

Mercy

Presbyterian Church

ORDER OF WORSHIP

SUNDAY • MAY 17, 2020

CALL TO WORSHIP Isaiah 44:6, 8, 22-23

Leader: Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god."

People: "Fear not, nor be afraid. Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any."

Leader: "I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like the mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you."

People: Sing, O heavens, for the LORD has done it; shout, O depths of the earth; break forth into singing, O mountains, O forest, and every tree in it!

Leader: For the LORD has redeemed Jacob, and will be glorified in Israel.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

HYMN OF ADORATION

The Love of Christ is Rich and Free

1. The love of Christ is rich and free,
Fixed on His own eternally;
Nor earth, nor hell, can it remove;
Long as He lives, His own He'll love.

2. His loving heart engaged to be
Their everlasting Surety;
'Twas love that took their cause in hand,
And love maintains it to the end.

Chorus

Love cannot from its post withdraw;
Nor death, nor hell, nor sin, nor law

Can turn the Surety's heart away;
He'll love His own to endless day.

HYMN OF ADORATION Great is Thy Faithfulness

1. Great is Thy faithfulness, O God, my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

Chorus

Great is Thy faithfulness, great is Thy faithfulness;
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed, Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join, with all nature, in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.
Chorus

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide:
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside.
Chorus

*Authors: Thomas Obediah Chisholm & William Marion Runyan
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OLD TESTAMENT READING Lamentations 3:4-9, 21-24

He has made my flesh and my skin waste away; he has broken my bones; he has besieged and enveloped me with bitterness and tribulation; he has made me dwell in darkness like the dead of long ago. He has walled me about so that I cannot escape; he has made my chains heavy; though I call and cry for help, he shuts out my prayer; he has blocked my ways with blocks of stones; he has made my paths crooked.

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

HYMN OF CONFESSION Ps. 130 (verse 1-2)

1. From the depths of woe, I raise to Thee
The voice of lamentation;
Lord, turn a gracious ear to me
And hear my supplication:
If, Thou, iniquities dost mark,
Our secret sins and misdeeds dark,
O who shall stand before Thee?

2. To wash away the crimson stain,
Grace, grace alone availeth;
Our works alas are all in vain,
In much the best life faileth.
No man can glory in Thy sight,
All must alike confess Thy might
And live alone by mercy.

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Arrangement by Jonathan Noel, 2007*

CONFESSION OF SIN

Lord Jesus, you call us to abide in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit apart from the vine, neither can we apart from you. And yet, the fruit in our lives testifies that we have turned away. Forgive our faithlessness. And comfort us with your abiding faithfulness. For you have taken us in your hand, and none can snatch us away. Assure us of your love, as you assured Peter after he denied you. Receive us, like him, as we reaffirm our love for you. And by your Spirit, strengthen us to heed your call, "Follow me."

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Jeremiah 50:34

"Their Redeemer is strong; the LORD of hosts is his name. He will surely plead their cause and give rest to the earth."

HYMN OF ASSURANCE Ps. 130 (verse 3-5)

3. Therefore, my trust is in the Lord
And not in mine own merit;
On Him my soul shall rest,
His word upholds my fainting spirit.
His promised mercy is my fort,
My comfort and my sweet support;
(Men)I wait for it with patience, (2X)
(Women echo)Wait for it with patience. (2X)

5. Though great our sins and sore our woes,
His grace much more aboundeth;
His helping love no limit knows,
Our utmost need it soundeth.
Our Shepherd, good and true is He,
Who will at last His Israel free
(Men) From all their sin and sorrow, (4X)
(Women echo) All their sin and sorrow. (4X)

4. What, though I wait the livelong night
Until the dawn appeareth,
My heart still trusteth in His might,
It doubteth not nor feareth.
Do thus ,O ye of Israel's seed,
Ye, of the Spirit born indeed:
(Men) And wait 'til God appeareth, (2X)
(Women echo) Wait 'til God appeareth. (2X)

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PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

COLLECTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

HYMN OF THANKSGIVING We Are Not Overcome

1. Flesh will fail and bones will break,
Thieves will steal, the earth will shake;
Night will fall, the light will fade,
The Lord will give and take away.

2. Put no trust in the earth,
In the sod you stand upon;
Flowers fade into dust,
The Lord will make a place for us.

Chorus

Because of His great Love,
We are not overcome!
Because of His great Love,
We are not overcome!

3. Have no fear for your life,
Turn your cheek! Turn your cheek!
Bear the yoke of love and death;
The Lord will give all life and breath.
Chorus 2X

*Author: Isaac Wardell
2010 New Jerusalem Music*

SCRIPTURE READING Acts 28: 17-22

After three days he called together the local leaders of the Jews, and when they had gathered, he said to them, "Brothers, though I had done nothing against our people or the customs of our fathers, yet I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans. When they had examined me, they wished to set me at liberty, because there was no reason for the death penalty in my case. But because the Jews objected, I was compelled to appeal to Caesar—though I had no charge to bring against my nation. For this reason, therefore, I have asked to see you and speak with you, since it is because of the hope of Israel that I am wearing this chain." And they said to him, "We have received no letters from Judea about you, and none of the brothers coming here has reported or spoken any evil about you. But we desire to hear from you what your views are, for with regard to this sect we know that everywhere it is spoken against."

SERMON "Wearing Gospel Chains" - Rev. Bryan Rigg

- A prisoner without offense...

- Who embraces chains that ensnare...

- For the hope of his people.

HYMN OF RESPONSE There is a Fountain

1. There is a fountain filled with blood,
Drawn from Immanuel's veins;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood
Lose all their guilty stains,
Lose all their guilty stains,
Lose all their guilty stains;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood
Lose all their guilty stains.

2. The dying thief rejoiced to see
That fountain in his day;
And there may I, though vile as he,
Wash all my sins away;
Wash all my sins away,
Wash all my sins away;
And there may I, though vile as he,
Wash all my sins away.

3. Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood
Shall never lose its power
Till all the ransomed church of God
Be saved to sin no more;
Be saved to sin no more,
Be saved to sin no more;
Till all the ransomed church of God
Be saved to sin no more.

4. When this poor lisp'ing, stamm'ring tongue
Lies silent in the grave,
Then in a nobler, sweeter song
I'll sing Thy pow'r to save;
I'll sing Thy pow'r to save,
I'll sing Thy pow'r to save;
Then in a nobler, sweeter song
I'll sing Thy pow'r to save.

*Authors: Lowell Mason & William Cowper
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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

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