

MERCY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ORDER OF WORSHIP

SUNDAY • DECEMBER 29, 2019 • 10:30 AM

CALL TO WORSHIP John 1

Leader In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

People **He was in the beginning with God.**

Leader All things came into being by Him; and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

People **In Him was life; and that life was the light of men.**

Leader The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

People **We have beheld His glory, Alleluia!**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

GATHERING HYMN O Come All Ye Faithful

1. O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold Him,
Born the King of angels!

2. Sing, choirs of angels;
Sing in exultation,
O sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
Chorus

Chorus
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!

3. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning.
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing!
Chorus 2x

Author: John Francis Wade

OLD TESTAMENT READING Zechariah 9:9-17

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. ¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. ¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double. ¹³For I have bent Judah as my bow; I have made Ephraim its arrow. I will stir up your sons, O Zion, against your sons, O Greece, and wield you like a warrior's sword.

¹⁴Then the LORD will appear over them, and his arrow will go forth like lightning; the Lord GOD will sound the trumpet and will march forth in the whirlwinds of the south. ¹⁵The LORD of hosts will protect them, and they shall devour, and tread down the sling stones, and they shall drink and roar as if drunk with wine, and be full like a bowl, drenched like the corners of the altar. ¹⁶On that day the LORD their God will save them, as the flock of his people; for like the jewels of a crown they shall shine on his land. ¹⁷For how great is his goodness, and how great his beauty! Grain shall make the young men flourish, and new wine the young women.

HYMN OF CONFESSION

1. When Love came down to earth
And made His home with men,
The hopeless found a hope,
The sinner found a friend.
Not to the powerful,
But to the poor He came,
And humble, hungry hearts
Were satisfied again.

Chorus
What joy, what peace, has come to us!
What hope, what help, what love!

2. When ev'ry unclean thought
And every sinful deed
Was scourged upon His back
And hammered through His feet;
The innocent is cursed,
The guilty are released.
The punishment of God
On God has brought me peace.
Chorus

When Love Came Down

3. Come lay your heavy load
Down at the Master's feet;
Your shame will be removed.
Your joy will be complete.
Come crucify your pride,
And enter as a child;
For those who bow down low
He'll lift up to His side.
Chorus 2X
...what love!

Author: Stuart Townend
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CORPORATE CONFESSION Psalm 51:1-4

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Psalm 51:8-12

Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE In Christ Alone

1. In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

2. In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless Babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save:
'Til on the cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied.
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

4. No guilt in life, no fear in death;
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
'Til He returns or calls me home,
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!

3. There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
Up from the grave He rose again!

No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
'Til He returns or calls me home,
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!

Authors: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
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PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

COLLECTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

HYMN OF PREPARATION

1. Who is this, so weak and helpless,
Child of lowly Hebrew maid;
Rudely in a stable shelter,
Coldly in a manger laid?
'Tis the Lord of all creation
Who this wondrous path has trod;
He is Lord from everlasting,
And to everlasting God.

2. Who is this, a Man of Sorrows,
Walking sadly life's hard way;
Homeless, weary, sighing, weeping
Over sin and Satan's sway?
'Tis our God, our glorious Savior,
Who above the starry sky
Is for us a place preparing
Where no tear can dim the eye.

Who Is This So Weak And Helpless?

3. Who is this? Behold Him shedding
Drops of blood upon the ground!
Who is this, despised, rejected,
Mocked, insulted, beaten, bound?
'Tis our God, who gifts and graces
On His church is pouring down;
Who shall smite in holy vengeance
All His foes beneath His throne.

4. Who is this that hangs there dying
While the rude world scoffs and scorns;
Numbered with the malefactors,
Torn with nails and crowned with thorns?
'Tis our God who lives forever
'Mid the shining ones on high,
In the glorious golden city,
Reigning everlastingly.
'Tis our God who lives forever
'Mid the shining ones on high,
In the glorious golden city,
Reigning everlastingly.

*Authors: Christopher Miner and William Walsham How
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SCRIPTURE READING Hebrews 9:23-28

²³ Thus it was necessary for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. ²⁴ For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. ²⁵ Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, ²⁶ for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷ And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, ²⁸ so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

SERMON

“As He Came, He Will Return”
- Rev. Bryan Rigg

HYMN OF RESPONSE

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!

2. All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and Heav'n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Singing bird and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in Thee!

3. Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blessed,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
Ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother,
All who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine!

4. Mortals join the happy chorus,
Which the morning stars began;
Father love is reigning o'er us,
Brother love binds man to man
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music lifts us Sunward
In the triumph song of life!

*Authors: Words by Henry Van Dyke;
Music by Ludwig van Beethoven
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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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Bryan Rigg, Associate Pastor • 434-907-0711 (m) • bryan@mercypres.org
P.O. Box 2564, Forest, VA 24551 • Website: www.mercypres.org
Voicemail: (434) 237-1370 • Emilee Ellsworth (Admin): emilee@mercypres.org

Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)