

MERCY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ORDER OF WORSHIP
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2020

CALL TO WORSHIP Colossians 2:6-7

Leader: Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him.

People: Rooted and built up in him and established in the faith.

Leader: Just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

HYMN OF PRAISE Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder

1. Let us love and sing and wonder,
Let us praise the Savior's name.
He has hushed the law's loud thunder,
He has quenched Mount Sinai's flame.
He has washed us with His blood,
He has washed us with His blood,
He has washed us with His blood,
He has brought us nigh to God.

2. Let us love the Lord who bought us,
Pitied us when enemies.
Called us by His grace and taught us,
Gave us ears and gave us eyes.
He has washed us with His blood,
He has washed us with His blood,
He has washed us with His blood,
He presents our souls to God

3. Let us sing though fierce temptation
Threatens hard to bear us down.
For the Lord our strong salvation
Holds in view the conqueror's crown.
He who washed us with His blood,
He who washed us with His blood,
He who washed us with His blood,
Soon will bring us home to God.

4. Let us wonder grace and justice
Join and point to mercy's store,
When through grace in Christ our trust
is,
Justice smiles and asks no more.
He who washed us with His blood,
He who washed us with His blood,
He who washed us with His blood,
Has secured our way to God.

5. Let us praise and join the chorus
Of the saints enthroned on high.
Here they trusted Him before us
Now their praises fill the sky
Thou hast washed us with Thy blood,
Thou hast washed us with Thy blood,
Thou hast washed us with Thy blood,
Thou art worthy, Lamb of God.

*Author: John Newton; Music by Laura Taylor
© Laura Taylor Music*

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN Romans 6:10-14

¹⁰ For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

¹² Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. ¹³ Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Isaiah 53:4-6

⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.
⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.
⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

SONG OF ASSURANCE Grace Alone

1. I was an orphan, lost at the fall, running away when I'd hear you call,
But Father, you worked your will.
I had no righteousness of my own; I had no right to draw near your throne,
But Father, you loved me still.

Chorus 1
And in love, before you laid the world's foundation
You predestined to adopt me as your own.
You have raised me up so high above my station.
I'm a child of God by grace, and grace alone.

2. You left your home to seek out the lost; You knew the great and terrible cost,
But Jesus, your face was set.
I worked my fingers down to the bone; Nothing I did could ever atone,
But Jesus, you paid my debt.

Chorus 2
By your blood I have redemption and salvation.
Lord, you died that I might reap what you have sown,
And you rose that I might be a new creation.
I am born again by grace, and grace alone.

Bridge
I was darkness all of my life; I never knew the day from the night,
But Spirit, you made me see.
I swore I knew the way on my own; Head full of rocks, a heart made of stone,
But Spirit, you moved in me.

Chorus 3
At your touch my sleeping spirit was awakened.
On my darkened heart the light of Christ has shone.
Called into a kingdom that cannot be shaken
Heaven's citizen by grace, and grace alone.

Ending
So I'll stand in faith by grace, and grace alone.
I will run the race by grace, and grace alone.
I will slay my sin by grace, and grace alone.
I will reach the end by grace, and grace alone.

*Dustin Kensrue
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THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
*William Harrison Hix
Esther Elisabeth Ramsey*

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN OF PREPARATION Come Thou Fount

1. Come, Thou fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise!
Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of Thy redeeming love.

2. Here I raise my Ebenezer,
Hither by Thy help I'm come;
And I hope by Thy good pleasure
Safely to arrive at home;
Jesus sought me when a stranger
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious Blood!

3. Oh, to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be;
Let Thy grace now, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to Thee;
Prone to wander, Lord I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above!

Prone to wander, Lord I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above!

*Authors: Robert Robinson and John Wyeth; Music by Ashael Nettleton
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SCRIPTURE READING Nehemiah 13:1-9, 19-31

¹ On that day they read from the Book of Moses in the hearing of the people. And in it was found written that no Ammonite or Moabite should ever enter the assembly of God, ² for they did not meet the people of Israel with bread and water, but hired Balaam against them to curse them—yet our God turned the curse into a blessing. ³ As soon as the people heard the law, they separated from Israel all those of foreign descent.

⁴ Now before this, Eliashib the priest, who was appointed over the chambers of the house of our God, and who was related to Tobiah, ⁵ prepared for Tobiah a large chamber where they had previously put the grain offering, the frankincense, the vessels, and the tithes of grain, wine, and oil, which were given by commandment to the Levites, singers, and gatekeepers, and the contributions for the priests. ⁶ While this was taking place, I was not in Jerusalem, for in the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon I went to the king. And after some time I asked leave of the king ⁷ and came to Jerusalem, and I then discovered the evil that Eliashib had done for Tobiah, preparing for him a chamber in the courts of the house of God. ⁸ And I was very angry, and I threw all the household furniture of Tobiah out of the chamber. ⁹ Then I gave orders, and they cleansed the chambers, and I brought back there the vessels of the house of God, with the grain offering and the frankincense.

¹⁹ As soon as it began to grow dark at the gates of Jerusalem before the Sabbath, I commanded that the doors should be shut and gave orders that they should not be opened until after the Sabbath. And I stationed some of my servants at the gates, that no load might be brought in on the Sabbath day. ²⁰ Then the merchants and sellers of all kinds of wares lodged outside Jerusalem once or twice. ²¹ But I warned them and said to them, “Why do you lodge outside the wall? If you do so again, I will lay hands on you.” From that time on they did not come on the Sabbath. ²² Then I commanded the Levites that they should purify themselves and come and guard the gates, to keep the Sabbath day holy. Remember this also in my favor, O my God, and spare me according to the greatness of your steadfast love.

²³ In those days also I saw the Jews who had married women of Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab. ²⁴ And half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod, and they could not speak the language of Judah, but only the language of each people. ²⁵ And I confronted them and cursed them and beat some of them and pulled out their hair. And I made them take an oath in the name of God, saying, “You shall not give your daughters to their sons, or take their daughters for your sons or for yourselves. ²⁶ Did not Solomon king of Israel sin on account of such women? Among the many nations there was no king like him, and he was beloved by his God, and God made him king over all Israel. Nevertheless, foreign women made even him to sin. ²⁷ Shall we then listen to you and do all this great evil and act treacherously against our God by marrying foreign women?”

²⁸ And one of the sons of Jehoiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, was the son-in-law of Sanballat the Horonite. Therefore I chased him from me. ²⁹ Remember them, O my God, because they have desecrated the priesthood and the covenant of the priesthood and the Levites.

³⁰ Thus I cleansed them from everything foreign, and I established the duties of the priests and Levites, each in his work; ³¹ and I provided for the wood offering at appointed times, and for the firstfruits.

Remember me, O my God, for good.

SERMON

“Things Fall Apart”
- Rev. Bryan Rigg

HYMN OF RESPONSE

1. The church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord,
She is His new creation
By water and the Word.
From heaven He came and sought her
To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.

2. Elect from every nation,
Yet one over all the earth;
Her charter of salvation,
One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy Name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses,
With every grace endued.

3. Though with a scornful wonder
Men see her sore oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder,
By heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping;
Their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
Shall be the morn of song.

4. The church shall never perish,
Her dear Lord to defend
To guide, sustain and cherish,
Is with her to the end
Though there be those that hate her,
And false sons in her pale
Against a foe or traitor,
She ever shall prevail

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!

COLLECTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

POSTLUDE

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The Church's One Foundation

5. Mid toil and tribulation,
And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation
Of peace forevermore;
'Til, with the vision glorious,
Her longing eyes are blessed,
And the great church victorious
Shall be the church at rest.

6. Yet she on earth hath union
With God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we
Like them, the meek and lowly,
On high may dwell with Thee.

O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we
Like them, the meek and lowly,
On high may dwell with Thee.

*Words by Samuel Stone; Music by Brian Moss
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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)