

Covenant

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Changing People and Places Through the Power of the Gospel

September 27, 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: Here Is Love

by William Rees & Robert Lowry

REFLECTION | God's people prepare for worship

"The image the Bible itself often suggests for the way its truth is to be claimed is that of witness. This is an extremely valuable image with which to meet the postmodern suspicion of all metanarratives as oppressive. Witness is non-coercive. It has no power but the convincingness of the truth to which it witnesses. Witnesses are not expected, like lawyers, to persuade by the rhetorical power of speeches, but simply to testify to the truth for which they are qualified to give evidence. . . In our time witness is likely to be the main contender for truth . . ."

- Richard Bauckham

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.*

All: **I will sing of the LORD’s great love forever;
 with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known
 through all generations.
I will declare that your love stands firm forever,
 that you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself.**

Leader: The heavens praise your wonders, LORD,
 your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones.
Who is like you, LORD God Almighty?
 You, LORD, are mighty, and your faithfulness surrounds

All: **Praise be to the LORD forever! Amen and Amen.**

Psalm 89: 1-2, 5, 8, 52 (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)

I Sing the Mighty Power of God
Here Is Love

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

1. I sing the migh - ty pow'r of God that made the moun - tains rise,
 2. I sing the good - ness of the Lord that filled the earth with food;
 3. There's not a plant or flow'r be - low but makes thy glo - ries known;

that spread the flo - wing seas a - broad and built the lof - ty skies.
 that formed the crea - tures with his word and then pro - nounced them good.
 and clouds a - rise and tem - pests blow by or - der from thy throne;

I sing the wis - dom that or - dained the sun to rule the day;
 Lord, how thy won - ders are dis - played where - e'er I turn my eye,
 while all that bor - rows life from thee is e - ver in thy care,

the moon shines full at his com - mand and all the stars o - bey.
 if I sur - vey the ground I tread or gaze u - pon the sky!
 and e - v'ry - where that man can be, thou, God, art pre - sent there.

HERE IS LOVE

Vs. 1 & 2: William Rees (1802-1883)

Robert Lowry, (1826-1899)

Vs. 3, 5: Matt Giles, Vs. 4: Vell Rives

1. Here is love vast as the o - cean, lov - ing - kind - ness as the flood,
 2. On the Mount of Cru - ci - fix - ion foun - tains op - ened deep and wide;
 3. Here is love that con - quered e - vil: Christ, the first - born from the grave.
 4. That same love be - yond all mea - sure, mocked and slain by hate - ful men,
 5. Here is love vast as the hea - vens; count - less as the stars a - bove

when the Prince of life, our ran - som shed for us His pre - cious blood.
 through the flood - gates of God's mer - cy flowed a vast and gra - cious tide.
 Death has failed to be found e - qual to the life of Him who saves.
 lives and reigns in res - ur - rect - ion and can ne - ver die a - gain.
 are the souls that He has ran - somed, pre - cious daugh - ters, trea - sured sons.

Who His love will not re - mem - ber? Who can cease to sing His praise?
 Grace and love, like migh - ty ri - vers, poured in - ces - sant from a - bove;
 In the val - ley of our dark - ness dawned His e - ver - las - ting light;
 Here is love for all the a - ges, ra - diant Sun of Heav'n He stands,
 We are called to feast for - e - ver on a love be - yond our time.

He can ne - ver be for - got - ten through - out heav'n's e - ter - nal days.
 hea - ven's peace and per - fect just - ice kissed a guil - ty world in love.
 per - fect love in glo - rious ra - diance has re - pelled death's hel - lish night.
 cal ling home His Fa - ther's child - ren, hold - ing forth His wound - ed hands.
 Glo - rious Fa - ther, Son and Spi - rit now with man are in - ter - twined.

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.*

Leader: Praise be to our God and Father who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in His Son Christ Jesus. In love, and according to the kind intention of His will, He predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, and through His blood we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us.

All: **Father, You have authorized and commanded us to be part of your glorious plan of gathering the nations by being a witness to the salvation graciously lavished on us through Your Son Jesus Christ. Yet we confess our indifference toward the lost and acknowledge that we have not done what You have commanded. We have not lived as we should and have neglected to speak the saving news of the gospel. Renew our love for the gospel and compassion for our neighbors. Give us grace to remember that You will always be with us as we do this day after day, right up to the end of the age. Amen.**

Private Confession

Words of Encouragement

The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down. The Lord is righteous in all his ways and loving toward all he has made. The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

Psalm 145:14, 17-18 (NIV)

We Praise Our Merciful and Gracious God

Grace (below)

Grace

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

Verse

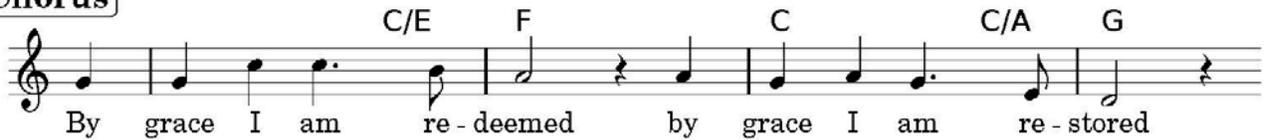


1. Your grace that leads this sin-ner home from death to life fo - re - ver
2. Your grace that rea - ches far and wide to e - very tribe and na - tion
3. Your grace that I can-not ex - plain not by my earth - ly wis - dom
4. Let praise rise up and o - ver - flow my song re-sound fo - re - ver



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: Genesis 1:28; Isaiah 49:6; Acts 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: “Witness 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.

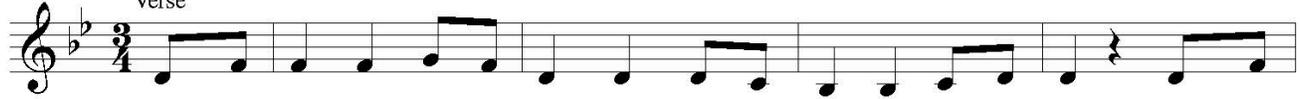
***We Sing**

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

1, 2.

3.

17

Chorus



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

22

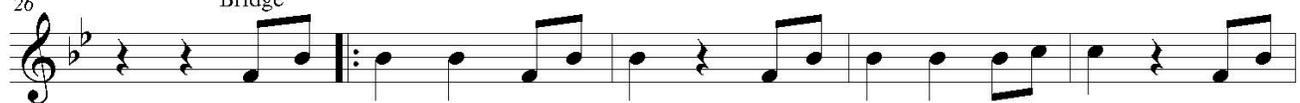
Tag



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

26

Bridge



Come re - joice 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

1, 2.

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*