

FIRST REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Order of Worship
April 21, 2024

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

from Revelation 4 and 5

Minister: Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come! Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.

All: Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.

Minister: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!

All: To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!

*HYMNS

Shout, for the Blessed Jesus Reigns, No. 369

(Benjamin Beddone) TRURO

Stanzas 1, 2, 4, 5

Shout, for the blessed Jesus reigns;
Through distant lands his triumphs spread;
And sinners, freed from endless pains, own him their Savior and their Head.

He calls his chosen from afar,
They all at Zion's gates arrive;
Those who were dead in sin before by sovereign grace are made alive.

O may his holy church increase,
His Word and Spirit still prevail,
While angels celebrate his praise, and saints his growing glories hail.

Loud hallelujahs to the Lamb,
From all below, and all above!
In lofty songs exalt his name, in songs as lasting as his love.

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

(Horatius Bonar) KINGSFOLD

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest.
Lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn and sad.
I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold I freely give
The living water, thirsty one; stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream.
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am the dawning light.
Look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun,
And in that light of life I'll walk till trav'ling days are done.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION

Minister: Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

All: Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Minister: For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

All: For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

HYMN

Come to Jesus (Rest in Him)

(Jordan Kauflin, Matt Merker)

Are you weary, heavy laden? Come and lay your burdens down.
Jesus calls you, Jesus draws you; rest in him.
He is gentle, he is lowly, he delights to bring us peace;
Tender shepherd, mighty Savior, rest in him.

Chorus:

*How sure, his compassion for us,
Oh how deep is his love,
So come, come to Jesus, and rest in him.*

Are you hopeless, are you guilty, caught in shame for all your sin?
He pursues you, to forgive you; rest in him.
He has paid for every failure, mercy flows in endless streams;
Come and follow, freedom calls you: rest in him. *Chorus*

Are you waiting in your sorrows for this broken world to heal?
He is coming, soon returning; rest in him.
We will see him, we will know him, O what heights of grace revealed:
From his kindness, every promise then fulfilled;
Trust in Jesus, he will keep us to the end. *Chorus*

PUBLIC CONFESSION OF SIN

Minister: Let us confess our sins before our righteous and holy God.

All: Our gracious heavenly Father, we confess that we are a people who repeatedly sin against you in thought, word, and deed. We pray that you would forgive us and by your Holy Spirit, come and work repentance into our hearts. Enable us more and more to see Jesus, the friend of sinners, and to follow him, commune with him, and be conformed to him. Renew us in the grace and strength of your Holy Spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ your Son, our Savior. Amen.

PRIVATE CONFESSION OF SIN

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

INTERCESSORY AND OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow

(arr. Maynard)

Jim Lozenski, clarinet

Cross of Jesus, cross of sorrow, where the blood of Christ was shed.
 Perfect man on thee did suffer, perfect God on thee has bled!
 Here the King of all the ages, throned in light ere worlds could be,
 Robed in mortal flesh is dying, crucified by sin for me.

*SCRIPTURE READING

John 12:44-50

⁴⁴ And Jesus cried out and said, "Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. ⁴⁵ And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. ⁴⁶ I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. ⁴⁷ If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. ⁴⁸ The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. ⁴⁹ For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. ⁵⁰ And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me."

SERMON

One Final Plea

Rev. Brent Horan

SERMON NOTES

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

His Ways Shall Be Our Ways

(Brent Horan, based on Isaiah 55)

1. Come to the Wa - ter thirst - y ones. Come buy what can't be bought.
 2. "Why do you la - bor for the food that can - not sa - tis - fy?
 3. We will go out in his great joy, he'll lead us forth in peace.

— O Come to him the on - ly fount to fill your emp - ty hearts.
 — O Come to me and eat what's good come find your true de - light.
 — The mount - ains and the hills break forth and we will hear them sing:

— The Lord of Glo - ry and his ways are high a - bove the earth,
 — For as the rain and snow sent down to flow - er all the earth
 — "The God of Heav - en has ful - filled his prom - ise to the earth!"

— far high - er than the skies a - bove. Seek the Lord
 — my Word of Life will ne - ver fail." Seek the Lord
 — And we for - e - ver will re - joice! Seek the Lord

— while he is found Call up - on his name For - sake your e - vil way.
 — while he is found Call up on his name. For sake your e vil way.
 — while he is found Call up - on his name. For - sake your e - vil way.

— Turn to the Lord that he may pour his com - pass -
 — Turn to the Lord that he may pour my com pass -
 — Turn to the Lord that he may pour his com - pass -

— ion up - on you. He'll light your way. His ways are not our ways.
 — ion up - on you. "I'll light your way. Your ways shall be my ways."
 — ion up - on you. He'll light our way. His ways shall be our ways

THE LORD'S SUPPER

All those who trust in Christ alone for their salvation, are baptized, and are communicants in good standing of an evangelical church are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper together, feeding on the grace of God by faith. If you have not put your trust in Christ, please allow the elements to pass you by and take this opportunity to meditate on the meaning of the Gospel. **Note that the outer ring is wine and the inner ring is grape juice.**

A word to parents: Baptized children are invited to the table after they have made a profession of faith and been received as communing members by the Session of the church to which their parents belong.

COMMUNION HYMN

Great is Thy Faithfulness, No. 32

(Thomas Chisholm) FAITHFULNESS

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Chorus:

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see: all I have needed thy hand hath provided -
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Chorus*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Doxology

(Thomas Ken) OLD HUNDREDTH

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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*CONCLUDING HYMN

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus, No. 679

(Louisa Stead) TRUST IN JESUS

'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."

Chorus:

*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!*

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! *Chorus*

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. *Chorus*

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. *Chorus*

*BENEDICTION

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word. Amen.

POSTLUDE

EVENING SERVICE
Rev. Jim Weidenaar
Deuteronomy 18:9-22
5:30 pm

PRAYER

Jeff, Nate & Abby Stivason

Please continue to pray for Jeff and his children following the passing of wife and mom Tabatha this past week. Pray also for Grace RP church and the RPTS community as they grieve.

Arianna, daughter of Denise Tennant's friend Josephine

Arianna has fallen into a diabetic coma and has been unresponsive. Pray that she would respond to treatment and come out of the coma. Pray also that Josephine and her family would know God's comfort and peace.

Jim Lozenski

Please pray for Jim who will be having knee replacement surgery this coming Thursday, April 25th.

Pat Watt

Pat recently had successful hip replacement surgery but is now homebound with sciatica.

Henry Samek

Henry, new son of River & Skylar, has finally been able to go home following many months of hospitalization. He has gained weight and had breathing tubes removed. Continue to pray for the parents and Henry's continued healthy growth as they return to Pittsburgh.

Newly Married

Congratulations to Ryan and Eden McGuire who were married yesterday. Pray for God's blessings on them as they begin their married life.

Engaged Couples:

Olivia Green and Dan Hoffman, Jenna Shore and Brandon Guerin, Stephanie Zgela and Doug Finley

Expectant Mothers:

Reagan Bigenho, Cara Lagerquist, Sarah Rodgers

Military Personnel:

Chaplain Stephen Scott