



RIVER CITY
REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE LORD'S DAY
NOVEMBER 25, AD 2018

"Behold, I am doing a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."
Isaiah 43:19



RIVER CITY

REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FOR REFLECTION

Q. 20. Did God leave all mankind to perish in the estate of sin and misery?

A. God having, out of his mere good pleasure, from all eternity, elected some to everlasting life, did enter into a covenant of grace, to deliver them out of the estate of sin and misery, and to bring them into an estate of salvation by a redeemer.

Q. 21. Who is the redeemer of God's elect?

A. The only redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, and so was, and continueth to be, God and man in two distinct natures, and one person, forever.

Q. 22. How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?

A. Christ, the Son of God, became man, by taking to himself a true body and a reasonable soul, being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost in the womb of the virgin Mary, and born of her, yet without sin.

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 near The Commons. Follow the signs or ask anyone for directions.

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 50:1-5

The Mighty One, God the Lord,
speaks and summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to its setting.
Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.
Our God comes; he does not keep silence;
before him is a devouring fire,
around him a mighty tempest.
He calls to the heavens above
and to the earth, that he may judge his people:
"Gather to me my faithful ones,
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"

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

Luke 1:68-72, 77-79

Pastor: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people
People: And has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David,
Pastor: As he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
People: To show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant,
Pastor: To give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God,
People: Whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
Pastor: To guide our feet into the way of peace."

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.

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Public Domain. Words: Charles Wesley. Music: Rowland Prichard. CCL# 11359088

1. Come Thou long-expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the saints Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.
2. Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Thy Mercy, My God

Words: John Stocker. Music: Sandra McCracken.

CCL# 11359088

1. Thy mercy, my God, is the theme of my song,
The joy of my heart. and the boast of my tongue;
Thy free grace alone, from the first to the last,
Hath won my affections, and bound my soul fast.

2. Without Thy sweet mercy I could not live here;
Sin would reduce me to utter despair;
But, through Thy free goodness, my spirits revive,
And He that first made me still keeps me alive.

3. Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart,
Which wonders to feel its own hardness depart;
Dissolved by Thy goodness, I fall to the ground,
And weep to the praise of the mercy I've found.

4. Great Father of mercies, Thy goodness I own,
And the covenant love of Thy crucified Son;
All praise to the Spirit, Whose whisper divine
Seals mercy, and pardon, and righteousness mine.

All praise to the Spirit, Whose whisper divine
Seals mercy, and pardon, and righteousness mine.

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.

Assurance of Pardon: God declares in the gospel that everyone who repents and believes in Jesus Christ is forgiven and made clean.

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.

CALL TO CONFESSION

John 1:29

Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!.

CONFESSION OF SIN

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

Romans 10:9

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.

Who, for us men for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father [and the Son]; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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.

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

How Sweet and Awesome Is the Place

Public Domain, Words: Isaac Watts. Music: St. Columba, Folk Tune.
CCL# 11359088

1 How sweet and awesome is the place
with Christ within the doors,
while everlasting love displays
the choicest of her stores.

2 While all our hearts and all our songs
join to admire the feast,
each of us cries, with thankful tongue,
"Lord, why was I a guest?"

3 "Why was I made to hear your voice,
and enter while there's room,
when thousands make a wretched choice,
and rather starve than come?"

4 'Twas the same love that spread the feast
that sweetly drew us in;
else we had still refused to taste,
and perished in our sin.

5 Pity the nations, O our God,
constrain the earth to come;
send your victorious Word abroad,
and bring the strangers home.

6 We long to see your churches full,
that all the chosen race
may, with one voice and heart and soul,
sing your redeeming grace.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE?

An early Christian pastor once wrote, "in essential things, unity, in debated things, liberty, and in all things, charity." In regard to essential things we believe the basic tenets of the Christian faith as spelled out in the Apostle's Creed and the Nicene Creed. In regards to debated things we hold many distinctive beliefs which define us as an Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

- We are a Biblical Church that believes in the inerrant and sufficient Scriptures as our only rule of faith and practice, able to make us wise unto salvation and useful for teaching, correcting, rebuking, and training us as disciples.
- We are a Reformed Church which believes that grace flows necessarily out of God's sovereignty. Grace is the work of God alone. Man's free-will is a faculty God employs, but saving grace depends upon the work of the Spirit powerfully renewing man's will to accept God's gracious offer of salvation.
- We are an Evangelical Church which believes that we are called to "preach the gospel to every creature under heaven" (Mark 16:15) as Christ's ambassadors as though God were making His appeal through us to implore men to be reconciled to God through faith in Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:19-20). God's sovereign choice is one of the "secret things" which we cannot know. Therefore, we preach the gospel earnestly and urgently.
- We are a Presbyterian Church which believes that God has called men to be Elders to provide spiritual oversight, instruction, counsel and encouragement to the Church. The word Presbyterian comes from the ancient Greek word for 'elder.' Our church's elders exercise care for the families in our congregation under the authority of other elders from several neighboring states. This larger group of elders is called a Presbytery.
- We are a Connectional Church. We are under the authority of the Mississippi Valley Presbytery and the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Synod. Through these connections, we work with other churches in North America and across the world to spread the gospel to every creature under heaven.
- We are a Confessional Church. Our basic doctrines are expressed by the Westminster Confession of Faith and its Larger and Shorter Catechisms. This confession and its catechisms summarizes what we believe the Bible teaches in regard to key doctrines. We do not hold them to be inerrant or infallible, but we do believe that they accurately express the central truths of the Christian faith.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Lord's Supper. This Lord's Day, we observe the sacrament the Lord's Supper together. The is a joyful time in which we remember the faithfulness of our God to keep His promise to seek and to save that which was lost. While it is a time for reflection, it is not a time for morbid introspection, but joyful thanksgiving and fellowship in Christ.
- Our Men's Bible Study will meet at Mug's Café, 515 Main Street, North Little Rock, this Friday, November 30 @ 7:00 am. We will be continuing our study of *Spiritual Disciplines of the Christian Life* by Donald Whitney.
- Friday, November 30, The Arkansas Choral Society in conjunction with the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra and the University of Arkansas-Monticello will present their 88th Annual performance of Handel's Messiah at Calvary Baptist Church in the Heights. The concert begins at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$20.
- Supporting River City financially. Some of you have asked how you can give to support River City Reformed Church financially. We have a collection box on the hospitality table for tithes and offerings. Or if you prefer you may:
 - Give online by going to rivercityarp.org and click on the "Give" link on the main menu, or
 - Send your gift to:
River City Reformed Church,
c/o Mr. Matt Wylie
PO Box 164886 Little Rock, AR 72216

CONTACT US

Our Elders

Mr. Leslie Oates 479-857-1840

Mr. Richard Moore 901-592-9074

Mr. Matt Wylie 479-979-2224

Mr. Milton Murphy 901-497-9203

Our Pastor Rev. Howard Wheeler 479-970-1384

On the web at www.rivercityarp.org

On Facebook @RiverCityARP

Or by Email at rivercityarp@gmail.com