

POTTSVILLE ASSOCIATE REFORMED  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



THE LORD'S DAY  
MARCH 31, AD 2019

“Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!  
Give thanks to him; bless his name!”  
Psalm 100:4

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## For Reflection

Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." So he delivered him over to them to be crucified. John 19:14-16

A third time he said to them, "Why? What evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him." But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted. He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, for whom they asked, but he delivered Jesus over to their will.

-Luke 23:22-25

### A FEW THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- We believe that Christian Worship is a renewal of covenant vows between Christians and the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit -- a gracious and thankful conversation between God and His people. Consequently, our worship contains lots of congregational participation. Your part is in bold, but don't worry if you get a little lost. Just keep your bulletin handy throughout the service.
- We are a family of families worshipping together. We are teaching our children to worship as they worship with us. If they cry or squirm, it's OK; God has ordained "praise" from our children and infants.
- Restrooms are located both in this building and in the Fellowship Hall.

## Welcome and Preparation

Silent Prayer of Preparation: Gracious and merciful Father, quiet our hearts, our hands, our minds and our souls as we draw near to You. Give rest where there is weariness, peace where there is conflict, and assurance where there is anxiety. Grant us faith to believe that you speak, ears to hear what you say and a will to live as you desire. Prepare us now to delight in you, O God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In Christ's name, Amen.

Preparation:  
In worship, God speaks. He is not merely spoken about. Listening and responding require our preparation. Take a moment to be still and know that He is God.

## God Calls Us to Worship

Psalm 118:1, 14-15, 28-29

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
for his steadfast love endures forever!  
The Lord is my strength and my song;  
he has become my salvation.  
Glad songs of salvation  
are in the tents of the righteous:  
You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;  
you are my God; I will extol you.  
Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
for his steadfast love endures forever!

Call to Worship:  
We need to be called to come and worship because we are prone to think we are at the center of all things. Or perhaps we struggle to believe that God wants us to draw near. So God takes the initiative and calls us to come and worship Christ who is the center.

## We Respond to God's Call

Psalm 118:21-24

Pastor: I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.  
People: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.  
Pastor: This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.  
People: This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

## Prayer of Adoration

Worship through singing.  
Worship is a gracious conversation between God and His people. He speaks grace through His Word and we respond together in gratitude through prayer and praise as a congregation. Singing is an important way we express our love for God and remind ourselves of our place in His redemptive story.

## Crown Him with Many Crowns

Words: Matthew Bridges, Godfrey Thring Music: George Elvey CCL# 11359088

1 Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;  
hark! how the heav'nly anthem drowns all music but its own:  
awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

2 Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,  
rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified:  
no angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,  
but downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright.

3 Crown him the Lord of peace; whose pow'r a scepter sways  
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, absorbed in prayer and praise:  
his reign shall know no end; and round his pierced feet  
fair flow'rs of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

4 Crown him the Lord of years, the Potentate of time;  
Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime:  
all hail, Redeemer, hail! for thou hast died for me:  
thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

## Call to Confession

Hebrews 12:1-3

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, 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. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

Confession of Sin. God calls us to draw near, but our sin is a barrier we cannot cross on our own. The good news is that God has provided a way of reconciliation through Jesus. Confession of sin both acknowledges our need for God's mercy and celebrates its abundance in Christ.

## Confession of Sin

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion, blot out our transgressions. Wash away all our iniquities and cleanse us from our sin. Create in us pure hearts, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within us. Do not cast us from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and grant us willing spirits, to sustain us.

Assurance of Pardon: God declares in the gospel that everyone who repents and believes in Jesus Christ is forgiven and made clean.

## Assurance of Pardon

1 Peter 3:18

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.

## Confession of Faith

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost; born of the virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell<sup>1</sup>; the third day, He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven; and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick<sup>2</sup> and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic<sup>3</sup> Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. AMEN.

<sup>1</sup> That is, He remained under power of death until the third day.

<sup>2</sup> "quick" is an older way of saying, "living"

<sup>3</sup> "catholic" means "universal".

Confession of Faith.: Creeds, confessions and catechisms are summaries of what we believe the Bible teaches about the central truths of the Christian faith. We confess them together in worship as a way of professing our common faith.

## Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, And to the Son, And to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, It is now, and ever shall be.  
World without end. Amen, amen.

## Responsive Reading

Psalm 126

Pastor: When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those  
who dream.

People: Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with  
shouts of joy;

Pastor: Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things  
for them."

People: The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad.

Pastor: Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like streams in the Negeb!

People: Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy!

Pastor: He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,

People: Shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

## Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

Word: Isaac Watts, Music: Hugh Wilson, Public Domain, CCL# 11359088

1 Alas! and did my Savior bleed,  
and did my Sovereign die!  
Would he devote that sacred head  
for such a worm as I!

2 Was it for crimes that I had done  
he groaned upon the tree!  
Amazing pity! Grace unknown!  
And love beyond degree!

3 Well might the sun in darkness hide,  
and shut his glories in,  
when Christ, the mighty Maker, died  
for man the creature's sin.

4 Thus might I hide my blushing face  
while his dear cross appears;  
dissolve my heart in thankfulness,  
and melt mine eyes in tears.

5 But drops of grief can ne'er repay  
The debt of love I owe;  
here, Lord, I give myself away,  
'tis all that I can do.

Sermon: Some view the sermon as a way to get principles for right living. Others see it as an interesting or inspirational talk.

In reality, as we open the Scriptures we encounter Jesus Christ. Therefore, as you listen, pray to be open to his leading, exhortation, encouragement and healing.

## Sermon Notes    Matthew 27:1-26, "Suffered Under Pontius Pilate"

### Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom Come, thy will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory forever, Amen

## Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

Words: Fanny J. Crosby, Music: William Doane, Public Domain. CCL# 11359088

1 Jesus, keep me near the cross;  
there a precious fountain,  
free to all — a healing stream —  
flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

Refrain:

In the cross, in the cross,  
be my glory ever;  
till my raptured soul shall find  
rest beyond the river.

2 Near the cross, a trembling soul,  
love and mercy found me;  
there the bright and morning star  
shed its beams around me. [Refrain]

3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God,  
bring its scenes before me;  
help me walk from day to day  
with its shadow o'er me. [Refrain]

4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait,  
hoping, trusting ever,  
till I reach the golden strand  
just beyond the river. [Refrain]

Offering: The offering is not about money. All that we are, have, and hope belong to God. While we take this time to receive tithes and offerings for the support of the gospel ministry, we also use this time to recognize God's authority over all our life and commit again to love Him with all our hearts, minds, souls and strength

The Last Word: God always has the last word. A benediction is a "word of blessing." God sends us out, but not before He reminds us that wherever the coming week may take us, physically, emotionally or spiritually, He goes with us.

## Worship Through Giving

Silent Prayer of Commitment: Gracious God and Giver of every good and perfect gift, help me to recognize all that you have given and not complain about what you have withheld. Grant me wisdom to faithfully use Your gifts for Your glory and not misuse them for my own. By your Spirit help me now to offer my heart, my life, my all, sincerely and promptly with joy and thanksgiving and without anxiety, fear or grumbling. In Christ's Name, Amen.

## Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## Benediction

Numbers 6:24-25

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;  
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

## Response

from Psalm 72

Now blessed be the living God, The God of Israel  
Who only doeth wondrous works, In glory that excels  
Who only doeth wondrous works, In glory that excels.

And blessed be His glorious Name, To all eternity;  
The whole earth let His glory fill, Amen: So let it be.  
The whole earth let His glory fill. Amen: So let it be.

## What Do You Believe?

An early Christian pastor once wrote, "in essential things, unity, in debated things, liberty, and in all things, charity." In regard to essential things we believe the basic tenets of the Christian faith as spelled out in the Apostle's Creed and the Nicene Creed. In regards to debated things we hold many distinctive beliefs which define us as an Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

- We are a Biblical Church that believes in the inerrant and sufficient Scriptures as our only rule of faith and practice, able to make us wise unto salvation and useful for teaching, correcting, rebuking, and training us as disciples.
- We are a Reformed Church which believes that grace flows necessarily out of God's sovereignty. Grace is the work of God alone. Man's free-will is a faculty God employs, but saving grace depends upon the work of the Spirit powerfully renewing man's will to accept God's gracious offer of salvation.
- We are an Evangelical Church which believes that the we are called to "preach the gospel to every creature under heaven" (Mark 16:15) as Christ's ambassadors as though God were making His appeal through us to implore men to be reconciled to God through faith in Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:19-20). God's sovereign choice is one of the "secret things" which we cannot know. Therefore, we preach the gospel earnestly and urgently.
- We are a Presbyterian Church which believes that God has called men to be Elders to provide spiritual oversight, instruction, counsel and encouragement to the Church. The word Presbyterian comes from the ancient Greek word for 'elder.' Our church's elders exercise care for the families in our congregation under the authority of other elders from several neighboring states. This larger group of elders is called a Presbytery.
- We are a Connectional Church. We are under the authority of the Mississippi Valley Presbytery and the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Synod. Through these connections, we work with other churches in North America and across the world to spread the gospel to every creature under heaven.
- We are a Confessional Church. Our basic doctrines are expressed by the Westminster Confession of Faith and its Larger and Shorter Catechisms. This confession and its catechisms summarizes what we believe the Bible teaches in regard to key doctrines. We do not hold them to be inerrant or infallible, but we do believe that they accurately express the central truths of the Christian faith.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Our Men's Bible Study will meet this coming Wednesday, April 3, at 8:00 pm at Campus Perks on the U of O Campus in Clarksville.
- Did you know that you can now Give Online? To find out more go to <http://pottsvillearp.org/> and click on the "Giving Link."

## CONTACT US

### Our Elders

Mr. Leslie Oates	479-857-1840
Mr. Matt Wylie	479-979-2224

### Our Pastor

Rev. Howard Wheeler	479-970-1384
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**On the web at [www.pottsvillearp.org](http://www.pottsvillearp.org)**

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