

POTTSVILLE ASSOCIATE REFORMED
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



THE LORD'S DAY
FEBRUARY 16, 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

I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.

-- Revelation 2:2-5

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 84:1-4

How lovely is your dwelling place,
O Lord of hosts!

My soul longs, yes, faints
for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and flesh sing for joy
to the living God.

Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young,
at your altars, O Lord of hosts,
my King and my God.

Blessed are those who dwell in your house,
ever singing your praise!

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 73:24-28

Pastor: Whom have I in heaven but You?

People: And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.

Pastor: My flesh and my heart may fail,

People: But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Pastor: For me it is good to be near God;

People: I have made the Lord God my refuge, that I may tell of all your works.

Prayer of Adoration

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.

Teach Me Thy Way, O Lord.

Public Domain. Words: B. Mansell Ramsey. CCL# 11359088

1 Teach me thy way, O Lord; teach me thy way!
thy guiding grace afford--teach me thy way!
Help me to walk aright, more by faith, less by sight;
lead me with heav'nly light, teach me thy way!

2 When I am sad at heart, teach me thy way!
When earthly joys depart, teach me thy way!
In hours of loneliness, in times of dire distress,
in failure or success, teach me thy way!

3 When doubts and fears arise, teach me thy way!
When storms o'erspread the skies, teach me thy way!
Shine through the cloud and rain, thro' sorrow, toil, and pain;
make thou my pathway plain, teach me thy way!

4 Long as my life shall last, teach me thy way!
Where'er my lot be cast, teach me thy way!
Until the race is run, until the journey's done,
until the crown is won, teach me thy way!

Call to Confession

Luke 9:61-62

Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

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.

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

Assurance of Pardon

1 Peter 2:24-25

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

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.

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".

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 119:9-16

Pastor: How can a young man keep his way pure?

People: By guarding it according to your word.

Pastor: With my whole heart I seek you;

People: Let me not wander from your commandments!

Pastor: I have stored up your word in my heart,

People: That I might not sin against you.

Pastor: Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes!

People: With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth.

Pastor: In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches.

People: I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.

Pastor: I will delight in your statutes;

People: I will not forget your word.

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

Words Louisa Stead, Music: William Klrkpatrick, Public Domain CCL# 11359088

1 'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
just to take him at his word;
just to rest upon his promise;
just to know, "Thus saith the Lord."

Refrain:

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him!
How I've proved him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust him more!

2 O how sweet to trust in Jesus,
just to trust his cleansing blood;
just in simple faith to plunge me
'neath the healing, cleansing flood! [Refrain]

3 Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus,
just from sin and self to cease;
just from Jesus simply taking
life and rest, and joy and peace. [Refrain]

4 I'm so glad I learned to trust thee,
precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;
and I know that thou art with me,
wilt be with me to the end. [Refrain]

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 11:18-12:6, "Going the Distance"

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

Take My Life and Let It Be

Words Frances Havergal, Music: Henri Malan, Public Domain CCL# 11359088

1 Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2 Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee,
swift and beautiful for thee.

3 Take my voice, and let me sing, always, only, for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee,
filled with messages from thee.

4 Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect, and use ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose,
ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne,
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store.
Take my self, and I will be ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.

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 19 at 7:30 pm at Campus Perks on the U of O Campus in Clarksville.
- Recently, Josh Terry met with the Session to reaffirm his faith in Christ as his Lord and Savior and become a communicant member of our church.
- 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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