

**MERCY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ORDER OF WORSHIP**

SUNDAY • DECEMBER 4, 2016 • 10:30 AM

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 67:3-5, 7

Pastor: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!

People: *Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the people with equity and guide the nations of the earth.*

Pastor: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!

People: *Let all the ends of the earth fear him!*

HYMN OF PRAISE Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

*1. Come Thou long-expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free
From our fears and sins release us
Let us find our rest in Thee
Israel's strength and consolation
Hope of all the saints Thou art
Dear desire of every nation
Joy of every longing heart*

*3. Come to earth to taste our sadness
He whose glories knew no end
By His life He brings us gladness
Our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend
Leaving riches without number
Born within a cattle stall
This the everlasting wonder
Christ was born the Lord of all*

*2. Joy to those who long to see thee
Dayspring from on high appear
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse
Of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing
News, Glad tidings of a birth
"Go to him, your praises bringing
Christ the Lord has come to earth."*

*4. Born Thy people to deliver
Born a child and yet a King
Born to reign in us forever
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone
By Thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne*

PRAYER OF INVOCATION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READING Acts 17:24-31

²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶ And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷ that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, ²⁸ for "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we are indeed his offspring."

²⁹ Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰ The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

HYMN OF AFFIRMATION Who is This, So Weak and Helpless

(Children ages 4-5 are dismissed for a children's Bible lesson during the last stanza. Visitor's children are welcome.)

*1. Who is this so weak and helpless
Child of lowly Hebrew maid
Rudely in a stable shelter
Coldly in a manger laid?
'Tis the Lord of all creation
Who this wondrous path has trod
He is Lord from everlasting
And to everlasting God*

*2. Who is this a Man of Sorrows
Walking sadly life's hard way
Homeless, weary, sighing, weeping
Over sin and Satan's sway?
'Tis our God, our glorious Savior
Who above the starry sky
Is for us a place preparing
Where no tear can dim the eye*

*3. Who is this? Behold Him shedding
Drops of blood upon the ground
Who is this, despised, rejected,
Mocked, insulted, beaten, bound?
'Tis our God, who gifts and graces
On His church is pouring down
Who shall smite in holy vengeance
All His foes beneath His throne*

*4. Who is this that hangs there dying
While the rude world scoffs and scorns
Numbered with the malefactors
Torn with nails and crowned with thorns?
'Tis our God who lives forever
'Mid the shining ones on high
In the glorious golden city
Reigning everlastingly
'Tis our God who lives forever
'Mid the shining ones on high
In the glorious golden city
Reigning everlastingly*

*Authors: Christopher Miner and William Walsham How
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SCRIPTURE READING Jude 5-16

⁵ Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. ⁶ And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day— ⁷ just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.

⁸ Yet in like manner these people also, relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones. ⁹ But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you." ¹⁰ But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively. ¹¹ Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and perished in Korah's rebellion. ¹² These are hidden reefs at your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, shepherds feeding themselves; waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted; ¹³ wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever.

¹⁴ It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones, ¹⁵ to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him." ¹⁶ These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires; they are loud-mouthed boasters, showing favoritism to gain advantage.

**SERMON "Joy to the World or Jude's Judgmental Rant?"
-Rev. Rob Edwards**

COLLECTION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

SONG OF PREPARATION

Jesus, I Come

*1. Out of my bondage, sorrow and night
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come
Into Thy freedom, gladness and light
Jesus, I come to Thee
Out of my sickness into Thy health
Out of my wanting and into Thy wealth
Out of my sin and into Thyself
Jesus, I come to Thee*

*2. Out of my shameful failure and loss
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come
Into the glorious gain of Thy cross
Jesus, I come to Thee
Out of earth's sorrows into Thy balm
Out of life's storms and into Thy calm
Out of distress into jubilant psalm
Jesus, I come to Thee*

*3. Out of unrest and arrogant pride
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come
Into Thy blessed will to abide
Jesus, I come to Thee
Out of myself to dwell in Thy love
Out of despair into raptures above
Upward forever on wings like a dove
Jesus, I come to Thee*

*4. Out of the fear and dread of the tomb
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come
Into the joy and light of Thy home
Jesus, I come to Thee
Out of the depths of ruin untold
Into the peace of Thy sheltering fold
Ever Thy glorious face to behold
Jesus, I come to Thee
Jesus, I come to Thee*

CONFESSION OF SIN

Holy God, we know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God. May we not be deceived. Forgive us for corrupting talk; for callousness toward lust, impurity, and sensuality. Restrain our return to slavery in various passions and pleasures, from passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. We are weary of our old ways. Save us to the utmost, we pray, through Christ, in whom we are washed, sanctified, and justified by his name and by your Holy Spirit.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON 1 Peter 3:18

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.

THE LORD'S SUPPER Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

*1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence
And with fear and trembling stand
Ponder nothing earthly minded
For with blessing in His hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth
Our full homage to demand*

*3. Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way
As the Light of light descendeth
From the realms of endless day
That the powers of hell may vanish
As the darkness clears away*

*2. King of kings yet born of Mary
As of old on earth He stood
Lord of lords in human vesture
In the body and the blood
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heavenly food*

*4. At His feet the six-winged seraph
Cherubim with sleepless eye
Veil their faces to the presence
As with ceaseless voice they cry
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia Lord Most High
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia Lord Most High*

*Authors: Fernando Ortega | Gerard Moultrie | John
Andrew Schreiner*

Behold the Lamb (Communion Hymn)

*1. Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away,
Slain for us: and we remember
The promise made that all who come in faith
Find forgiveness at the cross.
So we share in this Bread of life,
And we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of peace
Around the table of the King.*

*3. The blood that cleanses every stain of sin,
Shed for you: drink and remember
He drained death's cup that all may enter in
To receive the life of God.
So we share in this Bread of life,
And we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of grace
Around the table of the King.*

*2. The body of our Savior, Jesus Christ,
Torn for you: eat and remember
The wounds that heal,
the death that brings us life,
Paid the price to make us one.
So we share in this Bread of life,
And we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of love
Around the table of the King.*

*4. And so with thankfulness and faith we rise
To respond: and to remember.
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ
As His body here on earth.
As we share in His suffering,
We proclaim: Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heaven
Around the table of the King.*

*Authors: Stuart Townend, Keith & Kristyn Getty
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CLOSING HYMN Joy to the World

*1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come
Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.*

*2. Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods,
Rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.*

*4. He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.*

*Authors: Isaac Watts, George Frederic Handel
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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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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)