

MERCY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ORDER OF WORSHIP

SUNDAY • MARCH 8, 2020 • 10:30 AM

CALL TO WORSHIP Romans 12:1–2

Pastor: I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

**People: Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.**

Pastor: That by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

HYMN OF ADORATION

1. A mighty fortress is our God,  
A bulwark never failing;  
Our Helper He amid the flood  
Of mortal ills prevailing;  
For still our ancient Foe  
Doth seek to work us woe;  
His craft and pow'r are great,  
And armed with cruel hate,  
On earth is not his equal.

2. Did we in our own strength confide,  
Our striving would be losing;  
Were not the right Man on our side,  
The Man of God's own choosing;  
Dost ask who that may be:  
Christ Jesus it is He;  
Lord Sabbaoth His name,  
from age to age the same,  
And He must win the battle.

A Mighty Fortress

3. And though this world with devils filled,  
Should threaten to undo us  
We will not fear for God hath willed,  
His truth to triumph through us  
The prince of darkness grim,  
We tremble not for him  
His rage we can endure,  
For lo his doom is sure  
One little word shall fell him

4. That word above all earthly pow'rs,  
No thanks to them abideth;  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours  
through Him who with us sideth;  
Let goods and kindred go,  
This mortal life also;  
The body they may kill;  
God's truth abideth still,  
His kingdom is forever!

*Words and Music by Martin Luther  
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READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 40:4–11

<sup>4</sup>Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust, who does not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after a lie! <sup>5</sup>You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you! I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told.

<sup>6</sup>In sacrifice and offering you have not delighted, but you have given me an open ear. Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required. <sup>7</sup>Then I said, Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me: <sup>8</sup>I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.”

<sup>9</sup>I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; behold, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O LORD. <sup>10</sup>I have not hidden your deliverance within my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation.

<sup>11</sup>As for you, O LORD, you will not restrain your mercy from me; your steadfast love and your faithfulness will ever preserve me!

HYMN OF CONFESSION

1. Jesus, I my cross have taken,  
All to leave and follow Thee.  
Destitute, despised, forsaken,  
Thou from hence my all shall be.  
Perish every fond ambition,  
All I've sought or hoped or known.  
Yet how rich is my condition!  
God and heaven are still my own.

2. Let the world despise and leave me,  
They have left my Savior, too.  
Human hearts and looks deceive me;  
Thou art not, like them, untrue.  
O while Thou dost smile upon me,  
God of wisdom, love, and might,  
Foes may hate and friends disown me,  
Show Thy face and all is bright.

3. Man may trouble and distress me,  
’Twill but drive me to Thy breast.  
Life with trials hard may press me;  
Heaven will bring me sweeter rest.  
Oh, ’tis not in grief to harm me  
While Thy love is left to me;  
Oh, ’twere not in joy to charm me,  
Were that joy unmixed with Thee.

Jesus I My Cross Have Taken

4. Go, then, earthly fame and treasure,  
Come disaster, scorn and pain  
In Thy service, pain is pleasure,  
With Thy favor, loss is gain  
I have called Thee Abba Father,  
I have stayed my heart on Thee  
Storms may howl, and clouds may gather;  
All must work for good to me.

5. Soul, then know thy full salvation;  
Rise o'er sin and fear and care.  
Joy to find in every station,  
Something still to do or bear.  
Think what Spirit dwells within thee,  
Think what Father's smiles are thine,  
Think that Jesus died to win thee,  
Child of heav'n, canst thou repine.

6. Haste thee on from grace to glory,  
Armed by faith, and winged by prayer.  
Heav'n's eternal days before thee,  
God's own hand shall guide us there.  
Soon shall close thy earthly mission,  
Soon shall pass thy pilgrim days,  
Hope shall change to glad fruition,  
Faith to sight, and prayer to praise.

*Authors: Words by Henry Lyte;  
Music by Mozart (alt. by Bill Moore)  
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CONFESSION OF SIN

Almighty God, your ways are higher than our ways, and your thoughts than our thoughts, as the heavens are higher than the earth. Deep and rich is your wisdom and your knowledge, O God. And yet, rather than responding in awe with worship, we question and doubt. Forgive us for demanding answers from you, when it is you who will justly require an account from us. For from you and through you and to you are all things. Increase our faith, that we may live according to what we profess to believe. To you be the glory forever. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Isaiah 25:7–8a, 9

“And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever. It will be said on that day, ‘Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.’”

SONG OF ASSURANCE He Will Swallow Up Death

1. The whole of nature groans with longing,  
We ache for that promised glory;  
Still we rejoice because we know  
Plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

2. The whole of nature groans with longing,  
We wait for that promised glory;  
Still we rejoice because we know  
Our sorrow's end is coming.

Chorus

He will swallow up death and wipe the tears from our faces;  
He will swallow up death and wipe the tears from our faces;  
We'll sing: “This is our God we've waited for and he saved us!”  
He will swallow up death and wipe the tears from our faces.

3. Here in the darkness of our mourning,  
We wait for the Light that's coming,  
And on that day we will return  
With joy and gladness singing:  
Chorus

Behold, your God. He will come and save you (6X)  
Chorus 2X

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THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Fletcher Thomas Meekins

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

COLLECTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

## HYMN OF THANKSGIVING      **The Lord Is My Salvation**

*(Children ages 4-5 are dismissed for “Equip for Worship” during the last stanza.  
Visitors’ children are welcome.)*

1. The grace of God has reached for me  
And pulled me from the raging sea;  
And I am safe on this solid ground;  
The Lord is my salvation.

2. I will not fear when darkness falls;  
His strength will help me scale these walls.  
I’ll see the dawn of the rising sun;  
The Lord is my salvation.

### **Chorus**

Who is like the Lord our God?  
Strong to save, faithful in love;  
My debt is paid and the vict’ry won;  
The Lord is my salvation.

3. My hope is hidden in the Lord;  
He flow’rs each promise of His Word.  
When winter fades, I know spring will come;  
The Lord is my salvation.

4. In times of waiting, times of need,  
When I know loss, when I am weak,  
I know His grace will renew these days;  
The Lord is my salvation.  
Chorus

5. And when I reach my final day,  
He will not leave me in the grave,  
But I will rise,  
He will call me home;  
The Lord is my salvation.  
Chorus

Glory be to God the Father,  
Glory be to God the Son,  
Glory be to God the Spirit;  
The Lord is our salvation.  
The Lord is our salvation,  
The Lord is our salvation.

*Authors: Words and Music by Keith & Kristyn Getty,  
Nathan Nockels and Jonas  
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## SCRIPTURE READING      **Acts 20:17-38**

<sup>17</sup> Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. <sup>18</sup> And when they came to him, he said to them:

“You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, <sup>19</sup> serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; <sup>20</sup> how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, <sup>21</sup> testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>22</sup> And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, <sup>23</sup> except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. <sup>24</sup> But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. <sup>25</sup> And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. <sup>26</sup> Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, <sup>27</sup> for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. <sup>28</sup> Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. <sup>29</sup> I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; <sup>30</sup> and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. <sup>31</sup> Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. <sup>32</sup> And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. <sup>33</sup> I coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel. <sup>34</sup> You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. <sup>35</sup> In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

<sup>36</sup> And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. <sup>37</sup> And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, <sup>38</sup> being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship.

## SERMON

### **“An Open Letter to the Church Elders”**

**- Rev. Bryan Rigg**

## HYMN OF RESPONSE

### **The Sands of Time**

1. The sands of time are sinking,  
The dawn of heaven breaks;  
The summer morn I’ve sighed for -  
The fair, sweet morn awakes:  
Dark, dark had been the midnight,  
But dayspring is at hand,  
And glory, glory dwelleth  
In Emmanuel’s land.

2. The king there in His beauty,  
Without a veil is seen:  
It were a well-spent journey,  
Though sev’n deaths lay between:  
The Lamb with His fair army,  
Doth on Mount Zion stand,  
And glory, glory dwelleth  
In Emmanuel’s land

3. O Christ, He is the fountain,  
The deep, sweet well of love!  
The streams on earth I’ve tasted  
More deep I’ll drink above:  
There to an ocean fullness  
His mercy doth expand,  
And glory, glory dwelleth  
In Emmanuel’s land.

4. The bride eyes not her garment,  
But her dear Bridegroom’s face;  
I will not gaze at glory  
But on my King of grace.  
Not at the crown He giveth  
But on His pierced hand;  
The Lamb is all the glory  
Of Emmanuel’s land.

5. O I am my Beloved’s  
And my Beloved is mine!  
He brings a poor vile sinner  
Into His house of wine  
I stand upon His merit -  
I know no other stand,  
Not e’en where glory dwelleth  
In Emmanuel’s land.

*Authors: Words: Anne Cousin (based on Samuel  
Rutherford’s letters).  
Music: traditional folk tune (arr. Phillip  
Palmertree)  
©2001 Philip Palmertree Music.*

## BENEDICTION

## DISMISSAL

Minister: Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**People: THANKS BE TO GOD!**

## POSTLUDE

### **MERCY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH      CCLI LICENSE #11042946**

Bryan Rigg, Pastor • 434-907-0711 (m) • [bryan@mercypres.org](mailto:bryan@mercypres.org)  
114 Tradewynd Drive, Lynchburg, VA 24502 • Website: [www.mercypres.org](http://www.mercypres.org)

*Mercy*  
Presbyterian Church

*“Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God’s people;  
Once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.”  
I Peter 2:10*

Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)