

POTTSVILLE ASSOCIATE REFORMED  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



THE LORD'S DAY  
APRIL 18, AD 2021

“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, Questions 62-65

Q. 62. What is the visible church?

A. The visible church is a society made up of all people in all ages and places of the world who profess the true religion, and their children.

Q. 63. What are the special privileges of the visible church?

A. The visible church has the privileges

- of being under God's special care and government;
- of being protected and preserved in all ages, despite the opposition of all enemies;
- and of enjoying the communion of saints, the ordinary means of salvation, and the offers of grace by Christ to all the members of the visible church in the ministry of the Gospel, testifying that whoever believes in him will be saved, and excluding none who are willing come to him.

Q. 64. What is the invisible church?

A. The invisible church is the whole number of the chosen ones who have been, are, or will be gathered into one body under Christ the head.

Q. 65. What special benefits do the members of the invisible church enjoy by Christ?

A. By Christ, the members of the invisible church enjoy union and communion with him in grace and glory

### 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 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

Revelation 7:9-10

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

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

Revelation 7:11-12

Pastor: And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures,  
People: And they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,  
Pastor: Saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory  
People: And wisdom and thanksgiving  
Pastor: And honor and power and might  
People: Be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

## 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

### Go To Dark Gethsemane

Words by James Montgomery, Music by Kevin Twit. © 2007 Kevin Twit Music (ASCAP)

1. Go to dark Gethsemane, ye that feel the tempter's power  
Your Redeemer's conflict see, watch with Him one bitter hour  
Turn not from His griefs away; learn of Jesus Christ to pray  
Learn of Jesus Christ to pray; Learn of Jesus Christ to pray.
2. See Him at the judgment hall, beaten, bound, reviled, arraigned  
O the wormwood and the gall! O the pangs His soul sustained!  
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss; learn of Christ to bear the cross  
Learn of Christ to bear the cross; Learn of Christ to bear the cross.
3. Calvary's mournful mountain climb; there, adoring at His feet  
Mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete  
"It is finished!" hear Him cry; learn of Jesus Christ to die  
Learn of Jesus Christ to die; Learn of Jesus Christ to die.
4. Early hasten to the tomb where they laid His breathless clay  
All is solitude and gloom. Who has taken Him away?  
Christ is risen! He meets our eyes; Savior, teach us so to rise  
Savior, teach us so to rise; Savior, teach us so to rise.

## Call to Confession

2 Corinthians 5:21

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

2 Corinthians 5:17, Romans 8:1

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

## Confession of Faith

Shorter Catechism Q 37-38

Pastor: What benefits do believers receive from Christ at death?

People: The souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness, and do immediately pass into glory; and their bodies, being still united to Christ, do rest in their graves till the resurrection.

Pastor: What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?

People: At the resurrection, believers being raised up in glory, shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the day of judgement, and made perfectly blessed in the full enjoying of God to all eternity.

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.

Pastor: And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.

People: They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Pastor: "Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple;

People: And he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.

Pastor: They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore;

People: The sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat.

Pastor: For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,

People: And he will guide them to springs of living water,

Pastor: And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

## Songs of Praise

### Here is Love, Vast as the Ocean

Words: William Rees, Music: Robert Lowry, Public Domain, CCL# 11359088

1 Here is love, vast as the ocean,  
loving kindness as the flood,  
when the Prince of life, our ransom,  
shed for us his precious blood.  
Who his love will not remember?  
Who can cease to sing his praise?  
He can never be forgotten  
throughout heaven's eternal days.

2 On the mount of crucifixion  
fountains opened deep and wide;  
through the floodgates of God's mercy  
flowed a vast and gracious tide.  
Grace and love, like mighty rivers,  
poured incessant from above,  
and heaven's peace and perfect justice  
kissed a guilty world in love.

3 Let me all Thy love accepting,  
Love Thee ever all my days  
Let me seek Thy kingdom only  
And my life be to Thy praise;  
Thou alone shalt be my glory,  
Nothing in the world I see;  
Thou hast cleansed and sanctified me  
Thou Thyself hast set me free.

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.

Scripture & Sermon:

“Unbreakable” Revelation 7

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 Parting

## King of Love

Word and Music: Adam Palmer, Jonathan Smith, Matthew Hein, Stephanie Kulla, Stuart Garrard  
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1 The King of Love my Shepherd is  
Whose goodness faileth never  
I nothing lack if I am His  
And He is mine forever, And He is mine forever

2 Where streams of living water flow  
My ransomed soul He leadeth  
And where the verdant pastures grow  
With food celestial feedeth

### Chorus

Never failing Ruler of my heart  
Everlasting Lover of my soul  
On the mountain high or in the valley low  
The King of Love my Shepherd is  
The King of Love my Shepherd is

3 Lost and foolish off I strayed  
But yet in love He sought me  
And on His shoulder gently laid  
And home rejoicing brought me

4 In death's dark veil I fear no ill  
With Thee dear Lord beside me  
Thy rod and staff my comfort still  
Thy cross before to guide me. [Chorus]

5 And so through all the length of days  
Thy goodness faileth never  
Good Shepherd may I sing Your praise  
Within Your house forever, Within Your house forever

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.

## 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.

## 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.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 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**

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#### **Our Pastor**

Rev. Howard Wheeler              479-970-1384

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