



**RIVER CITY**  
REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE LORD'S DAY  
NOVEMBER 17, 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

Westminster Shorter Catechism in Modern English, Q17-20

Q17. What happened to man in the fall?

Man fell into a condition of sin and misery.

Q18. What is sinful about man's fallen condition?

The sinfulness of that fallen condition is twofold. First, in what is commonly called original sin, there is the guilt of Adam's first sin with its lack of original righteousness and the corruption of his whole nature. Second are all the specific acts of disobedience that come from original sin.

Q19. What is the misery of man's fallen condition?

By their fall all mankind lost fellowship with God and brought His anger and curse on themselves. They are therefore subject to all the miseries of this life, to death itself, and to the pains of hell forever.

Q20. Did God leave all mankind to die in sin and misery?

From all eternity and merely because it pleased Him God chose some to have everlasting life. These He freed from sin and misery by a covenant of grace and brought them to salvation by a redeemer.

### 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.

## 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. To 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

### Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery

Word and Music: Matt Papa, Matt Boswell, CCL# 11359088

1 Come behold the wondrous mystery  
In the dawning of the King  
He the theme of heaven's praises  
Robed in frail humanity  
In our longing, in our darkness, Now the light of life has come  
Look to Christ, who condescended, Took on flesh to ransom us

2 Come behold the wondrous mystery  
He the perfect Son of Man  
In His living, in His suffering  
Never trace nor stain of sin  
See the true and better Adam, Come to save the hell-bound man  
Christ the great and sure fulfillment, Of the law; in Him we stand

3 Come behold the wondrous mystery  
Christ the Lord upon the tree  
In the stead of ruined sinners  
Hangs the Lamb in victory  
See the price of our redemption, See the Father's plan unfold  
Bringing many sons to glory, Grace unmeasured, love untold

4 Come behold the wondrous mystery  
Slain by death the God of life  
But no grave could e'er restrain Him  
Praise the Lord; He is alive!  
What a foretaste of deliverance, How unwavering our hope  
Christ in power resurrected, As we will be when he comes

## Songs of Praise

### Approach, My Soul, the Mercy Seat

Words: John Newton, Music: Alexander Reinagle, Public Domain CCL# 11359088

1 Approach, my soul, the mercy seat  
where Jesus answers prayer;  
there humbly fall before his feet,  
for none can perish there.

2 Thy promise is my only plea;  
with this I venture nigh:  
thou callest burdened souls to thee,  
and such, O Lord, am I.

3 Bowed down beneath a load of sin,  
by Satan sorely pressed,  
by war without, and fears within,  
I come to thee for rest.

4 Be thou my shield and hiding place,  
that, sheltered near thy side,  
I may my fierce accuser face,  
and tell him thou hast died.

5 O wondrous love! to bleed and die,  
to bear the cross and shame,  
that guilty sinners, such as I,  
might plead thy gracious name!

## Call to Confession

Romans 3:23-24

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus

## 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 10:9-10

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. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved

## Confession of Faith Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 5

Q12. 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?

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

Q13. Can we ourselves make this satisfaction?

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

Q14. Can any mere creature make satisfaction for us?

A: 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.

Q15. What manner of mediator and redeemer then must we seek?

A: 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.

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:

Hebrews 10:1-10, "No Substitute"

### 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

### Before the Throne of God Above

Words: Charitie Bancroft, Music: Vikki Cook © 1997 Sovereign Grace Worship (ASCAP) CCL# 11359088

Before the throne of God above  
I have a strong and perfect plea  
A great high Priest whose name is Love  
Who ever lives and pleads for me  
My name is graven on His hands  
My name is written on His heart  
I know that while in heav'n He stands  
No tongue can bid me thence depart  
No tongue can bid me thence depart

When Satan tempts me to despair  
And tells me of the guilt within  
Upward I look and see Him there  
Who made an end of all my sin  
Because the sinless Savior died  
My sinful soul is counted free  
For God the Just is satisfied  
To look on Him and pardon me  
To look on Him and pardon me

Behold Him there, the risen Lamb  
My perfect, spotless righteousness  
The great unchangeable I AM  
The King of glory and of grace  
One with Himself I cannot die  
My soul is purchased by His blood  
My life is hid with Christ on high  
With Christ my Savior and my God  
With Christ my Savior and my God

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 summarize 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 Men's Bible Study will meet this Friday, November 22 at 7:00 am at Mug's Café, 515 Main St., North Little Rock. We will continue our discussion of Sinclair Ferguson's *Maturity*.
- The Pottsville ARP Church invites you to a Fall Party and Bonfire Saturday, November 23 at 4:30 pm at the Wheeler's Home. Bring a dish and come enjoy an evening of fellowship and song.
- 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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