

MERCY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ORDER OF WORSHIP

SUNDAY • APRIL 30, 2017 • 10:30 AM

CALL TO WORSHIP Colossians 2:6

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

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

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

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

HYMN OF PRAISE On Christ 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  
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OLD TESTAMENT READING Psalm 1

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; <sup>2</sup> but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. <sup>3</sup> He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. <sup>4</sup> The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. <sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; <sup>6</sup> for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

SONG OF CONFESSION

1. Guide me O Thou great Jehovah  
Pilgrim through this barren land  
I am weak but Thou art mighty  
Hold me with Thy powerful hand  
Bread of Heaven  
Feed me now and evermore  
Bread of Heaven  
Feed me now and evermore

2. Open now the crystal fountain  
Whence the healing stream doth flow  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar  
Lead me all my journey through  
Strong Deliverer, be Thou still  
My strength and shield  
Strong Deliverer, be Thou still  
My strength and shield

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.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON John 6:28-29

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

Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah

3. When I tread the verge of Jordan  
Bid my anxious fears subside  
Death of death, and hell's destruction  
Land me safe on Canaan's side  
Songs of praises  
I will ever give to Thee  
Songs of praises  
I will ever give to Thee

**Ending:**

Land me safe on Canaan's side  
Bid my anxious fears  
Bid my anxious fears  
Land me safe on Canaan's side  
Bid my anxious fears  
Bid my anxious fears (repeat all)  
Goodbye

Authors: Words by William Williams,  
Music by Jeremy Casella  
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SONG OF ASSURANCE We Will Feast in the House of Zion

**Chorus**

We will feast in the house of Zion  
We will sing with our hearts restored  
He has done great things, we will say together  
We will feast and weep no more

1. We will not be burned by the fire  
He is the LORD our God  
We are not consumed, by the flood  
Upheld, protected, gathered up  
Chorus

2. In the dark of night, before the dawn  
My soul, be not afraid  
For the promised morning, oh how long?  
Oh God of Jacob, be my strength  
Chorus

3. Every vow we've broken and betrayed  
You are the Faithful one  
And from the garden to the grave  
Bind us together, bring shalom.  
Chorus 2X

Written by Sandra McCracken  
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PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

COLLECTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERING Rock of Ages

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

1. Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in Thee;  
Let the water and the blood,  
From Thy riven side which flowed,  
Be of sin the double cure,  
Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

2. Not the labors of my hands  
Can fulfill Thy law's demands;  
Could my zeal no respite know,  
Could my tears forever flow,  
All for sin could not atone;  
Thou must save, and thou alone.

3. Nothing in my hand I bring,  
Simply to Thy cross I cling;  
Naked, come to Thee for dress;  
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;  
Foul, I to the Fountain fly;  
Wash me, Savior, or I die.

4. While I draw this fleeting breath,  
When mine eyelids close in death,  
When I soar to worlds unknown,  
See Thee on Thy judgment throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in Thee.

Authors: Augustus Monague Toplady and  
James Ward © 1985 James Ward Music

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 7:13-29

<sup>13</sup> “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. <sup>14</sup> For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

<sup>15</sup> “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. <sup>16</sup> You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup> So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. <sup>19</sup> Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

<sup>21</sup> “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>22</sup> On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ <sup>23</sup> And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’

<sup>24</sup> “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup> And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. <sup>26</sup> And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. <sup>27</sup> And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

<sup>28</sup> And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, <sup>29</sup> for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

SERMON “How Pilgrims Make Progress”  
- Rev. Rob Edwards

SONG OF RESPONSE Narrow Little Road

*1. I believe in the love of God  
It is an orphan’s wildest dream  
It is a narrow little road  
It is an ever-widening desert stream*

**Chorus**  
*Oh I, and I  
I will leave this road, for the narrow  
Oh I, and I  
I will leave this road, for the narrow*

*2. It is portrayed in the bread and wine  
Let it fortify my bones  
It is more than just a sign  
It is the fountain from that desert stone  
Chorus*

*3. It is the path where the humble go  
It is the narrow not the broad  
It is the pathway down the hill  
To the graveyard of the living God  
Chorus*

*4. The Love of God is the hymn of hope  
Let the needy join the throng  
Let the widow hear and cope  
Let the cripple rise to sing this song  
Chorus 2X*

Author: Words and Music - Mo Leverett  
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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



*“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*

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