

Covenant

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Changing People and Places Through the Power of the Gospel

September 20, 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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Prelude: Grace

by CityAlight

REFLECTION | God's people prepare for worship

"Human love lives by uncontrolled dark desires; spiritual love lives in the clear light of service ordered by the truth. Human love produces human subjection, dependence, constraint; spiritual love creates freedom of the brethren under the Word. Human love breeds hot-house flowers; spiritual love creates the fruits that grow healthily in accord with God's good will in the rain and storm and sunshine of God's outdoors. The existence of any Christian life together depends on whether it succeeds at the right time in bringing out the ability to distinguish between a human ideal and God's reality, between spiritual and human community."

– Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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 to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord all the earth.
Sing to the Lord, praise his name;
proclaim his salvation day after day.

**All: Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous deeds among all peoples.
For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;
he is to be feared above all gods.**

Leader: For all the gods of the nations are but idols,
but the Lord made the heavens.

**All: Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and glory are in his sanctuary.
Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;
let the sea resound and all that is in it.**

– Psalm 96:1-6, 11 (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)

May the Peoples Praise You
The Humble Shall Hear

May the Peoples Praise You

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

Verse

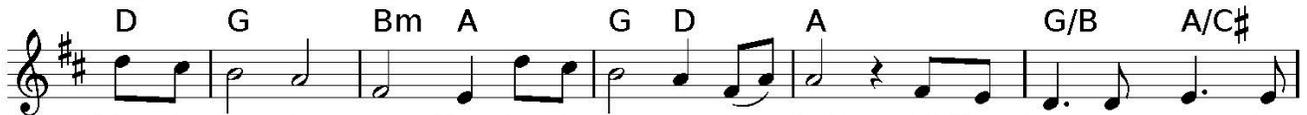


1. You have called us out of darkest night, in - to Your glo-rious light, that
2. May our ev - 'ry breath re - tell the grace that broke in - to our strife with
3. All the earth is Yours and all wi - thin, each har - vest is Your own, and
4. May the seeds of mer - cy grow in us for those who have not heard, may
5. This our ho - ly priv - 'lege to de - clare Your prai - ses and Your Name to



we may sing the won - ders of the ri - sen Christ.
 boun - dless love and dee - pest joy, with end - less life.
 from Your hand we give to You, to make Christ known.
 songs of praise build lives of grace to spread Your Word.
 ev - 'ry na - tion, tribe, and tongue Your church pro - claim.

Chorus



May the peo-ples praise You, let the na-tions be glad! All Your bles-sing comes that



we may praise, may praise the Name of Je - sus.

Bridge



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, is the Lord Al - migh - ty.
 Ho - ly, Ho - ly, is the Lord Al - migh - ty.



Worthy, wor-thy, is the Lamb who was slain. praise Your glo-rious Name. (May the)
 All cre - a - tion

The Humble Shall Hear

(Psalm 34)

C/V/C/V/C/C

Chorus

I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise shall be ever in my mouth. My soul shall make its boast in the Lord; the humble shall hear it and rejoice.

Verse 1

Magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His Name together. I sought the Lord and He answered me, and delivered me from all my fears!

Verse 2

They looked to Him and were radiant, and their faces will never be ashamed; 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.*

Lord Jesus Christ, though being in very nature God, when You came to redeem us You humbled Yourself and made Yourself nothing. Though You were rich, for our sakes You became poor, so that through Your poverty we might become rich. We confess how unlike You we are in our attitudes and actions. We strive for recognition from others, and we sulk and become bitter if we do not get it. We attend to our own needs and concerns, yet fail to care for others except when it serves our purposes. Forgive us our sin and renew our hearts. Help us understand that as each one of us sets aside self, unity will prevail in our marriages, in our relationships and in our church. Work in us by the power of your Spirit so that we may become more like You and so bring glory to our Father in heaven. Amen.

Private Confession

Words of Encouragement

"May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."
- Romans 15:5-6 (NIV)

We Praise Our Merciful and Gracious God

Grace (below)

Grace

V/C/V/C/V/C/V/C/C

Verse

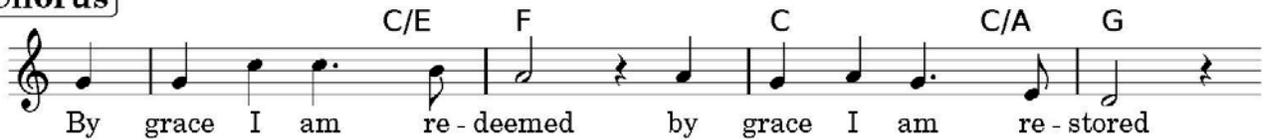


1. Your grace that leads this sin-ner home from death to life fo - re - ver
2. Your grace that rea - ches far and wide to e - very tribe and na - tion
3. Your grace that I can-not ex - plain not by my earth - ly wis - dom
4. Let praise rise up and o - ver - flow my song re-sound fo - re - ver



and sings the song of righ-teous - ness by blood and not by me - rit
 has called my heart to en - ter in the joy of Your sal - va - tion
 the Prince of Life, without a stain was tra - ded for this sin - ner
 for grace will see me wel-comed home to walk be-side my sa - vior

Chorus



By grace I am re - deemed by grace I am re - stored



and now I free - ly walk in - to the arms of Christ, my Lord

PROCLAMATION | God feeds his people

Scripture: Ephesians 4:1-16

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

Sermon: “Community During Covid”

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: <https://secure.egsnetwork.com/donate/CA64B97A627940A>. It is a secure and convenient way to continue your financial support.

***We Sing**

On Jordan’s Stormy Banks (below)

On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand

V/V/V/C/V/V/C/C

Verse

1. On Jordan's stor - my banks I stand, and cast a wish-ful eye
2. Oh what a wide and plea-sing scene that ri - ses to my sight!
3. All o'er those wide ex - ten - ded plains shines one e - ter - nal Day:
4. When shall I reach that bles-sed place, and be fo - re - ver blessed?
5. When shall I reach that hap - py place, where night shines as the day?

to Ca-naan's fair and hap-py land, where my po - sse - ssions lie.
 Sweet fields ar - rayed in bril-liant green, and ri - vers of de - light.
 there God the Son fo - re - ver reigns, and scat-ters night a way.
 When shall I see my Fa-ther's face, and in His bo - som rest?
 When shall I see my Fa-ther's face, that scat-ters night a way?

Chorus

I am bound, (I am bound,) I am bound, (I am bound,) I am bound for the Promised Land!

I am bound, (I am bound,) I am bound, (I am bound,) I am bound for the Promised Land!

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*