



**RIVER CITY**  
REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE LORD'S DAY  
OCTOBER 6, AD 2019

"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

## For Reflection

For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. 2 Corinthians 1:20

Heidelberg Catechism, Q81. Who are to come unto the table of the Lord?

A. Those who are displeased with themselves for their sins, yet trust that these are forgiven them, and that their remaining infirmity is covered by the passion and death of Christ; who also desire more and more to strengthen their faith and amend their life. But the impenitent and hypocrites eat and drink judgment to themselves.

Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q97 What is required to be the worthy receiving of the Lord's supper?

A97: It is required of them that would worthily partake of the Lord's supper, that they examine themselves of their knowledge to discern the Lord's body, of their faith to feed upon him, of their repentance, love, and new obedience; lest, coming unworthily, they eat and drink judgement to themselves.

### 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 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dream.  
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy;  
then they said among the nations,  
"The Lord has done great things for them."  
The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad.  
Restore our fortunes, O Lord,  
like streams in the Negeb!  
Those who sow in tears  
shall reap with shouts of joy!  
He who goes out weeping,  
bearing the seed for sowing,  
shall come home with shouts of joy,  
bringing his sheaves with him.

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

Deuteronomy 32:1-3

Pastor: Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak,  
People: And let the earth hear the words of my mouth.  
Pastor: May my teaching drop as the rain,  
People: My speech distill as the dew,  
Pastor: Like gentle rain upon the tender grass,  
People: And like showers upon the herb.  
Pastor: For I will proclaim the name of the Lord;  
People: Ascribe greatness to our God!

## 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

### Jesus Shall Reign

Public Domain. Words: Isaac Watts. Music: John Hatton CCL# 11359088

1. Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
Does His successive journeys run;  
His kingdom spread from shore to shore,  
'Til moons shall wax and wane no more.
2. For Him shall endless prayer be made,  
And praises throng to crown His head;  
His name like sweet perfume shall rise  
With every morning sacrifice.
3. People and realms of ev'ry tongue  
Dwell on His love with sweetest song;  
And infant voices shall proclaim  
Their early blessings on His name.
4. Blessings abound where'er He reigns;  
The prisoner leaps to lose his chains;  
The weary find eternal rest,  
And all the sons of want are blessed.
5. Where He displays His healing power,  
Death and the curse are known no more:  
In Him the tribes of Adam boast  
More blessings than their father lost.
6. Let ev'ry creature rise and bring  
His grateful honors to our King;  
Angels descend with songs again,  
And earth repeat the loud amen!

## Songs of Praise

### Speak, O Lord

Word and Music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend, © 2005 Thankyou Music. CCL# 11359088

“Speak, O Lord, as we come to You  
To receive the food of Your Holy Word.  
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;  
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,  
That the light of Christ might be seen today  
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.  
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us  
All Your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience,  
Holy reverence, true humility;  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes  
In the radiance of Your purity.  
Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see  
Your majestic love and authority.  
Words of pow’r that can never fail—  
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;  
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us—  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time  
That will echo down through eternity.  
And by grace we’ll stand on Your promises,  
And by faith we’ll walk as You walk with us.  
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built  
And the earth is filled with Your glory.”.

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

Deuteronomy 30:19-20

I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore, choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days.

## Confession of Sin

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

Romans 8:1, 2 Corinthians 5:17-18

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.... Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation

## Confession of Faith

Heidelberg Catechism Q1

Pastor: What is thy 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.

Scripture & Sermon

Jeremiah 11:1-23, "Yes and 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

## Songs of Thanksgiving

### 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 who seek your face  
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.

Psalm 133

“Christian Unity”

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

- Our Ladies will be meeting, Thursday, October 17 at 5:00 pm at the Ashley's home, to enjoy a time of fellowship and continue discussion from the book, *Let's Study James*, by Sinclair Ferguson.
- Our Men's Bible Study will meet, Friday, October 11 at 7:00 am at Mug's Café, 515 Main St., North Little Rock. We will continue our discussion of Sinclair Ferguson's *Maturity*.
- Supporting River City financially. Some of you have asked how you can give to support River City Reformed Church financially.
  - You can use the collection box on the resource table for tithes & offerings, or,
  - Give online by going to [rivercityarp.org](http://rivercityarp.org) and click on the "Give" link on the main menu, or
  - Send your gift to: River City Reformed c/o Mr. Matt Wylie, P. O. Box 164886, Little Rock, AR 72216

## CONTACT US

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