

MERCY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ORDER OF WORSHIP

SUNDAY • APRIL 22, 2018 • 10:30 AM

CALL TO WORSHIP Isaiah 55:9-11

Pastor: For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

People: For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater

Pastor: So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty

All: But it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

HYMN OF ADORATION Praise God (Doxology)

1. Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
In heav'n above, and earth below.
Praise God the Father and the Son.
Praise God the Spirit, three in one.

2. From all that dwell beneath the skies,
Let the Creator's praise arise.
Let our Redeemer's name be sung,
Through ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue.

3. Eternal are Your mercies Lord.
Eternal truth attends Your Word.
Your praise will sound from shore to shore,
Till suns shall rise and set no more.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Authors: Bob Kauflin | Isaac Watts | Thomas Ken
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NEW TESTAMENT READING I Peter 1:22-2:3

²² Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, ²³ since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; ²⁴ for

“All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass.
The grass withers, and the flower falls, ²⁵ but the word of the Lord remains forever.”

And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

¹ So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. ² Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

HYMN OF CONFESSION

1. Jesus with Thy church abide
Be her Savior Lord and Guide
While on earth her faith is tried
We beseech Thee hear us
We beseech Thee hear us

2. Keep her life and doctrine pure
Grant her patience to endure
Trusting in Thy promise sure
We beseech Thee hear us
We beseech Thee hear us

Jesus With Thy Church Abide

3. May she one in doctrine be
One in truth and charity
Winning all to faith in Thee
We beseech Thee hear us
We beseech Thee hear us

4. May she guide the poor and blind
Seek the lost until she find
And the broken-hearted bind
We beseech Thee hear us (4X)

Authors: Christopher Miner & Thomas Pollock
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CONFESSION OF SIN

We hear the Psalmist proclaim, “I will rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches. I meditate on your precepts...I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.” Merciful God, forgive us that we do not find your word a treasure in which we rejoice and delight. For often we neglect your word because other joys and delights shape our hearts. Forgive us that when we do hear your word it often falls on dull ears that do not perceive that the path of your commands is the path of freedom, life and joy. Forgive us for Christ's sake and by the power of your Spirit grant us ears to hear and hearts to respond with humble repentance, joyful faith and grateful obedience for your transforming grace that is ours in Christ Jesus.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Psalm 103:10-12

He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

1. What wondrous love is this
O my soul, O my soul
What wondrous love is this, O my soul
What wondrous love is this
That caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul

2. When I was sinking down
Sinking down, sinking down
When I was sinking down, sinking down
When I was sinking down
Beneath God's righteous frown
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul

Chorus
What wondrous love is this (4X)

What Wondrous Love is This

3. To God and to the Lamb
I will sing, I will sing
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing
To God and to the Lamb
Who is the Great I Am
While millions join the theme I will sing
While millions join the theme I will sing
Chorus

4. And when from death I'm free
I'll sing on, I'll sing on
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on
And when from death I'm free
I'll sing his love for me
And thro' eternity I'll sing on
And thro' eternity I'll sing on
Chorus (6X)

Authors: Alexander Means | William Walker
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PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

COLLECTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

HYMN OF PREPARATION The Church's One Foundation

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

1. The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ, her Lord
She is His new creation
By water and the Word
From heav'n He came and sought her
To be His holy bride
With His own blood He bought her
And for her life, He died

2. Elect from ev'ry nation
Yet one o'er all the earth
Her charter of salvation
One Lord, one faith, one birth
One holy Name she blesses
Partakes one holy food
And to one hope she presses
With ev'ry grace endued

3. Mid toil and tribulation,
And tumult of her war
She waits the consummation,
Of peace for evermore.
Till with the vision glorious,
Her longing eyes are blessed
And the great church victorious
Shall be the church at rest.

4. Yet she on earth hath union
With God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won,
O happy ones and holy
Lord give us grace that we,
Like them the meek and lowly
On high may dwell with Thee.

Words by Samuel Stone; Music by Brian Moss
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SCRIPTURE READING Luke 8:1-21

¹Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him, ²and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, ³and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's household manager, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their means.

⁴And when a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable, ⁵"A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. ⁶And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. ⁷And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. ⁸And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold." As he said these things, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

⁹And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, ¹⁰he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that 'seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.' ¹¹Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. ¹²The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. ¹³And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. ¹⁴And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. ¹⁵As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.

¹⁶"No one after lighting a lamp covers it with a jar or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light. ¹⁷For nothing is hidden that will not be made manifest, nor is anything secret that will not be known and come to light. ¹⁸Take care then how you hear, for to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he thinks that he has will be taken away."

¹⁹Then his mother and his brothers came to him, but they could not reach him because of the crowd. ²⁰And he was told, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see you." ²¹But he answered them, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it."

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD Romans 10:17

Pastor: Faith comes from hearing

People: And hearing through the word of Christ.

SERMON "How Will You Hear?"
Kingdom Listening for Kingdom Living"
- Rev. Keith Peck

HYMN OF RESPONSE Let Us Adore Him

1. The heavens declare
The glory of God
And all of the world
Will join the praise
His wonders proclaim

2. The oceans and skies
Lift up their voice
And all He has made
Will rise to bless
The King of all kings

Let us adore Him
Let us adore Him
Jesus Christ is the Lord

3. Eternity's King
Is coming again
Though all of the earth
Will fade away
His truth will remain

Let us adore Him
Let us adore Him
Jesus Christ is the Lord
Come and behold Him
Bow down before Him
Jesus Christ is the Lord

Bridge
Hallelujah. Hallelujah.
You are worthy of all praise
Hallelujah. Hallelujah.
You are worthy of all praise

Let us adore Him
Let us adore Him
Jesus Christ is the Lord
Come and behold Him
Bow down before Him
Jesus Christ is the Lord
Jesus Christ is the Lord
Jesus Christ is the Lord

*Author: Reuben Morgan
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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

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*

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