

POTTSVILLE ASSOCIATE REFORMED
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



THE LORD'S DAY
FEBRUARY 2, AD 2020

“Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him; bless his name!”
Psalm 100:4

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For Reflection

Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: "Peace be multiplied to you. I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for he is the living God, enduring forever; his kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion shall be to the end. He delivers and rescues; he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, he who has saved Daniel from the power of the lions." Daniel 6:25-27

Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory,
for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!
Why should the nations say,
"Where is their God?"
Our God is in the heavens;
he does all that he pleases. – Psalm 115:1-3

A FEW THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- We believe that Christian Worship is a renewal of covenant vows between Christians and the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit -- a gracious and thankful conversation between God and His people. Consequently, our worship contains lots of congregational participation. Your part is in bold, but don't worry if you get a little lost. Just keep your bulletin handy throughout the service.
- We are a family of families worshipping together. We are teaching our children to worship as they worship with us. If they cry or squirm, it's OK; God has ordained "praise" from our children and infants.
- Restrooms are located both in this building and in the Fellowship Hall.

Welcome and Preparation

Silent Prayer of Preparation: Gracious and merciful Father, quiet our hearts, our hands, our minds and our souls as we draw near to You. Give rest where there is weariness, peace where there is conflict, and assurance where there is anxiety. Grant us faith to believe that you speak, ears to hear what you say and a will to live as you desire. Prepare us now to delight in you, O God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In Christ's name, Amen.

Preparation:
In worship, God speaks. He is not merely spoken about. Listening and responding require our preparation. Take a moment to be still and know that He is God.

God Calls Us to Worship

Psalm 96:1-6

Oh sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth!
Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.
Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples!
For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be feared above all gods.
For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,
but the Lord made the heavens.
Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

Call to Worship:
We need to be called to come and worship because we are prone to think we are at the center of all things. Or perhaps we struggle to believe that God wants us to draw near. So God takes the initiative and calls us to come and worship Christ who is the center.

We Respond to God's Call

Psalm 96:7-9

Pastor: Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
People: Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!
Pastor: Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
People: Bring an offering, and come into his courts!
Pastor: Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness;
People: Tremble before him, all the earth!

Prayer of Adoration

Songs of Praise

Worship through singing.
Worship is a gracious conversation between God and His people. He speaks grace through His Word and we respond together in gratitude through prayer and praise as a congregation. Singing is an important way we express our love for God and remind ourselves of our place in His redemptive story.

O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

Words: Samuel Trevor Francis, Music Bob Kauflin. © 2008 Sovereign Grace Praise (BMI). CCL# 11359088

Oh the deep, deep love of Jesus,
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free
Rolling as a mighty ocean
In its fullness over me
Underneath me, all around me
Is the current of Your love
Leading onward, leading homeward
To Your glorious rest above

[Chorus]

Oh the deep, deep love, all I need and trust
Is the deep, deep love of Jesus

Oh the deep, deep love of Jesus
Spread His praise from shore to shore
How He came to pay our ransom
Through the saving cross He bore
How He watches o'er His loved ones,
Those He died to make His own
How for them He's interceding,
Pleading now before the throne [Chorus]

Oh the deep, deep love of Jesus,
Far surpassing all the rest
It's an ocean full of blessing
In the midst of every test
Oh the deep, deep love of Jesus,
Mighty Savior, precious friend
You will bring us home to glory
Where Your love will never end [Chorus]

Call to Confession

1 Kings 18:21

And Elijah came near to all the people and said, "How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him."

Confession of Sin

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion, blot out our transgressions. Wash away all our iniquities and cleanse us from our sin. Create in us pure hearts, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within us. Do not cast us from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and grant us willing spirits, to sustain us

Assurance of Pardon

John 3:16-18

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost; born of the virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell¹; the third day, He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven; and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick² and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic³ Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. AMEN.

¹ *That is, He remained under power of death until the third day.*

² *"quick" is an older way of saying, "living"*

³ *"catholic" means "universal".*

Confession of Sin. God calls us to draw near, but our sin is a barrier we cannot cross on our own. The good news is that God has provided a way of reconciliation through Jesus. Confession of sin both acknowledges our need for God's mercy and celebrates its abundance in Christ.

Assurance of Pardon: God declares in the gospel that everyone who repents and believes in Jesus Christ is forgiven and made clean.

Confession of Faith.: Creeds, confessions and catechisms are summaries of what we believe the Bible teaches about the central truths of the Christian faith. We confess them together in worship as a way of professing our common faith.

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, And to the Son, And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, It is now, and ever shall be.
World without end. Amen, amen.

Responsive Reading

Psalm 111

Pastor: Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
People: In the company of the upright, in the congregation.
Pastor: Great are the works of the Lord,
People: Studied by all who delight in them.
Pastor: Full of splendor and majesty is his work,
People: And his righteousness endures forever.
Pastor: He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;
People: The Lord is gracious and merciful.
Pastor: He provides food for those who fear him;
People: He remembers his covenant forever.
Pastor: He has shown his people the power of his works,
People: In giving them the inheritance of the nations.
Pastor: The works of his hands are faithful and just;
People: All his precepts are trustworthy;
Pastor: They are established forever and ever,
People: To be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.
Pastor: He sent redemption to his people;
People: He has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name!
Pastor: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding.
People: His praise endures forever!

Songs of Praise

He Will Hold Me Fast

Words: Ada Habershon & Matt Merker, Music: Matt Merker, Getty Music Publishing, CCL# 11359088

When I fear my faith will fail Christ will hold me fast
When the tempter would prevail He will hold me fast
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path
For my love is often cold He must hold me fast

Chorus:

He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Savior loves me so
He will hold me fast

Those He saves are His delight Christ will hold me fast
Precious in His holy sight He will hold me fast
He'll not let my soul be lost His promises shall last
Bought by Him at such a cost He will hold me fast [CHORUS]

For my life He bled and died Christ will hold me fast
Justice has been satisfied He will hold me fast
Raised with Him to endless life He will hold me fast
Till our faith is turned to sight When he comes at last [CHORUS]

Sermon: Some view the sermon as a way to get principles for right living. Others see it as an interesting or inspirational talk.

In reality, as we open the Scriptures we encounter Jesus Christ. Therefore, as you listen, pray to be open to his leading, exhortation, encouragement and healing.

Sermon Notes

Jeremiah 10:1-16, "The One and Only"

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom Come, thy will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory forever, Amen

Have Thine Own Way, Lord

Words: Adelaide Pollard, Music: George Stebbins, Public Domain.. CCL# 11359088

1 Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!
Thou art the potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me after thy will
while I am waiting, yielded and still.

2 Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!
Search me and try me, Master, today!
Whiter than snow, Lord, wash me just now,
as in thy presence humbly I bow.

3 Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!
Wounded and weary, help me, I pray!
Power, all power, surely is thine!
Touch me and heal me, Savior divine!

4 Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!
Hold o'er my being absolute sway!
Fill with thy Spirit till all shall see
Christ only, always, living in me!

Offering: The offering is not about money. All that we are, have, and hope belong to God. While we take this time to receive tithes and offerings for the support of the gospel ministry, we also use this time to recognize God's authority over all our life and commit again to love Him with all our hearts, minds, souls and strength

Worship Through Giving

Silent Prayer of Commitment: Gracious God and Giver of every good and perfect gift, help me to recognize all that you have given and not complain about what you have withheld. Grant me wisdom to faithfully use Your gifts for Your glory and not misuse them for my own. By your Spirit help me now to offer my heart, my life, my all, sincerely and promptly with joy and thanksgiving and without anxiety, fear or grumbling. In Christ's Name, Amen.

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Last Word: God always has the last word. A benediction is a "word of blessing." God sends us out, but not before He reminds us that wherever the coming week may take us, physically, emotionally or spiritually, He goes with us.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-25

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Response

from Psalm 72

Now blessed be the living God, The God of Israel
Who only doeth wondrous works, In glory that excels
Who only doeth wondrous works, In glory that excels.

And blessed be His glorious Name, To all eternity;
The whole earth let His glory fill, Amen: So let it be.
The whole earth let His glory fill. Amen: So let it be.

What Do You Believe?

An early Christian pastor once wrote, "in essential things, unity, in debated things, liberty, and in all things, charity." In regard to essential things we believe the basic tenets of the Christian faith as spelled out in the Apostle's Creed and the Nicene Creed. In regards to debated things we hold many distinctive beliefs which define us as an Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

- We are a Biblical Church that believes in the inerrant and sufficient Scriptures as our only rule of faith and practice, able to make us wise unto salvation and useful for teaching, correcting, rebuking, and training us as disciples.
- We are a Reformed Church which believes that grace flows necessarily out of God's sovereignty. Grace is the work of God alone. Man's free-will is a faculty God employs, but saving grace depends upon the work of the Spirit powerfully renewing man's will to accept God's gracious offer of salvation.
- We are an Evangelical Church which believes that we are called to "preach the gospel to every creature under heaven" (Mark 16:15) as Christ's ambassadors as though God were making His appeal through us to implore men to be reconciled to God through faith in Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:19-20). God's sovereign choice is one of the "secret things" which we cannot know. Therefore, we preach the gospel earnestly and urgently.
- We are a Presbyterian Church which believes that God has called men to be Elders to provide spiritual oversight, instruction, counsel and encouragement to the Church. The word Presbyterian comes from the ancient Greek word for 'elder.' Our church's elders exercise care for the families in our congregation under the authority of other elders from several neighboring states. This larger group of elders is called a Presbytery.
- We are a Connectional Church. We are under the authority of the Mississippi Valley Presbytery and the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Synod. Through these connections, we work with other churches in North America and across the world to spread the gospel to every creature under heaven.
- We are a Confessional Church. Our basic doctrines are expressed by the Westminster Confession of Faith and its Larger and Shorter Catechisms. This confession and its catechisms summarizes what we believe the Bible teaches in regard to key doctrines. We do not hold them to be inerrant or infallible, but we do believe that they accurately express the central truths of the Christian faith.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Our Men's Bible Study will meet, Wednesday February 5 at 7:30 pm at Campus Perks on the U of O Campus in Clarksville..
- Did you know that you can now Give Online? To find out more go to <http://pottsvillearp.org/> and click on the "Giving Link."

CONTACT US

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