

Mercy

Presbyterian Church

ORDER OF WORSHIP SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2021

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 34:1-3

Leader: I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

People: **My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.**

Leader: Oh, magnify the LORD with me!

People: **And let us exalt his name together!**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

HYMN OF PRAISE O For a Thousand Tongues

1. O, for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace.

2. My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honors of Thy name.

3. "Jesus," the name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life and health and peace ...

4. He breaks the power of reigning sin,
He sets the pris'ner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean,
His blood availed for me.

5. He speaks and, list'ning to his voice,
New life the dead receive;
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice;
The humble poor believe.

6. Hear Him, ye deaf, His praise, ye dumb,
Your loosened tongues employ;
Ye blind, behold your Savior come,
And leap ye lame for joy!

*Music: Carl Glaser; Lyrics: Charles Wesley;
© Public Domain*

CONFESSION OF SIN

Psalm 51:1-3, 10-12

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.

People: **According to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.**

Leader: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

People: **For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.**

Leader: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

People: **Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Romans 4:7-8

Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

There is a Fountain Filled with Blood

1. There is a fountain filled with blood,
Drawn from Immanuel's veins;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood
Lose all their guilty stains,
Lose all their guilty stains,
Lose all their guilty stains;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood
Lose all their guilty stains.

2. The dying thief rejoiced to see
That fountain in his day;
And there may I, though vile as he,
Wash all my sins away;
Wash all my sins away,
Wash all my sins away;
And there may I, though vile as he,
Wash all my sins away.

3. Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood
Shall never lose its power
Till all the ransomed church of God
Be saved to sin no more;
Be saved to sin no more,
Be saved to sin no more;
Till all the ransomed church of God
Be saved to sin no more.

4. E'er since by faith I saw the stream
Thy flowing wounds supply,
Redeeming love has been my theme
And shall be till I die;
And shall be till I die;
And shall be till I die;
Redeeming love has been my theme
and shall be till I die.

5. When this poor lisping, stamm'ring tongue
Lies silent in the grave,
Then in a nobler, sweeter song
I'll sing Thy pow'r to save;
I'll sing Thy pow'r to save,
I'll sing Thy pow'r to save;
Then in a nobler, sweeter song
I'll sing Thy pow'r to save.

Authors: Lowell Mason & William Cowper
© Public Domain

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 3:1-22

¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall become straight,
and the rough places shall become level ways,

⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

⁷ He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ⁹ Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” ¹¹ And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” ¹² Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” ¹³ And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.” ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.”

¹⁵ As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶ John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸ So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. ¹⁹ But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reprovved by him for Herodias, his brother's wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, ²⁰ added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

SERMON

“Good News? Sounds Like Bad News!”

- Rev. Bryan Rigg

SONG OF RESPONSE

Made Alive

1. I once was dead in sin, alone and hopeless.
A child of wrath, I walked condemned in darkness.
But Your mercy brought new life, and in your love and kindness,
Raised me up with Christ and made me righteous.

Chorus

You have bought me back with the riches of
Your amazing grace and relentless love.
I'm made alive forever with you – life forever.
By your grace I'm saved.

2. Lord you are the light, that broke the darkness.
You satisfy my soul, when I am heartless.
If ever I forget my true identity,
Show me who I am and help me to believe.

Chorus

Bridge

My sin has been erased.
I'll never be the same.
My sin has been erased.
I'll never be the same.

Chorus 2x

*Zach Bolen and Brian Eichelberger
© 2013 Thirsty Moon River Publishing and It's All About Jesus Music*

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