



RIVER CITY
REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE LORD'S DAY
MARCH 22, AD 2020

"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

Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." So he delivered him over to them to be crucified. John 19:14-16

A third time he said to them, "Why? What evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him." But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted. He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, for whom they asked, but he delivered Jesus over to their will.

-Luke 23:22-25

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 118:1, 14-15, 28-29

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!
The Lord is my strength and my song;
he has become my salvation.
Glad songs of salvation
are in the tents of the righteous:
You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God; I will extol you.
Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!

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 118:21-24

Pastor: I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.
People: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.
Pastor: This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.
People: This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

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

I Will Wait For You (Psalm 130)

Words and Music by Jordan Kauflin, Matt Merker, Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
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Out of the depths I cry to You
From darkest places I will call
Incline Your ear to me anew
And hear my cry for mercy, Lord

Were you to count my sinful ways
How could I come before Your throne?
Yet full forgiveness meets my gaze;
I stand redeemed by grace alone

CHORUS

I will wait for You, I will wait for You
On Your word, I will rely
I will wait for You, surely wait for You
Till my soul is satisfied

So put your hope in God alone
Take courage in His power to save
Completely and forever won
By Christ's emerging from the grave [Chorus]

Now He has come to make a way
And God Himself has paid the price
That all who trust in Him today
Find healing in His sacrifice [Chorus]

LAST CHORUS

I will wait for You, I will wait for You
Through the storm, and through the night
I will wait for You, surely wait for You
For Your love is my delight

Songs of Praise

Lord From Sorrows, Deep I Call

Words and Music by Matt Papa ©2018 Getty Music Hymns and Songs (ASCAP), CCL# 11359088

Lord, from sorrows deep I call, when my hope is shaken
Torn and ruined from the fall, hear my desperation
For so long I've plead and prayed, God, come to my rescue
Even so the thorn remains, still my heart will praise You

Storms within my troubled soul, questions without answers
On my faith these billows roll, God, be now my shelter
Why are you cast down my soul? Hope in Him who saves you
When the fires have all grown cold, cause this heart to praise You

Should my life be torn from me, Every worldly pleasure
When all I possess is grief, God, be then my treasure
Be my vision in the night, Be my hope and refuge
Till my faith is turned to sight, Lord, my heart will praise You

[Chorus]

And, oh, my soul, put your hope in God
My help, my Rock, I will praise Him
Sing, oh, sing through the raging storm
You're still my God, my salvation

[Repeat Chorus]

Songs of Praise

He Will Hold Me Fast

Words: Ada Habershon & Matt Merker, Music: Matt Merker, Getty Music Publishing, CCL# 11359088

When I fear my faith will fail Christ will hold me fast
When the tempter would prevail He will hold me fast
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path
For my love is often cold He must hold me fast

Chorus:

He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Savior loves me so
He will hold me fast

Those He saves are His delight Christ will hold me fast
Precious in His holy sight He will hold me fast
He'll not let my soul be lost His promises shall last
Bought by Him at such a cost He will hold me fast [CHORUS]

For my life He bled and died Christ will hold me fast
Justice has been satisfied He will hold me fast
Raised with Him to endless life He will hold me fast
Till our faith is turned to sight When he comes at last [CHORUS]

Call to Confession

Hebrews 12:1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

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.

Confession of Sin

from Psalm 25

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

Assurance of Pardon

1 Peter 3:18

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.

Confession of Faith

The Apostles' 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, dead, and 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.

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.

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

² "catholic" means "universal".

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:

Luke 22:63-23:25, "Jesus On Trial"

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

His Mercy is More

Words & Music: Matt Papa and Matt Boswell, Messenger Hymns 2015.
CCL# 11359088

1. What love could remember, no wrongs we have done
Omniscient, all-knowing, he counts not their sum
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore
Our sins they are many, his mercy is more

Chorus

Praise the Lord, his mercy is more
Stronger than darkness, new every morn
Our sins they are many, his mercy is more

2. What patience would wait as we constantly roam
What father so tender is calling us home
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor
Our sins they are many, his mercy is more. [Chorus]

3. What riches of kindness he lavished on us
His blood was the payment his life was the cost
We stood neath a debt we could never afford
Our sins they are many, his mercy more. [Chorus]

Our sins they are many, his mercy is more.

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 Men's and Ladies' Bible Studies will NOT MEET until further notice. Our Session will be assessing the situation regarding the Coronavirus epidemic weekly and will be communicating via email, text, and social media to keep you updated on our response to the present crisis.
- Our Lord's Day worship will be moved to Facebook Live at 10:30 am March 22 and March 29. After March 29 our Session will reassess and we will let you know how we will move forward.
- 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

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