

Mercy

Presbyterian Church

ORDER OF WORSHIP SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2023

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 40:3-5

Leader: A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord.

People: Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Leader: Every valley shall be lifted up.

People: And every mountain and hill be made low.

Leader: The uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

People: And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.

Leader: For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

HYMNS OF PRAISE

Let Your Kingdom Come

1. Your glorious cause, O God, engages our hearts.
May Jesus Christ be known wherever we are.
We ask not for ourselves, but for Your renown.
The cross has saved us, so we pray,
"Your kingdom come."

Chorus

Let Your kingdom come, let Your will be done!
So that everyone might know Your Name.
Let Your song be heard everywhere on earth,
'Til Your sovereign work on earth is done.

Let Your kingdom come!

2. Give us Your strength, O God, and courage to speak.
Perform Your wondrous deeds through those who are weak.
Lord, use us as You want, whatever the test.
By grace, we'll preach Your Gospel till our dying breath.
Chorus (x2)

Let Your kingdom come! (x3)

*Words and music by Bob Kauflin
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Rejoice the Lord is King

1. Rejoice, the Lord is King!
Your Lord and King adore.
Rejoice, give thanks and sing
And triumph evermore!

Refrain

Lift up your heart;
Lift up your voice,
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

2. Jesus the Savior reigns,
The God of truth and love;
When He had purged our stains
He took His seat above.
Refrain

3. His kingdom cannot fail,
He rules o'er earth and heav'n;
The keys of death and hell
Are to our Jesus giv'n.
Refrain

4. He sits at God's right hand,
till all His foes submit.
And bow to his command
and fall beneath his feet.
Refrain

5. Rejoice in glorious hope!
Our Lord, the Judge, shall come
And take His servants up
To their eternal home!
Refrain 2X

*Authors: Words by Charles Wesley; Music
by John Darwall
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NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 20:28-38

²⁸ Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. ²⁹ I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰ and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹ Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. ³² And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³ I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. ³⁴ You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. ³⁵ In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

³⁶ And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. ³⁷ And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, ³⁸ being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Almighty God, our lack of repentance reveals our weak faith. You call us to count ourselves dead to sin, because we have been made alive together in Christ Jesus. Yet we continue in it still, reviving sin's presence in our thoughts, words, and deeds. Though we know that sin leads only to death, we do not consider it our enemy, but hope it will bring us happiness. You tell us that sin enslaves, but through it we foolishly believe there is freedom. How easily we are deceived! Teach us the grace of repentance unto life, that we would turn to you for mercy and endeavor after the good works for which you have created us anew in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Colossians 1:13-14

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

Grace Alone

1. I was an orphan, lost at the fall, running away when I'd hear you call,
But Father, you worked your will.
I had no righteousness of my own; I had no right to draw near your throne,
But Father, you loved me still.

Chorus 1

And in love, before you laid the world's foundation
You predestined to adopt me as your own.
You have raised me up so high above my station.
I'm a child of God by grace, and grace alone.

2. You left your home to seek out the lost; You knew the great and terrible cost,
But Jesus, your face was set.
I worked my fingers down to the bone; Nothing I did could ever atone,
But Jesus, you paid my debt.

Chorus 2

By your blood I have redemption and salvation.
Lord, you died that I might reap what you have sown,
And you rose that I might be a new creation.
I am born again by grace, and grace alone.

Bridge

I was darkness all of my life; I never knew the day from the night,
But Spirit, you made me see.
I swore I knew the way on my own; Head full of rocks, a heart made of stone,
But Spirit, you moved in me.

Chorus 3

At your touch my sleeping spirit was awakened.
On my darkened heart the light of Christ has shone.
Called into a kingdom that cannot be shaken
Heaven's citizen by grace, and grace alone.

Ending

So I'll stand in faith by grace, and grace alone.
I will run the race by grace, and grace alone.
I will slay my sin by grace, and grace alone.
I will reach the end by grace, and grace alone.

Dustin Kensrue

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PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

SCRIPTURE READING

Revelation 2:1-11

¹“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: ‘The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands.

²“I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. ³I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. ⁴But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. ⁵Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. ⁶Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. ⁷He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.’

⁸“And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: ‘The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life.

⁹“I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. ¹¹He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.’

SERMON “Letters to the Church: Parts 1 and 2” - Rev. Bryan Rigg

COLLECTION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

He Will Hold Me Fast

1. When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;
For my love is often cold, He must hold me fast.

Chorus

He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.

2. Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in His holy sight, He will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost, His promises shall last;
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast.
Chorus

3. For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied, He will hold me fast.
Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast
‘Till our faith is turned to sight, when He comes at last!
Chorus 2X

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HYMN OF RESPONSE

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!
His kingdom is forever!
His kingdom is forever!

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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!**

POSTLUDE

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