



RIVER CITY
REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE LORD'S DAY
OCTOBER 20, 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

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 5

12. Since then, by the righteous judgment of God, we deserve temporal and eternal punishment, what is required that we may escape this punishment and be again received into favor?

God wills that His justice be satisfied, therefore we must make full satisfaction to the same, either by ourselves or by another.

13. Can we ourselves make this satisfaction?

By no means: on the contrary, we daily increase our guilt.

14. Can any mere creature make satisfaction for us?

None: for first, God will not punish, in any other creature, that of which man has made himself guilty; and further, no mere creature can sustain the burden of God's eternal wrath against sin, and redeem others therefrom.

15. What manner of mediator and redeemer then must we seek?

One who is a true and sinless man, and yet more powerful than all creatures, that is, one who is at the same time true God.

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 113:1-3

Praise the Lord!
Praise, O servants of the Lord,
praise the name of the Lord!

Blessed be the name of the Lord
from this time forth and forevermore!
From the rising of the sun to its setting,
the name of the Lord is to be praised!

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

Psalm 113:4-9

Pastor: The Lord is high above all nations,
People: And his glory above the heavens!
People: Who is like the Lord our God, who is seated on high,
People: who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?
Pastor: He raises the poor from the dust
People: And lifts the needy from the ash heap,
Pastor: To make them sit with princes,
People: With the princes of his people.
Pastor: He gives the barren woman a home,
People: Making her the joyous mother of children.
All: Praise the Lord!

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

All Creatures of Our God and King

Public Domain. Words: Saint Francis of Assisi. Music: German tune, CCL# 11359088

1. All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing, Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam,

Refrain: O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

2. Thou rushing wind that art so strong
Ye clouds that sail in Heaven along, O praise Him! Alleluia!
Thou rushing morn in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening find a voice,
(Refrain)

3. Thou flowing water pure and clear
Make music for Thy Lord to hear, Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou fire so masterful and bright
That givest man both warmth and light,
(Refrain)

4. All ye men of tender heart
Forgiving others take your part, O sing ye! Alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God and on Him cast your care
(Refrain)

5. Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship Him in humbleness. O praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son
And praise the Spirit, Three in One
(Refrain)

Songs of Praise

God, Be Merciful to Me

Words: Richard Redhead, Music: Christopher Miner, CCL# 11359088

1. God, be merciful to me; on Thy grace I rest my plea
Plenteous in compassion Thou, blot out my transgressions now;
Wash me, make me pure within; cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.

2. My transgressions I confess; grief and guilt my soul oppress.
I have sinned against Thy grace, and provoked Thee to Thy face.
I confess Thy judgement just; speechless, I Thy mercy trust.

3. I am evil, born in sin; Thou desirest truth within.
Thou alone my Savior art, teach Thy wisdom to my heart;
Make me pure, Thy grace bestow, wash me whiter than the snow.

4. Broken, humbled to the dust, by Thy wrath and judgment just,
Let my contrite heart rejoice, and in gladness hear Thy voice;
From my sins O hide Thy face, blot them out in boundless grace.

5. Gracious God, my heart renew, make my spirit right and true.
Cast me not away from Thee, let Thy Spirit dwell in me;
Thy salvation's joy impart, steadfast make my willing heart.

6. Sinners then shall learn from me, and return, O God, to Thee
Savior all my guilt remove, and my tongue shall sing Thy love
Touch my silent lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall praise accord

Songs of Praise

O Love that Will Not Let Me Go

Words: George Matheson. Music: Christopher Miner. ©1997 Christopher Miner Music. CCL# 11359088

1. O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

2. O light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be.

3. O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.

4. O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

Call to Confession

Micah 7:18-19

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance?
He does not retain his anger forever,
because he delights in steadfast love.
He will again have compassion on us;
he will tread our iniquities underfoot.
You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

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

Galatians 3:10-13

"Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them." Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by faith." Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us

Confession of Faith

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell.¹ The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,² the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

¹ That is, He remained under power of death until the third day.

² "catholic" means "universal".

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.

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.

Scripture & Sermon: Jeremiah 12:7-17, "In Wrath, Remember Mercy"

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 Parting

On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand

©1997 Christopher Miner Music. Words: Samuel Stennett. Music: Christopher Miner CCL# 11359088

1. On Jordan's stormy banks I stand,
And cast a wishful eye
To Canaan's fair and happy land,
Where my possessions lie.

2. All o'er those wide extended plains,
Shines one eternal day;
There God the Son forever reigns,
And scatters night away.

Chorus:

I am bound, I am bound
I am bound for the promised land,
I am bound, I am bound
I am bound for the promised land.

3. No chilling winds nor poisonous breath
Can reach that healthful shore;
Sickness, sorrow, pain and death,
Are felt and feared no more.
(Repeat chorus)

4. When shall I reach that happy place,
And be forever blessed?
When shall I see my Father's face,
And in His bosom rest?
(Repeat chorus)

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 31 at the Ashleys' 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 this Friday, October 25 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 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

Our Elders

Mr. Leslie Oates 479-857-1840

Mr. Matt Wylie 479-979-2224

Mr. Richard Moore 901-592-9074

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