

MERCY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ORDER OF WORSHIP

SUNDAY • MARCH 12, 2017 • 10:30 AM

CALL TO WORSHIP Isaiah 45:22-25

Pastor: Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.

People: **By myself I have sworn; from my mouth has gone out in righteousness a word that shall not return.**

Pastor: Only in the LORD, it shall be said of me, are righteousness and strength.

People: **In the LORD all the offspring of Israel shall be justified and shall glory.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

HYMN OF PRAISE Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,
The King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him,
For He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear,
Now to His temple draw near;
Praise Him in glad adoration.

2. Praise to the Lord
Who o'er all things
So wondrously reigneth
Shelters thee under His wings,
Yea, so gently sustaineth;
Hast Thou not seen,
How all your longings have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

3. Praise to the Lord
Who doth prosper
Thy work and defend thee.
Surely His goodness and mercy
Here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
If with His love He befriend thee.

4. Praise to the Lord
O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath,
Come now with praises before Him!
Let the amen sound from His people
again;
Gladly for aye we adore Him.
Let the amen sound from His people
again;
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

Author: Joachim Neander
© Public Domain

OLD TESTAMENT READING Hosea 2:14-23

¹⁴ "Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak tenderly to her. ¹⁵ And there I will give her her vineyards and make the Valley of Achor a door of hope. And there she shall answer as in the days of her youth, as at the time when she came out of the land of Egypt.

¹⁶ "And in that day, declares the LORD, you will call me 'My Husband,' and no longer will you call me 'My Baal.' ¹⁷ For I will remove the names of the Baals from her mouth, and they shall be remembered by name no more. ¹⁸ And I will make for them a covenant on that day with the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the creeping things of the ground. And I will abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land, and I will make you lie down in safety. ¹⁹ And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. ²⁰ I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the LORD.

²¹ "And in that day I will answer, declares the LORD, I will answer the heavens, and they shall answer the earth, ²² and the earth shall answer the grain, the wine, and the oil, and they shall answer Jezreel, ²³ and I will sow her for myself in the land. And I will have mercy on No Mercy, and I will say to Not My People, 'You are my people'; and he shall say, 'You are my God.'"

HYMN OF RESPONSE Great is Thy Faithfulness

1. Great is Thy faithfulness, O God, my Father
There is no shadow of turning with Thee
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not
As Thou hast been thou forever wilt be

Chorus
Great is Thy faithfulness, great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love
Chorus

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside
Chorus

Authors: Thomas Obediah Chisholm & William Marion Runyan
© 1923. Renewed 1951 Hope Publishing Company

CONFESSION OF SIN

Gracious God, you delight in truth in the inmost parts. But we have perpetuated lies in order to protect ourselves. We have embraced myths that suit our own passions rather than humbly turning to you in repentance. Forgive us! For the heart is deceitful above all things, who can understand it? And yet nothing is hidden from your gaze. For all are exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Have mercy on us through Christ Jesus, our Lord. And teach us to walk in his light, to the praise of your name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON 1 John 1:8-9

⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

SONG OF CONFESSION May the Words of My Mouth

May the words of my mouth
And the meditations of my heart
Be pleasing to You, pleasing to You
May the words of my mouth
And the meditations of my heart
Be pleasing to You, my God

You're my rock and my redeemer
You're the reason that I sing
I desire to be a blessing
In Your eyes
Every hour and every moment
Lord I want to be Your servant
I desire to be a blessing
In Your eyes, in Your eyes
REPEAT ALL

May the words of my mouth
And the meditations of my heart
Be pleasing to You, my God

Authors: Shane Barnard & Shane Everett

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

COLLECTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

HYMN OF ASSURANCE O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

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

*1. O Love that will not let me go
I rest my weary soul in Thee
I give Thee back the life I owe
That in Thine ocean depths its flow
May richer fuller be*

*2. O Light that follow'st all my way
I yield my flickering torch to Thee
My heart restores its borrowed ray
That in Thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter fairer be*

*3. O Joy that seekest me through pain
I cannot close my heart to Thee
I trace the rainbow through the rain
And feel the promise is not vain
That morn shall tearless be*

*4. O Cross that liftest up my head
I dare not ask to fly from thee
I lay in dust life's glory dead
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be*

*O Love that will not let me go
I rest my weary soul in Thee*

*Authors: Words by George Matheson; Music by Christopher Miner
© 1997 Christopher Miner*

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 5:31-37

³¹ "It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.'³² But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

³³ "Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.'³⁴ But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God,³⁵ or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.³⁶ And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.³⁷ Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.

SERMON

"How our Commitments Convey the Gospel"
- Rev. Rob Edwards

HYMN OF BENEDICTION

The Solid Rock

*1. My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.*

Chorus

*On Christ, the solid Rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.*

*2. When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil,
Chorus*

*3. His oath, His covenant, His blood
Support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.
Chorus*

*4. When He shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in Him be found,
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.
Chorus (twice)*

*Authors: Words by Edward Mote; Music by William Bradbury
© Public Domain*

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

P.O. Box 2564, Forest, VA 24551 • Website: www.mercypres.org
Voicemail: (434) 237-1370 • Kimberly Paumen (Admin): kimberly@mercypres.org
Rob Edwards, Pastor • 434-386-7045 (m) • rob@mercypres.org

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)