

Covenant

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Changing People and Places Through the Power of the Gospel

October 4, 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

"We may have civilized bodies and yet barbarous souls. We are blind to the real sights of this world; deaf to its voice; and dead to its death. And not till we know, that one grief outweighs ten thousand joys will we become what Christianity is striving to make us." - Herman Melville

"Enjoy the things that are in the present in such a way that you do not base your confidence on them, as though they were going to last forever... but reserve part of your heart for God, so that with it we can bear the day of adversity." - Martin Luther

Prelude: Bless The Lord My Soul (below)

Bless the Lord, My Soul

(Psalm 103)

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

Verse

D D/F# G^{sus2} A Bm⁷ G⁷ A/C#

Bless the Lord my soul and all that is within me bless His ho-ly name

7 D D/F# G^{sus2} A Bm⁷ G⁷ A

Bless the Lord my soul and all that is within me bless His ho-ly name For He

Chorus

A/G D/F# A/G D/F#

13 heals my bo - dy and He takes a-way my sin He

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

17 saves me from de-struc - tion and He crowns me with His love

Bridge

D/F# G^{sus2} Bm⁷ G^{sus2} D/F#

21 Bless the Lord (Bless the Lord) Oh my soul (Oh my soul) And all that

G^{sus2} A^{sus4} A D/F# G^{sus2} Bm⁷

26 is within me bless His ho-ly name Bless the Lord (Bless the Lord) Oh my soul

G^{sus2} D/F# G^{sus2} G⁷ A Bm A/C# D

32 (Oh my soul) And all that is within me bless His ho - ly name For He

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: Praise the Lord.
How good it is to sing praises to our God,
how pleasant and fitting to praise him!

**People: Great is our Lord and mighty in power;
his understanding has no limit.
The Lord sustains the humble
but casts the wicked to the ground.**

Leader: Sing to the Lord with grateful praise;
make music to our God on the harp.

All: Praise the Lord!

Psalm 147:1, 5-7, 20c (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)

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go
O The Deep, Deep Love of Jesus
The Steadfast Love

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

B F# E B B/A#

1. O Love that will not let me go,
 2. O Light that follow'st all my way,
 3. O Joy that seekest me through pain,
 4. O Cross that liftest up my head,

B/A# G#m F#/A# B E F#

I rest my weary 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;

F# B F# E B B/A#

I give thee back the life I owe,
 My heart restores its borrowed ray,
 I trace the rainbow through the rain,
 I lay in dust life's glory dead,

B/A# G#m F#/A# B E F#

That in thine ocean depths its flow
 That in thy sun-shine's blaze its day
 And feel the promise is not vain,
 And from the ground there blossoms red

F# C#m G#m F# F#/E F#/D# F#

May richer, fuller be.
 May brighter, fairer be.
 That morn shall tearless be.
 Life that shall end less be.

O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus!

Having loved his own, he now showed them the full extent of his love. — John 15:4

Dm Dm/F A B \flat Gm⁶ A Dm F C/E A/C \sharp Dm



1. O the deep, deep love of Je - sus! Vast, un - mea - sured,
 2. O the deep, deep love of Je - sus! Spread his praise from
 3. O the deep, deep love of Je - sus! Love of ev - 'ry

Gm A⁷ Dm Dm/F A B \flat Gm⁶ A Dm



bound - less, free; rol - ling as a migh - ty o - cean
 shore to shore; how he lo - veth, e - ver lo - veth
 love the best: 'tis an o - cean vast of bles - sing,

F C/E A/C \sharp Dm Gm A⁷ Dm F F/A C^{sus4} C



in its full - ness o - ver me. Un - der - neath me,
 chan - geth ne - ver, ne - ver - more; how he wat - ches
 'tis a ha - ven sweet of rest. O the deep, deep

Dm Dm/F A^{sus4} A Dm Dm/C B \flat ⁶ C Dm B \flat ⁶ A B \flat Dm/F A B \flat



all a - round me, is the cur - rent of thy love; lea - ding on ward,
 o'er his loved ones, died to call them all his own; how for them he
 love of Je - sus! 'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me; and it lifts me

Gm⁶ A Dm F C F B \flat Gm⁶ A⁷ Dm Dm/C B \flat A



lea - ding home - ward, to thy glo - rious rest a - bove.
 in - ter - ce - deth, wat - cheth o'er them from the throne.
 up to glo - ry for it lifts me up to thee.

The Steadfast Love

The steadfast love of the Lord ne-ver cea-ses;

His mer-cies ne-ver come to an end.

They are new ev-'ry mor-ning, new ev-'ry mor-ning.

Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O Lord!

Great is thy faith-ful-ness. (The)

Chords: D, G/D, D, A/C#, D, A/C#, Bm, Bm/A, G, A^{sus4}, A, A, G, A, F#m, Bm, Em, A, Bm, A/C#, D, G, A, D, A/C#

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 do not live like You are in control of all things and that we cannot "straighten out what You have made crooked." Forgive us for our empty attempts to be in control, and for not finding our rest in You. We confess that we have considered ourselves wiser and more righteous than we truly are. We acknowledge this vanity has left us unfulfilled and weary. Forgive us we pray and grant us the grace to find true meaning in the finished work of Your Son Jesus, and to be content with what You have given us. 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

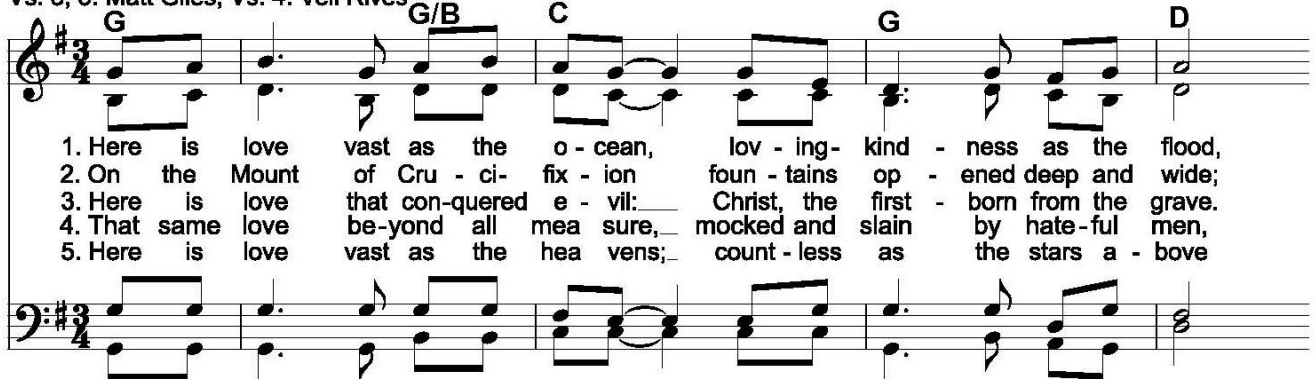
Here Is Love (below)

HERE IS LOVE

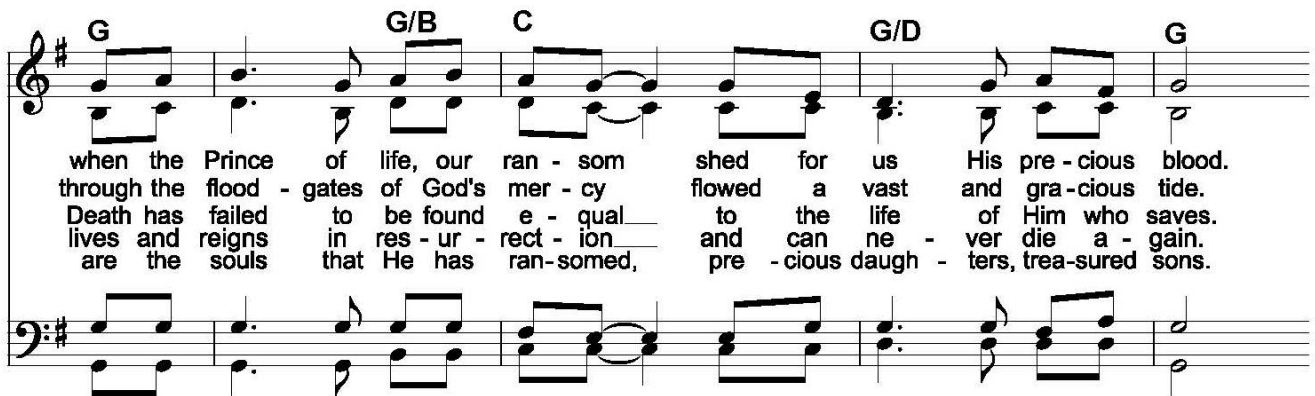
Vs. 1 & 2: William Rees (1802-1883)

Robert Lowry, (1826-1899)

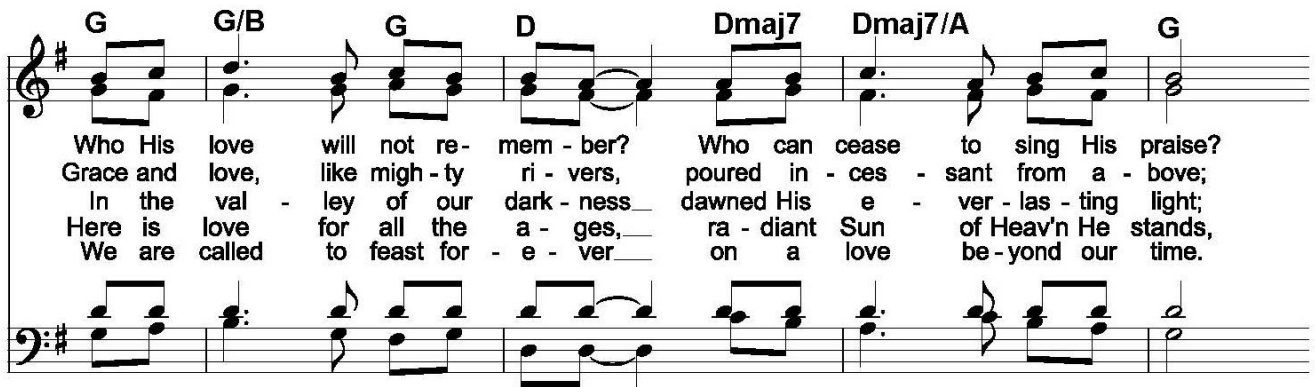
Vs. 3, 5: Matt Giles, Vs. 4: Vell Rives



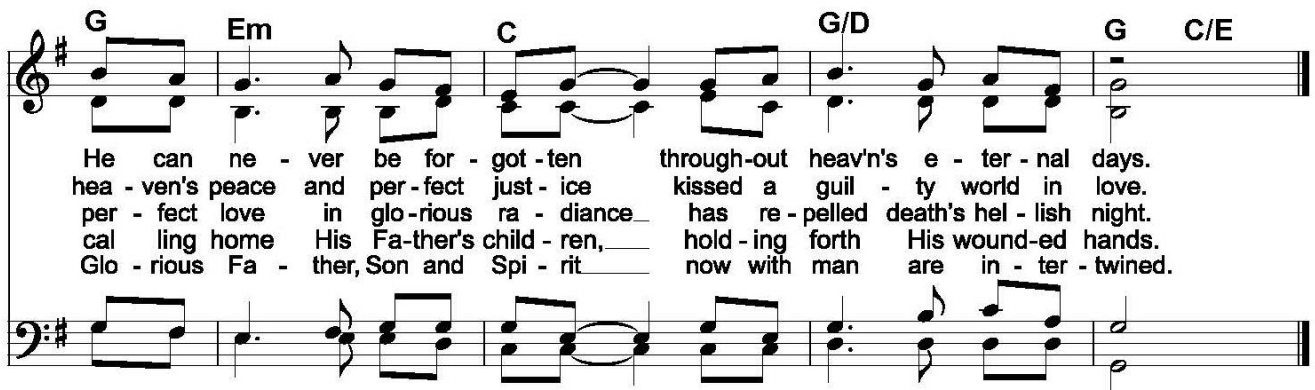
1. Here is love vast as the o - cean, lov - ing - kind - ness as the flood,
 2. On the Mount of Cru - ci - fix - ion, foun - tains op - ened deep and wide;
 3. Here is love that con - quered e - vil: Christ, the first - born from the grave.
 4. That same love be - yond all mea - sure, mocked and slain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

PROCLAMATION | God feeds his people

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 7:13-18

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

Sermon: “Trying to Straighten Out the Crooked”

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**

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

E A E/G# E/D# E/C# E/B E/A E/B B^{sus4} B

Verse

E E/G# A E

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.

B/D# C#m A B^{sus4}

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.

E F#m⁷ E/G# A

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.

E/G# A E/G# B^{sus4} B⁶ B^{sus4} E

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

E A E/G# B^{sus4} E/G# A E/G# B^{sus4} B B^{sus4} A E

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

B/D# C#m⁷ A/F# E/G# B^{sus4} E A/E A/C# B/D#

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

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*