,
Deliberate speed, majestic instancy,
 They beat—and a Voice beat
 More instant than the Feet—
'All things betray thee, who betrayest Me.'"*

- from *Hound of Heaven* by Francis Thompson

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: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised,
and his greatness is unsearchable.
One generation shall commend your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.

People: **The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
The Lord is good to all,
and his mercy is over all that he has made.
The Lord upholds all who are falling
and raises up all who are bowed down.**

Leader: The Lord is righteous in all his ways
and kind in all his works.
The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.
He fulfills the desire of those who fear him.

Psalm 145:3, 4, 8, 9, 14, 17-19a (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
Cornerstone

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

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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 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.

Cornerstone

V1/V2/C/V3/C/C

Verse

1. My hope is built on noth - ing less than Je - sus blood and
 2. When dark - ness seems to hide his face, I rest on his un -
 3. When he shall come with trump - et sound, oh may I then in

4

right - eous - ness — I dare not trust the sweet - est frame
 chang - ing grace. In ev - 'ry high and storm - y gale,
 him be found. Dressed in his right - eous - ness a - lone.

7

but whol - ly trust in Je - sus' name.
 my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
 Fault - less to stand be - fore the throne.

1

9

Chorus

Christ a - lone. Corn - er - stone. Weak made strong in the Sav - ior's

13

love. Through the storm, He is Lord, Lord of all.

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 You have sent us into the world, equipped and strengthened by your Spirit, to proclaim the gospel, to care for the oppressed, to do good, and to be Your agents of healing in a broken world. We confess, however, that we have often been ashamed to speak Your life-giving word to those around us. We confess that we have been reluctant to spend and be spent on behalf of the marginalized and have too often lived lives of self-indulgence. We confess we have been quick to seek comfort for ourselves instead of bringing relief to a world in pain. In all these ways we have grieved Your Spirit. Lord, forgive us and pour out Your grace so that we can walk in the beauty of your ways and bring honor to Your name. Amen.

Private Confession

Words of Encouragement

"The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us."

Psalm 103:8, 10-12 (ESV)

We Praise Our Merciful and Gracious God

Nothing But The Blood (below)

Nothing But the Blood

Verse

D D/C# D/B D/A G⁷ A^{sus4} D

1. What can wash a - way my sin? Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus;
2. For my par-don this I see, noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus;
3. Noth - ing can for sin a - tone, noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus;
4. This is all my hope and peace, noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus;
5. Glo - ry! Glo-ry! This I sing, noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus;

5 D D/C# D/B D/A G⁷ A^{sus4} D

What can make me whole a - gain? Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.
 For my cleans-ing, this my plea, noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.
 Naught of good that I have done, noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.
 This is all my right-eous - ness, noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.
 All my praise for this I bring, noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.

Chorus

9 D D/C# D/B D/A Em Em/G A^{sus4} D/A

O, pre - cious is the flow that makes me white as snow;

13 D/F# G⁷ A^{sus4} Bm D/A G⁷ G⁷/B A/C# D G/D

No oth - er fount I know, noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.

PROCLAMATION | God feeds his people

Scripture: Matthew 18:12-14

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

Sermon: “Hounds of Heaven”

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**

Abide With Me (below)

Abide with Me: Fast Falls the Eventide

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

D A Bm D/F# G A Bm⁷ A⁷/C# D

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;

D D/C# G/B D/A G D/F# Em⁷ A/C# D Bm⁶ A

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:

D A Bm D/F# G⁹ B+ B⁷ Em

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:

A⁷/G D/F# A⁷/E D A⁷ Bm Em/G D/A A⁷ D G/D

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*