

POTTSVILLE ASSOCIATE REFORMED
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



THE LORD'S DAY
MAY 23, AD 2021

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

For Reflection

"And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this:

"Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
 as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.

-- Matthew 6:7-13

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

Colossians 1:15-20

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

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 15:3-4

Pastor: Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty!
People: Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations!
Pastor: Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name?
People: For you alone are holy.
Pastor: All nations will come and worship you,
People: For your righteous acts have been revealed.

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

Holy, Holy, Holy!

Public Domain. Words: Reginald Heber. Music: John Dykes.CCL# 11359088

1. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!
2. Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Who wert and art and ever more shall be.
3. Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.
4. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name
In earth, and sky, and sea;
Holy, holy, holy; merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Call to Confession

Colossians 2:13-15

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

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 25

Turn to us, O Lord, and be gracious. For Your Name's sake, pardon our guilt, for it is great. Remember your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!

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

Colossians 1:21-23

And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven.

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.

Confession of Faith

Heidelberg Catechism, Q1

Pastor: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

People: That I, with body and soul, both in life and in death, am not my own, but belong to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ, who with His precious blood has fully satisfied for all my sins, and redeemed me from all the power of the devil; and so preserves me, that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head; yea, that all things must work together for my salvation. Wherefore, by His Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life, and makes me heartily willing and ready henceforth to live unto Him.

Pastor: So if there is any encouragement in Christ,

People: Any comfort from love,

Pastor: Any participation in the Spirit,

People: Any affection and sympathy,

Pastor: Complete my joy by being of the same mind,

People: Having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

Pastor: Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit,

People: But in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

Pastor: Let each of you look not only to his own interests,

People: But also to the interests of others.

Pastor: Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ

Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,

People: But emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

Pastor: And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death,

People: Even death on a cross.

Pastor: Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,

People: So that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Songs of Praise

Jesus Shall Reign

Public Domain. Words: Isaac Watts. Music: John Hatton CCL# 11359088

1. Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does His successive journeys run;
His kingdom spread from shore to shore,
'Til moons shall wax and wane no more.

2. To Him shall endless prayer be made,
And praises throng to crown His head;
His name like sweet perfume shall rise
With every morning sacrifice.

3. People and realms of ev'ry tongue
Dwell on His love with sweetest song;
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on His name.

4. Blessings abound where'er He reigns;
The prisoner leaps to lose his chains;
The weary find eternal rest,
And all the sons of want are blessed.

5. Where He displays His healing power,
Death and the curse are known no more:
In Him the tribes of Adam boast
More blessings than their father lost.

6. Let ev'ry creature rise and bring
His grateful honors to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud amen!

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: "Thy Kingdom Come" Revelation 11:15-19

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

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 heavenly 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 wond'ring eye at mysteries so bright.

3. Crown Him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,
Who rose victorious to the strife for those He came to save.
His glories now we sing, who died, and rose on high
Who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

4. Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, one with the Father known,
One with the Spirit through Him giv'n from yonder glorious throne,
To Thee be endless praise for Thou for us hast died;
Be Thou, O Lord, through endless days adored and magnified.

5. Crown Him the Lord of years, the Potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! for Thou has died for me;
Thy praise shall never never fail throughout eternity.

What is the Lord's Supper? The Lord's Supper is a covenant meal celebrating Christ's atoning work; as it is also a means of strengthening our faith as we look to him, and a foretaste of the future feast.

But those who take part with unrepentant hearts eat and drink judgment on themselves.

The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Table is a table of remembrance, in which we remember that God's mercy to us comes at a high cost. Jesus' body was broken and His blood poured out on the cross as he bore the wrath and curse of the judgment of God that we deserved because of our sins.

The Lord's Table is also a table of fellowship. By his gracious work in saving us, he has adopted us into His Body, the Church. He has placed us in His Covenant Family to live life together. Christ is spiritually and really present with us in this meal to fellowship with us as we fellowship with one another.

The Lord's Table is a table of nourishment. Just as other meals and tables nourish our bodies, this meal and this table nourishes our souls as we feed by faith on God's goodness, His promises, and His presence with us.

The Lord's Table is a table of expectation. As often as we eat of the bread and drink of the cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. By faith, we lift up our heads as our redemption draws ever nearer.

But it is the Lord's Table. It is for those who are His, for those who have been baptized in the name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who have professed their faith before the Church, who are not under the lawful discipline of the Church and who are not unwilling to repent of their sins.

Psalm 133

"Christian Unity"

Behold how good a thing it is
And how becoming well
Together such as brethren are
In unity to dwell. In unity to dwell

As precious ointment on the head
Which down the beard did flow.
Ev'n Aaron's beard and to the skirts
Did of his garments go. Did of his garments go.

As Hermon's dew, the dew that doth
On Zion's hills descend;
For there the blessing God commands,
Life that shall never end. Life that shall never end.

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.

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

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