

POTTSVILLE ASSOCIATE REFORMED
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



THE LORD'S DAY
FEBRUARY 23, 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

On merit not my own I stand; On doings which I have not done,
Merit beyond what I can claim, Doings more perfect than my own.

Upon a life I have not lived, Upon a death I did not die,
Another's life, Another's death, I stake my whole eternity.

Not on the tears which I have shed: Not on the sorrows I have known,
Another's tears, Another's griefs, On them I rest, on them alone.

Jesus, O Son of God, I build On what Thy cross has done for me;
There both my death and life I read, My guilt, my pardon there I see.
– Horatius Bonar, *Upon a Life*

Heidelberg Catechism, Q81. Who are to come unto the table of the Lord?
A. Those who are displeased with themselves for their sins, yet trust that these are forgiven them, and that their remaining infirmity is covered by the passion and death of Christ; who also desire more and more to strengthen their faith and amend their life. But the impenitent and hypocrites eat and drink judgment to themselves.

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 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 113:1-3

Praise the Lord!
Praise, O servants of the Lord,
praise the name of the Lord!

Blessed be the name of the Lord
from this time forth and forevermore!
From the rising of the sun to its setting,
the name of the Lord is to be praised!

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 113:4-9

Pastor: The Lord is high above all nations,
People: And his glory above the heavens!
People: Who is like the Lord our God, who is seated on high,
People: who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?
Pastor: He raises the poor from the dust
People: And lifts the needy from the ash heap,
Pastor: To make them sit with princes,
People: With the princes of his people.
Pastor: He gives the barren woman a home,
People: Making her the joyous mother of children.
All: Praise the Lord!

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.

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

Public Domain. Words: Christian Bateman. Music: Traditional Spanish folk melody. CCL# 11359088

1. Come, Christians, join to sing alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King; alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice, before His throne rejoice;
Praise is His gracious choice. Alleluia! Amen!
2. Come, lift your hearts on high, alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky; alleluia! Amen!
He is our Guide and Friend; to us He'll condescend;
His love shall never end. Alleluia! Amen!
3. Praise yet our Christ again, alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain; alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore, His goodness we'll adore,
Singing forevermore, "Alleluia! Amen!"

Call to Confession

Micah 7:18-19

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance?

He does not retain his anger forever,
because he delights in steadfast love.

He will again have compassion on us;
he will tread our iniquities underfoot.

You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

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

Galatians 3:10-13

"Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them." Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by faith." Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us

Confession of Faith

Heidelberg Catechism Q1

Pastor: What is thy only comfort in life and in death?

People: That I, with body and soul, both in life and in death, am not my own, but belong to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ, who with His precious blood has fully satisfied for all my sins, and redeemed me from all the power of the devil; and so preserves me, that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head; yea, that all things must work together for my salvation. Wherefore, by His Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life, and makes me heartily willing and ready henceforth to live unto Him.

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 34:1-8

Pastor: I will bless the Lord at all times;

People: His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Pastor: My soul makes its boast in the Lord;

People: Let the humble hear and be glad.

Pastor: Oh, magnify the Lord with me,

People: and let us exalt his name together!

Pastor: I sought the Lord, and he answered me

People: And delivered me from all my fears.

Pastor: Those who look to him are radiant,

People: And their faces shall never be ashamed.

Pastor: This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him

People: And saved him out of all his troubles.

Pastor: The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and
delivers them. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!

People: Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought!

Words: Joseph Gilmore, Music: William Bradbury, Public Domain, CCL# 11359088

1 He leadeth me: O blessed thought!
O words with heav'nly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be,
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Refrain:

He leadeth me, he leadeth me;
by his own hand he leadeth me:
his faithful foll'wer I would be,
for by his hand he leadeth me.

2 Sometimes 'mid scenes of deepest gloom,
sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,
by waters calm, o'er troubled sea,
still 'tis his hand that leadeth me. [Refrain]

3 Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine,
nor ever murmur nor repine;
content, whatever lot I see,
since 'tis my God that leadeth me. [Refrain]

4 And when my task on earth is done,
when, by thy grace, the vict'ry's won,
e'en death's cold wave I will not flee,
since God through Jordan leadeth me. [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 12:7-17, "In Wrath, Remember Mercy"

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

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

Public Domain. Words: Elisha Hoffman. Music: Anthony Showalter. CCL# 11359088

1 What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:

Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms. [Refrain]

3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms. [Refrain]

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

What is the Lord's Supper? The Lord's Supper is a covenant meal celebrating Christ's atoning work; as it is also a means of strengthening our faith as we look to him, and a foretaste of the future feast.

But those who take part with unrepentant hearts eat and drink judgment on themselves.

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 Lord's Supper

The Lord's Table is a table of remembrance, in which we remember that God's mercy to us comes at a high cost. Jesus' body was broken and His blood poured out on the cross as he bore the wrath and curse of the judgment of God that we deserved because of our sins.

The Lord's Table is also a table of fellowship. By his gracious work in saving us, he has adopted us into His Body, the Church. He has placed us in His Covenant Family to live life together. Christ is spiritually and really present with us in this meal to fellowship with us as we fellowship with one another.

The Lord's Table is a table of nourishment. Just as other meals and tables nourish our bodies, this meal and this table nourishes our souls as we feed by faith on God's goodness, His promises, and His presence with us.

The Lord's Table is a table of expectation. As often as we eat of the bread and drink of the cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. By faith, we lift up our heads as our redemption draws ever nearer.

But it is the Lord's Table. It is for those who are His, for those who have been baptized in the name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who have professed their faith before the Church, who are not under the lawful discipline of the Church and who are not unwilling to repent of their sins.

Psalm 133

“Christian Unity”

Bible Songs 280

Behold how good a thing it is
And how becoming well
Together such as brethren are
In unity to dwell. In unity to dwell

As precious ointment on the head
Which down the beard did flow.
Ev’n Aaron’s beard and to the skirts
Did of his garments go. Did of his garments go.

As Hermon’s dew, the dew that doth
On Zion’s hills descend;
For there the blessing God commands,
Life that shall never end. Life that shall never end.

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.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Our Men's Bible Study will meet this coming Wednesday, February 26, at 7:30 pm at Midtown Coffee in Russellville.
- Our Growing Kid's God's Way class will meet this Friday, February 28 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.
- 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

Our Elders

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