

MERCY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ORDER OF WORSHIP

SUNDAY • APRIL 28, 2019 • 10:30 AM

**CALL TO WORSHIP**      **Isaiah 54:4-5**

Pastor: Fear not, for you will not be ashamed; be not confounded, for you will not be disgraced.

**People:** For you will forget the shame of your youth, and the reproach of your widowhood you will remember no more.

Pastor: For your Maker is your husband, the LORD of hosts is his name.

**People:** And the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer.

**All:** The God of the whole earth he is called.

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**SONG OF PRAISE**      **The Love of Christ is Rich and Free**

1. The love of Christ is rich and free  
Fixed on His own eternally  
Nor earth, nor hell, can it remove  
Long as He lives, His own He'll love

2. His loving heart engaged to be  
Their everlasting surety  
'Twas love that took their cause in hand  
And love maintains it to the end.

**Chorus**  
Love cannot from its post withdraw  
Nor death, nor hell, nor sin, nor law  
Can turn the Surety's heart away  
He'll love His own to endless day.

3. Love has redeemed His sheep with blood  
And love will bring them safe to God  
Love calls them all from death to life  
And love will finish all their strife

4. He loves through every changing scene,  
Nor aught from Him can Zion wean  
Not all the wanderings of her heart  
Can make His love for her depart  
Chorus

5. At death, beyond the grave, He'll love  
In endless bliss, His own shall prove  
The blazing glory of that love  
Which never could from them remove  
Which never could from them remove.

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**OLD TESTAMENT READING**      **Genesis 2:18-25**

<sup>18</sup>Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." <sup>19</sup>Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup>The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. <sup>21</sup>So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. <sup>22</sup>And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup>Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
she shall be called Woman,  
because she was taken out of Man."

<sup>24</sup>Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. <sup>25</sup>And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

**HYMN OF CONFESSION**      **He Will Hold Me Fast**

1. When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast:  
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.  
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;  
For my love is often cold: He must hold me fast.

**Chorus**  
He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;  
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.

2. Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast;  
Precious in His holy sight, He will hold me fast.  
He'll not let my soul be lost; His promises shall last;  
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast.  
Chorus

3. For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;  
Justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast.  
Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast  
'Till our faith is turned to sight, when He comes at last!  
Chorus 2X

*Author: Ada Habershon  
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**CONFESSION OF SIN**

Gracious God, you call us to submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. All of our relationships provide opportunities to display your grace. Yet we confess that, rather than sacrificially serving, we have used others to satisfy our own desires. Instead of ministering to their needs, we manipulate with our own demands. Forgive us, we pray. And teach us to love one another as you have loved us, as we follow Jesus our Savior, who came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**      **Psalms 86:5**

For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.

**HYMN OF ASSURANCE**      **Father Long Before Creation**

1. Father long before creation  
Thou hadst chosen us in love,  
And that love so deep, so moving,  
Draws us close to Christ above.  
Still it keeps us, still it keeps us  
Firmly fixed in Christ alone.

**Chorus**  
And the world will sing His love,  
Yes the world will sing His love,  
And we'll all join hands,  
every woman every man  
To sing His love, to sing His love.

2. Though the world may change its fashion,  
Yet our God is e'er the same;  
His compassion and His covenant  
Through all ages will remain.  
God's own children, God's own children  
Must forever Praise His name.  
Chorus

3. God's compassion is my story  
Is my boasting all the day;  
Mercy free and never failing  
Moves my will, directs my way.  
God so loved us, God so loved us,  
That His only Son He gave.  
Chorus

4. Loving Father now before Thee  
We will ever praise Thy love,  
And our songs will sound unceasing  
'Til we reach our home above,  
Giving glory, Giving glory,  
To our God and to the Lamb;  
Chorus

*Words from Chinese Hymn,  
Translated by Francis Jones  
Chorus and music by Andrew Osenga  
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**PRAYER OF INTERCESSION**

## COLLECTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

### HYMN OF PREPARATION      **Great is Thy Faithfulness**

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

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  
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### SCRIPTURE READING      **Matthew 19:3-12**

<sup>3</sup>And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?" <sup>4</sup>He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, <sup>5</sup>and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? <sup>6</sup>So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." <sup>7</sup>They said to him, "Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?" <sup>8</sup>He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so." <sup>9</sup>And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery."

<sup>10</sup>The disciples said to him, "If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry." <sup>11</sup>But he said to them, "Not everyone can receive this saying, but only those to whom it is given. <sup>12</sup>For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let the one who is able to receive this receive it."

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD      **Romans 10:17**

Pastor: Faith comes from hearing

**People: And hearing through the word of Christ.**

### SERMON      **"A Better Basis on which to Build Marriage"** - Rev. Rob Edwards

### HYMN OF RESPONSE      **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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### 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**

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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)