

Mercy

Presbyterian Church

ORDER OF WORSHIP SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 2023

CALL TO WORSHIP

Colossians 2:6

Leader: Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him.

People: **Rooted and built up in him and established in the faith.**

Leader: Just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

HYMN OF PRAISE

How Firm a Foundation

1. How firm a foundation ye saints of the Lord
Is laid for your faith in His excellent word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said,
To you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled?
2. "Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed,
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand."
3. "When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
For I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
And sanctify to you your deepest distress."
4. "When through fiery trials your pathways shall lie,
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply;
The flames shall not hurt thee; I only design
Your dross to consume, and your gold to refine."
5. The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake.
That soul though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake.

Authors: Anne Steele, George Keith, John Rippon, and Joseph Funk © Public Domain

CONFESSION OF SIN

Gracious Lord, you call us to take up our cross and follow you. Yet we remain mired in well-worn paths, often wandering, returning to ways more familiar, more comfortable, which take us nowhere. You promise to never leave or forsake us, but we confess that we fear what we'll face if we heed your call and follow. You tell us that you go to prepare a place for us, and yet we grow impatient and so seek a place for ourselves. Grant us greater courage, that we might lay aside every weight, and sin that clings so closely, that we might run with endurance the race set before us, looking to you, Lord Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.

²⁸ Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” ²⁹ Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”

HYMN OF ASSURANCE**Jesus I My Cross Have Taken**

1. Jesus, I my cross have taken,
All to leave and follow Thee.
Destitute, despised, forsaken,
Thou from hence my all shall be.
Perish every fond ambition,
All I've sought or hoped or known.
Yet how rich is my condition!
God and heaven are still my own.

2. Let the world despise and leave me,
They have left my Savior, too.
Human hearts and looks deceive me;
Thou art not, like them, untrue.
O while Thou dost smile upon me,
God of wisdom, love, and might,
Foes may hate and friends disown me,
Show Thy face and all is bright.

3. Man may trouble and distress me,
'Twill but drive me to Thy breast.
Life with trials hard may press me;
Heaven will bring me sweeter rest.
Oh, 'tis not in grief to harm me
While Thy love is left to me;
Oh, 'twere not in joy to charm me,
Were that joy unmixed with Thee.

4. Go, then, earthly fame and treasure,
Come disaster, scorn and pain
In Thy service, pain is pleasure,
With Thy favor, loss is gain
I have called Thee Abba Father,
I have stayed my heart on Thee
Storms may howl, and clouds may gather;
All must work for good to me.

5. Soul, then know thy full salvation;
Rise o'er sin and fear and care.
Joy to find in every station,
Something still to do or bear.
Think what Spirit dwells within thee,
Think what Father's smiles are thine,
Think that Jesus died to win thee,
Child of heav'n, canst thou repine.

6. Haste thee on from grace to glory,
Armed by faith, and winged by prayer.
Heav'n's eternal days before thee,
God's own hand shall guide us there.
Soon shall close thy earthly mission,
Soon shall pass thy pilgrim days,
Hope shall change to glad fruition,
Faith to sight, and prayer to praise.

Authors: Words by Henry Lyte; Music by Mozart (alt. by Bill Moore) © 2001 Bill Moore Music.

CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Gabrielle Joy Pfeiffer

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
from age to age. Amen, amen.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

¹Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. ²And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, ³and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. ⁴It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb, ⁵and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.

⁶Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. ⁷And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."

⁸Another angel, a second, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality."

⁹And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. ¹¹And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name."

¹²Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.

¹³And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"

¹⁴Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and seated on the cloud one like a son of man, with a golden crown on his head, and a sharp sickle in his hand. ¹⁵And another angel came out of the temple, calling with a loud voice to him who sat on the cloud, "Put in your sickle, and reap, for the hour to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is fully ripe." ¹⁶So he who sat on the cloud swung his sickle across the earth, and the earth was reaped.

¹⁷Then another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. ¹⁸And another angel came out from the altar, the angel who has authority over the fire, and he called with a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle, "Put in your sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, for its grapes are ripe." ¹⁹So the angel swung his sickle across the earth and gathered the grape harvest of the earth and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. ²⁰And the winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood flowed from the winepress, as high as a horse's bridle, for 1,600 stadia.

SERMON

"The Lamb and His People"

- Rev. Tony Myers

COLLECTION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY HYMN

The Church's One Foundation

1. The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ, her Lord.
She is His new creation,
By water and the Word.
From heav'n He came and sought her
To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her
And for her life, He died.

2. Elect from ev'ry nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation,
One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy Name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food;
And to one hope she presses
With ev'ry grace endued.

3. Mid toil and tribulation,
And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation
Of peace forevermore.
Till with the vision glorious,
Her longing eyes are blessed;
And the great church victorious
Shall be the church at rest.

4. Yet, she on earth hath union
With God the Three in One;
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy,
Lord, give us grace that we,
Like them, the meek and lowly,
On high may dwell with Thee.

O happy ones and holy,
Lord, give us grace that we,
Like them, the meek and lowly,
On high may dwell with Thee.

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THE ORDINATION & INSTALLATION OF ELDERS

John East

Wynn Shackelford

THE ORDINATION & INSTALLATION OF DEACONS

Austin Olson

Ryan Roberts

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

Oh Give Thanks

1. We were wand'ring in the desert with our souls so starved and weak
We were hungry for a homeland we did not know how to seek
But we lifted up our voices to the only One who hears
And the God of mercy came and brought us near.

2. We were locked out of the garden, and our backs bent down with pain.
In the shadow of death's darkness we were slaves to sin and blame.
And we cried out in our labor to the only one who hears
And the God of mercy wiped away our tears.

Chorus

Oh give thanks to the LORD for His love endures for-ever!
We were wandering and lost, and our Father brought us home
To a safe dwelling place, to a feast of joy and laughter.
Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good!

3. We were fools in our rebellion, with our hunger strike of pride
We were sick and growing closer to the death we should have died
Then He heard of our condition, and He called us by our names
And the God of glory took a-way our shame!
Chorus

4. We were far out on the ocean, making wealth and chasing dreams
But the waves of great destruction brought us tremb'ling to our knees
And we cried like drunken sailors to the only one who hears
And the God of comfort took away our tears.
Chorus 2X
Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good!

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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

MERCY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CCLI LICENSE #11042946

Bryan Rigg, Pastor • 434-907-0711 (m) • bryan@mercypres.org
101 D Northwynd Circle, Lynchburg, VA 24502 • Website: www.mercypres.org