

MERCY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ORDER OF WORSHIP

SUNDAY • MARCH 11, 2018 • 10:30 AM

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 18:2-3, 49-50

Pastor: The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer.

People: My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Pastor: I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.

People: For this I will praise you, O LORD, among the nations, and sing to your name.

Pastor: Great salvation he brings to his king, and shows steadfast love to his anointed, to David and his offspring forever.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

HYMN OF PRAISE 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)

Men: You will reign forever

Women echo: (Let Your glory fill the earth)

(REPEAT 4X)

Chorus 2X

Authors: Jonathan Baird | Meghan Baird
Ryan Baird | Stephen Altrogge
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OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 40:28-31

²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹ He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. ³⁰ Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; ³¹ but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

HYMN OF CONFESSION Rock of Ages (When the Day Seems Long)

1. Rock of Ages, when the day seems long
From this labor and this heartache, I have come,
The skies will wear out, but you remain the same,
Rock of Ages, I praise your name. Rock of Ages, you have brought me near,
You have poured out your life-blood, your love, your tears
To make this stone heart come alive again, Rock of Ages, forgive my sin.

Chorus

Rock of Ages. Rock of Ages. Bind your children until the kingdom comes.

Rock of Ages, your will be done.

2. Rock of Ages, when in want or rest,
My desperate need for such a Savior I confess,
Pull these idols out from my heart embrace,
Rock of Ages, I need your grace. Rock of Ages, broken scorned for me.
Who am I that you would die to make me free?
To give me glory, you took the death and pain. Rock of Ages, my Offering.
Chorus

3. Rock of Ages, "It is done!" you cried.
The curtain's torn and I see justice satisfied,
Now write your mercy, on my heart and hands,
Rock of Ages, in faith I stand. Rock of Ages, my great hope secure.
Your promise holds just like an anchor to my soul
Bind your children with cords of love and grace. Rock of Ages, we give you praise.
Chorus 2X

Authors: Words by Sandra McCracken; Music by Kevin Twit
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CONFESSION OF SIN

Gracious heavenly Father, we confess that we are focused on earthly matters rather than the things of heaven. We confess that we are often entangled with our sin and captivated with pleasures and things of this world. That we frequently gratify the flesh and serve and indulge our senses. That we cling to the things of this place which clouds our vision for the things of You. Lord forgive us for our nearsightedness and open the eyes of our heart that we might know the glorious riches of your mercy and the promise of everlasting life with Christ Jesus our Lord.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Ephesians 1:16, 18-21

I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers . . . that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might, that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

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

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

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

HYMN OF PREPARATION Jesus What a Friend for Sinners

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

1. Jesus, what a friend for sinners
Jesus, lover of my soul
Friends may fail me, foes assail me,
He, my Savior, makes me whole

Chorus

Hallelujah what a Savior!
Hallelujah what a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,
He is with me to the end.

2. Jesus, what a strength in weakness
Let me hide myself in Him
Tempted, tried, and often failing
He my strength, my victory wins
Chorus

3. Jesus, what a help in sorrow
While the billows o'er me roll
Even when my heart is breaking
He my comfort helps my soul
Chorus

4. Jesus, I do now receive Him
More than all in Him I find
He has granted me forgiveness
I am His and He is mine
Chorus 2X

Authors: Words by John Wilbur Chapman
Music by Rowland Hugh Prichard
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SCRIPTURE READING Hebrews 11:17-12:2

¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, ¹⁸ of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” ¹⁹ He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. ²⁰ By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. ²¹ By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. ²² By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.

²³ By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king’s edict. ²⁴ By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, ²⁵ choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. ²⁶ He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. ²⁷ By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. ²⁸ By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them.

²⁹ By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.

³² And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

³⁹ And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD Romans 10:17

Pastor: Faith comes from hearing

People: And hearing through the word of Christ.

**SERMON “Looking to Jesus”
- Rev. Bryan Rigg**

HYMN OF RESPONSE O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

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| <p>1. O, for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer’s praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace.</p> <p>2. My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honors of Thy name.</p> <p>3. Jesus, the name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
’Tis music in the sinner’s ears,
’Tis life and health and peace.</p> | <p>4. He breaks the power of reigning sin,
He sets the prisoner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean,
His blood availed for me.</p> <p>His blood availed for me. (Repeat)</p> <p>5. He speaks and list’ning to his voice,
New life the dead receive;
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice;
The humble poor believe.</p> <p>6. Hear Him, ye deaf, His praise, ye dumb
Your loosened tongues employ
Ye blind behold your Savior come
And leap, ye lame, for joy</p> |
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*Music: Carl Glaser; Lyrics: Charles Wesley;
Arranged by Kurt Alber
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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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