

Mercy

Presbyterian Church

ORDER OF WORSHIP SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 2023

CALL TO WORSHIP

1 Corinthians 15:1-2, 58

Leader: Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

People: **Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

HYMN OF INVOCATION

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

1. Christ the Lord is ris'n today, Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say; Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high: Alleluia!
Sing ye heavens and earth reply. Alleluia!
2. Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Alleluia!
Christ has burst the gates of hell: Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids His rise: Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!
3. Lives again our glorious King; Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once he died, our souls to save: Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!
4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Foll'wing our exalted Head; Alleluia!
Made like Him, like Him we rise: Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

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READING FROM THE EPISTLES

1 Corinthians 15:3-28

³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

¹²Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. ¹⁵We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²²For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "all things are put in subjection," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. ²⁸When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

CONFESSION OF SIN

from the Valley of Vision

Lord, high and holy, meek and lowly, You have brought me to the valley of vision, where I live in the depths but see You in the heights; hemmed in by mountains of sin I behold Your glory. Let me learn by paradox that the way down is the way up, that to be low is to be high, that the broken heart is the healed heart, that the contrite spirit is the rejoicing spirit, that the repenting soul is the victorious soul, that to have nothing is to possess all, that to bear the cross is to wear the crown, that to give is to receive, that the valley is the place of vision. Lord, in the daytime stars can be seen from deepest wells, and the deeper the wells the brighter Your stars shine; let me find Your light in my darkness, Your life in my death, Your joy in my sorrow, Your grace in my sin, Your riches in my poverty, Your glory in my valley.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

1 Corinthians 15:54-57

Leader: Death is swallowed up in victory.

People: **O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?**

Leader: The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

People: **But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

SONG OF ASSURANCE

1. Let no one caught in sin remain
Inside the lie of inward shame,
But fix our eyes upon the cross
And run to Him, who showed great love
And bled for us;
Freely You bled for us.

Chorus

Christ is risen from the dead,
Trampling over death by death;
Come awake, come awake,
Come and rise up from the grave!
Christ is risen from the dead,
We are one with Him again;
Come awake, come awake,
Come and rise up from the grave!

2. Beneath the weight of all our sin,
You bowed to none but heaven's will;
No scheme of hell, no scoffer's crown,
No burden great can hold You down.
In strength You reign,
Forever let Your church proclaim:
Chorus

Christ is Risen

Bridge

O death, where is your sting?
O hell, where is your victory?
O church, come stand in the light.
The glory of God has defeated the night.
O death, where is your sting?
O hell, where is your victory?
O church, come stand in the light.
Our God is not dead;
He's alive! He's alive!
Chorus 2X

*Authors: Matt Maher / Mia Fieldes
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WOMEN'S MINISTRY MINUTE

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

¹ And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. ² And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority. ³ One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast. ⁴ And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?"

⁵ And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. ⁶ It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. ⁷ Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, ⁸ and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain. ⁹ If anyone has an ear, let him hear:

¹⁰ If anyone is to be taken captive,
to captivity he goes;
if anyone is to be slain with the sword,
with the sword must he be slain.

Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.

¹¹ Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon. ¹² It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound was healed. ¹³ It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people, ¹⁴ and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast it deceives those who dwell on earth, telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived. ¹⁵ And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain. ¹⁶ Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, ¹⁷ so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name. ¹⁸ This calls for wisdom: let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666.

SERMON **"The Dragon, the Beast, and the Lamb"**
 - Rev. Bryan Rigg

COLLECTION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY SONG

Behold Our God

1. Who has held the oceans in His hands?
Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at His voice.
All creation rises to rejoice:

Chorus

Behold our God, seated on His throne! Come let us adore Him.
Behold our King, nothing can compare! Come let us adore Him.

2. Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of His words?
Who can teach the One who knows all things?
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds?
Chorus

3. Who has felt the nails upon His hands,
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man?
God eternal humbled to the grave,
Jesus Savior risen now to reign!
Chorus

(Bridge)

You will reign forever! (Let Your glory fill the earth!) (4X)

Chorus 2X

*Authors: Jonathan Baird / Meghan Baird / Ryan Baird / Stephen Altrogge
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SONG OF RESPONSE

Jesus is Alive

1. There is now a hope that lasts beyond our days,
For the One that once was buried lives again.
Now the tomb is bare and empty, and the stone is rolled away.
Praise the Risen One who overcame the grave!

2. All you broken hearted, all you worn and weak,
Come find living water, everlasting streams.
To the wandering spirit, lost and searching, wanting something more,
Find the Risen King who overcomes the world!

Chorus

Let there be dancing in the darkness,
And let our song break through the night.
Lift your voice and sing that Christ is King,
For Jesus is Alive!

3. No more condemnation, no more doubt and fear,
For our sin and shame, they have no power here.
In His resurrection, perfect love has set the captives free.
Praise the Risen King who stands in victory!
Chorus

Bridge (3x)

Hallelujah, death is undone;
Hallelujah, Jesus has won;
Hallelujah, we overcome;
Oh in Jesus, oh in Jesus!

Chorus (2x)

*Michael Farren, Tiarne Tranter, Jaywan Maxwell, Jesse Reeves, Niki Shepherd, James Tealy
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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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