

Mercy

Presbyterian Church

ORDER OF WORSHIP
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2020

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 56:9-13

Leader: This I know, that God is for me.

People: **In God, whose word I praise, in the Lord, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me?**

Leader: I must perform my vows to you, O God; I will render thank offerings to you.

People: **For you have delivered my soul from death, yes, my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of life.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

HYMN OF PRAISE

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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

4. 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!

*Words and Music by Martin Luther
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NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 John 4:9-10, 13-18

⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷ By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

HYMN OF CONFESSION

Abide With Me

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, abide with me.

2. Thou on my head, in early youth didst smile;
And, though rebellious, and perverse meanwhile,
Thou hast not left me, oft as I left Thee,
On to the close Lord, abide with me.

3. I need Thy presence every passing hour.
What but Thy grace, can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, abide with me.

*Authors: Words by Henry Lyte; Music by Justin Smith
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CONFESSION OF SIN

Heavenly Father, what a gracious God you are. There is no other god like you - so eager to redeem, patient, and full of unfailing love. Claiming your grace to us in Christ, we confess binging on fear and worry rather than feasting on grace and feeding on faith. We confess being quicker to judge and label others, than to see and grieve our own sin. We confess caring more about our image and reputation than your name and glory. As you have forgiven us and declared us righteous in Christ, so make us more and more like Jesus. Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

1 John 2:1-2

¹ My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ² He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN OF PREPARATION

Abide With Me (Cont.)

4. I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless
Ills have no weight, tears lose their bitterness
Where is thy sting death? Where grave thy victory?
I triumph still, abide with me.

5. Hold Thou Thy cross, before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, Lord, abide with me.
In life, in death, Lord, abide with me.

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SCRIPTURE READING

Nehemiah 6:1-14, 17-19

¹ Now when Sanballat and Tobiah and Geshem the Arab and the rest of our enemies heard that I had built the wall and that there was no breach left in it (although up to that time I had not set up the doors in the gates), ² Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, "Come and let us meet together at Hakkephirim in the plain of Ono." But they intended to do me harm. ³ And I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?" ⁴ And they sent to me four times in this way, and I answered them in the same manner. ⁵ In the same way Sanballat for the fifth time sent his servant to me with an open letter in his hand. ⁶ In it was written, "It is reported among the nations, and Geshem also says it, that you and the Jews intend to rebel; that is why you are building the wall. And according to these reports you wish to become their king. ⁷ And you have also set up prophets to proclaim concerning you in Jerusalem, 'There is a king in Judah.' And now the king will hear of these reports. So now come and let us take counsel together." ⁸ Then I sent to him, saying, "No such things as you say have been done, for you are inventing them out of your own mind." ⁹ For they all wanted to frighten us, thinking, "Their hands will drop from the work, and it will not be done." But now, O God, strengthen my hands.

¹⁰ Now when I went into the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah, son of Mehetabel, who was confined to his home, he said, "Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple. Let us close the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you. They are coming to kill you by night." ¹¹ But I said, "Should such a man as I run away? And what man such as I could go into the temple and live? I will not go in." ¹² And I understood and saw that God had not sent him, but he had pronounced the prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him. ¹³ For this purpose he was hired, that I should be afraid and act in this way and sin, and so they could give me a bad name in order to taunt me. ¹⁴ Remember Tobiah and Sanballat, O my God, according to these things that they did, and also the prophetess Noadiah and the rest of the prophets who wanted to make me afraid.

¹⁷ Moreover, in those days the nobles of Judah sent many letters to Tobiah, and Tobiah's letters came to them. ¹⁸ For many in Judah were bound by oath to him, because he was the son-in-law of Shecaniah the son of Arah: and his son Jehohanan had taken the daughter of Meshullam the son of Berechiah as his wife. ¹⁹ Also they spoke of his good deeds in my presence and reported my words to him. And Tobiah sent letters to make me afraid.

SERMON

“Facing Fear’s Pursuit... Finding God’s Support”

- Rev. Keith Peck

HYMN OF RESPONSE

Cornerstone

1. My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly trust in Jesus name.

Chorus

Christ alone, Cornerstone;
Weak made strong in the Savior's love;
Through the storm He is Lord,
Lord of all.

2. When darkness seems to hide His face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.
Chorus

3. When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found;
Dressed in His righteousness, alone,
Faultless, to stand before the throne.

Chorus

Authors: Mote, Liljero, Myrin, Morgan, Bradbury
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BENEDICTION

DISMISSAL

Minister: Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love our Lord and
Savior, Jesus Christ.

People: THANKS BE TO GOD!

COLLECTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

POSTLUDE

MERCY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CCLI LICENSE #11042946

Bryan Rigg, Pastor • 434-907-0711 (m) • bryan@mercypres.org
114 Tradewynd Drive, Lynchburg, VA 24502 • Website: www.mercypres.org