

POTTSVILLE ASSOCIATE REFORMED  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



THE LORD'S DAY  
NOVEMBER 15, AD 2020

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

## For Reflection

*Westminster Larger Catechism in Modern English,*

Q. 157. How is the Word of God to be read?

A. The holy Scriptures are to be read • with a high and reverent esteem for them; • with a firm persuasion that they are the true Word of God and that only he can make us able to understand them; • with desire to know, believe, and obey the will of God revealed in them; • with diligence and attention to the subject matter and the scope of them; • and with meditation, application, self-denial, and prayer.

Q. 160. What is required of those who hear the Word preached?

A. It is required of those who hear the Word preached • that they listen to it with diligence, preparation, and prayer; • that they examine what they hear by comparing it to the Scriptures; • that they receive the truth with faith, love, meekness, and readiness of mind, as the Word of God; • that they meditate and think on it; • and that they hide it in their hearts and bring forth the fruit of it in their lives.

### 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. 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 119:89-94

Forever, O Lord, your word  
is firmly fixed in the heavens.  
Your faithfulness endures to all generations;  
you have established the earth, and it stands fast.  
By your appointment they stand this day,  
for all things are your servants.  
If your law had not been my delight,  
I would have perished in my affliction.  
I will never forget your precepts,  
for by them you have given me life.  
I am yours; save me,  
for I have sought your precepts.

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 119:169-172

Pastor: Let my cry come before you, O Lord;  
People: Give me understanding according to your word!  
Pastor: Let my plea come before you;  
People: Deliver me according to your word.  
Pastor: My lips will pour forth praise,  
People: For you teach me your statutes.  
Pastor: My tongue will sing of your word,  
People: For all your commandments are right.

## 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.

## Songs of Praise

### Speak, O Lord

Word and Music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend, © 2005 Thankyou Music. CCL# 11359088

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You  
To receive the food of Your Holy Word.  
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;  
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,  
That the light of Christ might be seen today  
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.  
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us  
All Your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience,  
Holy reverence, true humility;  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes  
In the radiance of Your purity.  
Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see  
Your majestic love and authority.  
Words of pow'r that can never fail—  
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;  
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us—  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time  
That will echo down through eternity.  
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises,  
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.  
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built  
And the earth is filled with Your glory."

## Call to Confession

Hebrews 4:12-13

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

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

from Psalm 51

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

Hebrews 4:14-16

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

## Confession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,<sup>2</sup> the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

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.

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

<sup>2</sup> "catholic" means "universal".

Pastor: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;

People: The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;

Pastor: The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;

People: The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;

Pastor: The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever;

People: The rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.

Pastor: More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;

People: Sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

Pastor: Moreover, by them is your servant warned;

People: In keeping them there is great reward.

Pastor: Let the words of my mouth

People: And the meditation of my heart

Pastor: Be acceptable in your sight,

People: O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Scripture/Sermon: "Eradication," Jeremiah 36:1-32

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.

## 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

## Songs of Thanksgiving

### Be Thou My Vision

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1. Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.
  
2. Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true Word;  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son;  
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.
  
3. Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,  
High king of heaven, my treasure Thou art.
  
4. High king of heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O ruler of all.

## 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.

## 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.

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.

## 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 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 summarize 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.

## What To Expect as We Resume In-Person Worship

We are glad you are here, but, as always, Scripture guides our behavior in worship. Much of this guidance pertains to our commitment to our care and concern for one another in worship. Below is the guidance from our Session regarding how we may faithfully resume “in person” corporate worship while exercising Christian prudence and concern for the spiritual and physical needs of others.

- We will continue to live stream our service for those who need to be more cautious about gathering in person.
- If you are sick or exhibiting symptoms of illness, or have had fever within 24 hours, or have had contact with any Covid-19 positive individuals within 14 days, please remain home and join us for worship through the livestream.
- We will have hand-sanitizer available at every entry and in the restrooms.
- If you feel comfortable wearing a mask, we encourage you to do so. The use of cloth masks are a courtesy and benefit to others. While they may not protect you from illness, they will protect others from illnesses you may have, even if you are not showing symptoms.
- We encourage families to sit together.
- Please try to maintain a distance of 6 ft between family groups. This can be accomplished by keeping one row of seating between you and others.
- Orders of service, containing everything you need to participate in the liturgy, will be placed on each end of alternating rows of seats in order to limit “touch.” These will continue to be available online before the service as well, and we may be able to project them.
- You may enjoy in person fellowship outside before and after the gathering, but please limit contact and maintain distancing when inside our gathering spaces.
- You may continue to give your tithes and offerings by mail or online. We will also have a secure offering box by the door as you enter and exit. Thank you for faithful giving.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next Lord's Day, November 22, we will observe the Lord's Supper in worship. The invitation is for all to come who have been baptized in the Triune Name, who have professed their faith before the Church, who are not under the lawful discipline of any Christian church, and are not unwilling to repent. Examine yourselves and come.
- Our Session has decided on the following procedures for our "in person" gatherings for worship. We will meet at 10:30 am, each Lord's Day. But we will practice careful social distancing. If you need more time before returning due to your concerns and/or commitments, continue to join us by live stream and plan to return as soon as practicable. For details on our plans for social distancing and our "one-another" approach to meeting, please go to the COVID-19 tab on our website.
- 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

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### Our Pastor

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