

POTTSVILLE ASSOCIATE REFORMED
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



THE LORD'S DAY
AUGUST 31, AD 2025

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

For Reflection

For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness.

And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel.

I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

- Ezekiel 34:11-16

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

Psalm 95:1-8

Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.
Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!
For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.
Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts

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 96:7-9

Pastor: Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
People: Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!
Pastor: Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
People: Bring an offering, and come into his courts!
Pastor: Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness;
People: Tremble before him, all the earth!

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

We Will Feast in the House of Zion

Words & Music: Sandra McCracken and Joshua Moore,
© 2015 Drink Your Tea (ASCAP) / Joshmooreownsthis Music (ASCAP)CCL# 20559147

Chorus

We will feast in the house of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things, we will say together
We will feast and weep no more

We will not be burned by the fire
He is the LORD our God
We are not consumed, by the flood
Upheld, protected, gathered up (Chorus)

In the dark of night, before the dawn
My soul, be not afraid
For the promised morning, oh how long?
Oh God of Jacob, be my strength (Chorus)

Every vow we've broken and betrayed
You are the Faithful one
And from the garden to the grave
Bind us together, bring shalom. (Chorus)

Call to Confession

John 10:10-13

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

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

John 10:14-15, 27-28

I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice... My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

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.

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: I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad.
Oh, magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together!

People: I sought the Lord, and he answered me
and delivered me from all my fears.
Those who look to him are radiant,
and their faces shall never be ashamed.
This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him
and saved him out of all his troubles.

Pastor: The angel of the Lord encamps
around those who fear him, and delivers them.

People: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!
Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

Songs of Praise

I Love the Lord (Psalm 116)

Words: Psalm 116, ARP Bible Songs, Music: William Bradbury, Public Domain CCL# 20559147

1. I love the Lord for He did hear
My voice and supplications all
Because He hath inclined His ear,
I while I live will on Him call.

Chorus:

What fit return, Lord can I make
For all Thy gifts on me bestowed?
The cup of blessing I will take,
And call upon the Name of God.

2. O Lord, the high and holy One,
I am a servant unto Thee,
Thy servant and thy handmaid's son;
Thou hast from bonds delivered me.

3. With sacrifice of thanks I'll go
And on Jehovah's Name will call;
Will pay to God the vows I owe
In presence of His people all.

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:

“On Faithful Stewardship,”
Mark 12:1-12

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

Come All You Pining

Words: Anne Steele. Music: Brian Murphy. CCL# 20559147

Lord, we adore Thy boundless grace,
The heights and depths unknown,
Of pardon, life, and joy, and peace,
In Thy Beloved Son.

Refrain:

Come, all ye pining, hungry, poor,
The Savior's bounty taste;
Behold a never-failing store
For every willing guest.

O wondrous gifts of love divine,
Dear Source of every good;
Jesus, in Thee what glories shine!
How rich Thy flowing blood! (Refrain)

Here shall your numerous wants receive
A free, a full supply;
He has unmeasured bliss to give,
And joys that never die. (Refrain)

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.

Song of Parting

Lord God, Now Let Your Servants Depart in Peace

Words and Music: Greg Sheer. Verses 2-3: Isabella Wheeler CCL# 20559147

Lord God, now let your servants depart in peace;
For our eyes have seen your saving grace.
A light to the world And the light of life.
Seen in our Savior's face. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Lord God, now let your servants depart with joy,
For our hearts have known the strength of your love!
No shadow can claim, Those who bear your name -
Cherished, are your beloved. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Lord God, now let your servants depart in strength,
To a life no longer conquered by fear.
For death you have slain, Triumph! our refrain,
Sung for the world to hear! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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

- We will meet today at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall as we continue our study of the Heidelberg Catechism.
- 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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