

MERCY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ORDER OF WORSHIP

SUNDAY • OCTOBER 18, 2015 • 10:30 AM

CALL TO WORSHIP Isaiah 60:1-3

Minister: *Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.*

Congregation: ***For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples.***

Minister: *But the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.*

Congregation: ***And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.***

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

SONG OF PRAISE Psalm 27 - The Lord is My Light

1. *The Lord is my light and my salvation
The Lord is my light and my salvation
The Lord is my light and my salvation
Whom shall I fear?*

Chorus:
*Whom shall I fear, whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the strength of my life,
Whom shall I fear?*

2. *In the time of trouble, he shall hide me, oh
In the time of trouble, he shall hide me
In the time of trouble, he shall hide me
Whom shall I fear?*

Chorus

3. *Wait on the Lord and be of good courage, oh
Wait on the Lord and be of good courage
Wait on the Lord and be of good courage,
He shall strengthen thy heart.*

Chorus

*The Lord is the strength
The Lord is the strength
The Lord is the strength of my days
Whom shall I fear?*

Author: Lillian Bouknight
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OLD TESTAMENT READING Daniel 12:2-3, 13

² *And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.* ³ *And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.*

¹³ *But go your way till the end. And you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days.*

HYMN OF HOPE Beams of Heaven

1. *Beams of heaven as I go,
Through the wilderness below,
Guide my feet in peaceful ways,
Turn my midnights into days.
When in the darkness I would grope,
Faith always sees a star of hope,
And soon from all life's grief and danger
I shall be free someday.
I shall be free someday, I'll be free,*

2. *Often times my sky is clear,
Joy abounds without a tear;
Though a day so bright begun,
Clouds may hide tomorrow's sun.
There'll be a day that's always bright,
A day that never yields tonight,
And in its light the streets of glory
I shall behold someday.
I shall behold someday, I'll behold,*

3. *Harder yet may be the fight;
Right may often yield to might;
Wickedness a while may reign;
Satan's cause may seem to gain.
But there's a God that rules above
With hand of power and heart of love;
And if I'm right, he'll fight my battle,
I shall have peace someday.
I shall have peace someday, I'll have peace.*

4. *Burdens now may crush me down,
Disappointments all around;
Troubles speak in mournful sigh,
Sorrow through a tear-stained eye.
There is a world where pleasure reigns,
No mourning soul shall roam its plains,
And in that land of peace and glory
I shall be home someday.
I shall be home someday.
I shall be home someday,
I shall be home someday, I'll be home.*

Authors: Words - Charles Albert Tinley (ca 1906);
Music - Will Wingate (2012)

CONFESSION OF SIN Psalm 38:1-4, 15, 18, 21-22

Leader: *O LORD, rebuke me not in your anger, nor discipline me in your wrath. For your arrows have sunk into me, and your hand has come down on me.*

Congregation: ***There is no soundness in my flesh because of your indignation; there is no health in my bones because of my sin.***

Leader: *For my iniquities have gone over my head; like a heavy burden, they are too heavy for me. But for you, O LORD, do I wait; it is you, O Lord my God, who will answer.*

Congregation: ***I confess my iniquity; I am sorry for my sin.***

Leader: *Do not forsake me, O LORD! O my God, be not far from me!*

Congregation: ***Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation!***

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

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 Sabbaoth His name,
from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.*

A Mighty Fortress

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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PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

COLLECTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERING HYMN There is A Hope

*(Children ages 4-5 are dismissed for "Equip for Worship" during the last stanza.
Visitors' children are welcome.)*

1. *There is a hope that burns within my heart,
That gives me strength for ev'ry passing day;
A glimpse of glory now revealed in meager part, yet drives all doubt away.
I stand in Christ with sins forgiv'n and Christ in me the hope of heav'n.
My highest calling, and my deepest joy, to make His will my home*

2. *There is a hope that lifts my weary head;
A consolation, strong against despair
That when the world has plunged me in its deepest pit,
I find the Savior there.
Through present sufferings, future's fear, He whispers courage in my ear;
For I am safe in everlasting arms, and they will lead me home.*

3. *There is a hope that stands the test of time,
That lifts my eyes beyond the beck'ning grave
To see the matchless beauty of a day divine, when I behold His face.
When sufferings cease, and sorrows die, and ev'ry longing satisfied;
Then joy unspeakable will flood my soul, for I am truly home.*

Authors: Mark Edwards / Stuart Townend © 2007 Thankyou Music

SCRIPTURE READING 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

¹ Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ² For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴ But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵ For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶ So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹ For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

SERMON **"Lay Hold of This Hope"**
- Rev. Rob Edwards

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH
Westminster Shorter Catechism, #37 & 38

Q #37: What benefits do believers receive from Christ at death?

A: The souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness, and do immediately pass into glory; and their bodies, being still united in Christ, do rest in their graves, till the resurrection.

Q #38: What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?

A: At the resurrection, believers, being raised up in glory, shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the day of judgment, and made perfectly blessed in the full enjoying of God to all eternity.

HYMN OF RESPONSE **Lo, He Comes**

*1. Lo, he comes! with clouds descending, once for our salvation slain
Thousand thousand saints attending, swell the triumph of his train
Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ the Lord returns to reign
Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ the Lord returns to reign*

*2. Every eye shall now behold him, robed in dreadful majesty
Those who set at naught and sold him, pierced and nailed him to the tree
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, shall the true Messiah see
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, shall the true Messiah see*

*Chorus
Alleluia! Christ shall reign! Alleluia! Risen King!
Alleluia! Christ shall reign! Alleluia! Risen King!*

*3. Those dear tokens of his passion, still his dazzling body bears
Source of endless exultation, to his ransomed worshippers
With what rapture, with what rapture, gaze we on those glorious scars
With what rapture, with what rapture, gaze we on those glorious scars*

*4. Yea, amen! let all adore thee, high on thine eternal throne
Savior, take the power and glory, claim the kingdom for thine own
Alleluia! Alleluia! Thou shalt reign and thou alone
Alleluia! Alleluia! Thou shalt reign and thou alone
Chorus*

*Authors: Words – Charles Wesley, 1758;
Music – Will Wingate, Lynchburg RUF 2009*

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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Mercy
Presbyterian Church

*"Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
Once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy."
I Peter 2:10*

Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)