

Covenant

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Changing People and Places Through the Power of the Gospel

September 6, 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

"We do not live near enough to God, do we? I know that some of you wait upon Him day and night and you abide under the shadow of the Almighty, but I fear that there are some workers who forget to do this. We should work with the hands of Martha, but yet keep near the Master with the heart of Mary! We need a combination of activity and meditation. When we get that—when we inwardly retire for consultation with our Lord and then come out actively to labor for our Lord—then shall we be good stewards in the little part of the great house with which He has entrusted us."

- Charles Spurgeon

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: It is good to praise the LORD
and make music to your name, O Most High,
To proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night,
To the music of the ten-stringed lyre and the melody of the harp.

People: For you make me glad by your deeds, O LORD;
I sing for joy at the works of your hands.
How great are your works, O LORD,
How profound your thoughts!

All: The LORD is upright; he is my Rock,
and there is no wickedness in him.

- Psalm 92:1-5, 15 (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)

Crown Him With Many Crowns
Psalm 130 (From Depths of Woe)

Crown Him with Many Crowns



1. Crown Him with ma - ny crowns, the Lamb u - pon His throne.
2. Crown Him the Lord of life who tri - umphed o'er the grave,
3. Crown Him the Lord of love; Be - hold His hands and side,
4. Crown Him the Lord of peace, whose pow'r a scep - tre sways
5. Crown Him the Lord of years, the Po - ten - tate of time,



Hark! how the heav'n - ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own!
 and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those He came to save!
 rich wounds yet vi - si - ble a - bove in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.
 from pole to pole that wars may cease and all be prayer and praise.
 Cre - a - tor of the rol - ling spheres in - ef - fa - bly su - blime!



A - wake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee.
 His glo - ries now we sing who died and rose on high,
 No an - gel in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
 His reign shall know no end, and round his pier - ced feet
 All hail, Re - dee - mer, hail! For Thou has died for me;



and hail Him as thy match - less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 who died e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
 but down - ward bends each bur - ning eye at my - ste - ries so bright.
 fair flow'rs of pa - ra - dise ex - tend their fra - grance e - ver sweet.
 Thy praise shall ne - ver, ne - ver fail through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

PSALM 130 (FROM DEPTHS OF WOE)

Words by Martin Luther

Music by Christopher Miner

1. From depths of woe I raise to Thee, The voice of lam-en-ta-tion; Lord,
 2. To wash a-way the crim-son stain, Grace, grace a-lone a-vail-eth; Our

6 turn a gra-cious ear to me And hear my sup-pli-ca-tion; If
 works, a-las! Are all in vain; In much the best life fail-eth; No

10 thou in-i-qui-ties dost mark, Our se-cret sins and mis-deeds dark, **Men:** O
 man can glo-ry in thy sight, All must a-like con-fess thy might, And

14 who shall stand be-fore thee? O
 live a-lone by mer-cy a-lone by And mer-

18 who shall stand be-fore thee?
 thee? Who shall stand be-fore thee?
 live a-lone by mer-cy a-lone by mer-cy

3. Therefore my trust
 is in the Lord,
 And not in mine own merit;
 On Him my soul shall rest, His word
 Upholds my fainting spirit;
 His promised mercy is my fort,
 My comfort and my sweet support;
 I wait for it with patience (echo)
 I wait for it with patience (echo)

4. What though I wait
 the live-long night,
 And till the dawn appeareth,
 My heart still trusteth in his might;
 It doubteth not nor feareth;
 Do thus, O ye of Israel's seed,
 Ye of the Spirit born indeed;
 And wait till God appeareth. (echo)
 And wait till God appeareth (echo)

5. Though great our sins
 and sore our woes
 His grace much more aboundeth;
 His helping love no limit knows,
 Our upmost need it soundeth.
 Our Shepherd good and true is He,
 Who will at last His Israel free
 From all their sin and sorrow (echo)
 From all their sin and sorrow (echo)

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.*

Gracious Father we confess that we have tried to find meaning and significance in life on our own terms through work, entertainment, money, food, knowledge, and recognition. We confess that we have allowed this to get in the way of doing the work that You have called us to do. Forgive us we pray and grant us the grace to find true meaning by taking pleasure in You, being content with what You give us, and always excelling in the work of Your kingdom. Amen.

Private Confession

Words of Encouragement

"But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."
(1 Corinthians 15:57-58, ESV)

We Praise Our Merciful and Gracious God

His Mercy Is More (below)

His Mercy Is More

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

You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. — Micah 7:19

Intro



Verse



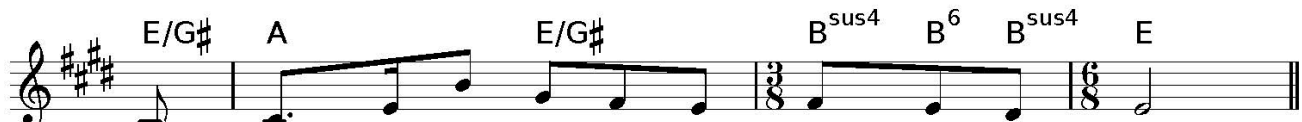
1. What love could re - mem - ber no wrongs we have done?
2. What pa - tience would wait as we con - stant - ly roam?
3. What ri - ches of kind - ness He la - vished on us.



Om - ni - scient, all kno - wing, He counts not their sum.
 What Fa - ther, so ten - der, is cal - ling us home?
 His blood was the pay - ment; His life was the cost.



Thrown in - to a sea wi - thout bot - tom or shore,
 He wel - comes the wea - kest, the vi - lest, the poor.
 We stood 'neath a debt we could ne - ver af - ford.



our sins, they are ma - ny; His mer - cy is more.
 Our sins, they are ma - ny; His mer - cy is more.
 Our sins, they are ma - ny; His mer - cy is more.

Chorus



Praise the Lord, — His mercy is more. — Stronger than darkness,



new ev - ry morn. — Our sins, they are ma - ny; His mer - cy is more.

PROCLAMATION | God feeds his people

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:58

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

Sermon: “Is It Worth the Effort?”

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.”

The Lord’s Supper

Also called the Communion or the Eucharist, is the family meal of Christians. We invite all committed followers of Jesus Christ to partake of this sacrament: those who are baptized members of a congregation which proclaims the gospel, who are at peace with God and with their neighbor, and who seek strength to live more faithfully for Christ. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer. We hope that this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and with His people, the church. (The bread is gluten free).

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**

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go (below)

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

1. O Love that will not let me go,
 2. O Light that foll - ow'st all my way,
 3. O Joy that see - kest me through pain,
 4. O Cross that lif - test up my head,

I rest my wea - ry soul in thee;
 I yield my flick - 'ring torch to thee;
 I can - not close my heart to thee;
 I dare not ask to fly from thee;

I give thee back the life I owe,
 My heart re - stores its bor - rowed ray,
 I trace the rain - bow through the rain,
 I lay in dust life's glo - ry dead,

That in thine o - cean depths its flow
 That in thy sun - shine's blaze its day
 And feel the pro - mise is not vain,
 And from the ground there blos - soms red

May ri - cher, ful - ler be.
 May brigh - ter, fai - rer be.
 That morn shall tear - less be.
 Life that shall end - less be.

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*