

FIRST REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Order of Worship

April 7, 2024

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 29

Minister: Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.

All: The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over many waters. The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

Minister: The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire. The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness. The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth and strips the forests bare, and in his temple all cry, "Glory!"

All: The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever. May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!

*HYMNS

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name, No. 297

(Edward Perronet) DIADEM

Stanzas 1, 3, 5

All hail the power of Jesus' name!

Let angels prostrate fall, let angels prostrate fall;

Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him, crown him, crown him,

And crown him Lord of all!

Ye seed of Israel's chosen race,

Ye ransomed of the fall, ye ransomed of the fall,

Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him, crown him, crown him,

And crown him Lord of all!

Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe,

On this terrestrial ball, on this terrestrial ball,

To him all majesty ascribe, and crown him, crown him, crown him,

And crown him Lord of all!

Arise, My Soul, Arise

(Charles Wesley, Kevin Twit)

Arise, my soul, arise, shake off your guilty fears; The bleeding sacrifice, on my behalf appears;

Before the throne my Surety stands, before the throne my Surety stands,

My name is written on His hands.

Chorus:

Arise (arise), arise (arise), arise. Arise, my soul, arise.

Arise (arise), arise (arise), arise. Arise, my soul, arise.

Shake off your guilty fears and rise.

He ever lives above, for me to intercede; His all redeeming love, His precious blood, to plead;

His blood atoned for every race, His blood atoned for every race,

And sprinkles now the throne of grace. *Chorus*

My God is reconciled; His pardoning voice I hear; He owns me for His child; I can no longer fear.

With confidence I now draw nigh, with confidence I now draw nigh,

And "Father, Abba, Father," cry. *Chorus*

Arise, my soul, arise, no longer run to death; In Him I'm justified, through resurrection breath!

Alive in Him and dead to sin, alive to Him and dead to sin,

His New Creation now begin. *Chorus*

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Revelation 12:7-17

Minister: Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying,

All: “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!”

Minister: And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time. The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood.

All: But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth. Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

HYMN

Approach, My Soul, the Mercy Seat

(John Newton, Brent Horan)

Approach, my soul, the mercy seat, where Jesus answers prayer.
There humbly fall before His feet, for none can perish there.
Thy promise is my only plea, with this I venture nigh;
Thou callest burdened souls to Thee, and such, O Lord, am I.

Chorus:

*Be Thou my hope, be Thou my peace.
Be Thou my ev'ry grace, meet all my needs.
Let me find your joy and sweet relief, as I come to you, the mercy seat.
For I run to you, my mercy seat.*

Bowed down beneath a load of sin, by Satan sorely pressed,
By war without, and fears within, I come to Thee for rest.
Be Thou my shield and hiding place, that, sheltered near Thy side,
I may my fierce accuser face, and tell him Thou hast died. *Chorus*

O wondrous love! To bleed and die, to bear the cross and shame,
That guilty sinners such as I, might plead Thy gracious name! *Chorus*

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

All: O God from whom all blessings flow, we have sinned countless times just this week and have repeatedly been guilty of searching for blessings in this world apart from you. Instead of delighting in your Word, too often, we have chosen instead to be counseled by the godless wisdom of our culture. O God, our hearts can be wild and unruly, and we confess the perversity that still remains in us. Father, we thank you for Jesus. He gave up all the blessings of heaven to become sin for us, choosing to be cursed so that we would be richly blessed forever. May that truth from your Word captivate and delight us afresh as we find ourselves constantly in need of your mercy and forgiveness. May we bear the fruit of joy and growing obedience as we meditate on the richness of your blessings to us in Christ, in whom fearful sinners are dearly loved and crowned with a glory earned for us by our Savior. Amen.

PRIVATE CONFESSION OF SIN

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Galatians 3:13-14; 2 Corinthians 5:21

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”—so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

INTERCESSORY AND OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

*SCRIPTURE READING

John 12:27-33

27 “Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” 29 The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” 30 Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not mine. 31 Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. 32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” 33 He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

SERMON

The Prelude to Gethsemane

Rev. Brent Horan

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

A Mighty Fortress is Our God, No. 92

(Martin Luther) EIN FESTE BURG

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe; his craft and pow'r are great;
And armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
Were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he, Lord Sabaoth his name,
From age to age the same, and he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him; his rage we can endure,
For lo! his doom is sure; one little word shall fell him.

That Word above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also; the body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still; his kingdom is forever.

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

What Wondrous Love is This, No, 261

(American Folk Hymn) WONDROUS LOVE

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM,
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
While millions join the theme, I will sing!

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And through eternity I'll sing on!

Doxology

(Thomas Ken) OLD HUNDREDETH

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

Christ The True and Better

(Keith & Kristyn Getty, Matt Boswell, Matt Papa)

Christ the true and better Adam; Son of God and Son of Man.
Who, when tempted in the garden, never yielded, never sinned.
He, who makes the many righteous brings us back to life again.
Dying, He reversed the curse; then rising crushed the serpent's head.

Christ the true and better Isaac; humble son of sacrifice,
Who would climb the fearful mountain, there to offer up his life.
Laid with faith upon the altar, Father's joy and only Son;
There salvation was provided, oh what full and boundless love.

Chorus:

Amen, amen, from beginning to end.

Christ, the story, His the glory;

Alleluia, amen.

Christ the true and better Moses; called to lead a people home.
Standing bold to earthly powers, God's great glory to be known.
With his arms stretched wide to heaven, see the waters part in two.
See the veil is torn forever, cleansed with blood we pass now through. *Chorus*

Christ the true and better David; lowly shepherd, mighty King.
He, the champion in the battle, where O death is now thy sting?
In our place He bled and conquered; crown Him Lord of majesty.
His shall be the throne forever. We shall e'er His people be. *Chorus*

*BENEDICTION

Romans 16:25-27

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

POSTLUDE

EVENING SERVICE

Rev. Jim Weidenaar

Revelation 12:7-17

5:30 pm

PRAYER

Jim & Helen Colwell

We praise God for Jim's corrected diagnosis of no bladder cancer. Helen will have knee surgery sometime in May.

Engaged Couples:

Olivia Green and Dan Hoffman, Jenna Shore and Brandon Guerin, Eden Smith and Ryan McGuire, Stephanie Zgela and Doug Finley

Expectant Mothers:

Reagan Bigenho, Cara Lagerquist, Sarah Rodgers

Military Personnel:

Chaplain Stephen Scott

SERMON NOTES