

# COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## AT HOME LITURGY

March 29, 2020

This liturgy is set up to be led by the head of household in a family. Saints who worship alone are still encouraged to read aloud as directed. All directions are underlined.

### **Preparation for Worship**

Read and reflect on the following Scripture passage, praying for the Lord to bless your time of worship:

**Scripture for Meditation**

Romans 8:38-39

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **God Calls Us Into His Presence**

Read the following passage aloud together:

**Call to Worship**

Psalm 95:1-3

**Oh, sing to the LORD a new song!**  
**Sing to the LORD, all the earth.**  
**Sing to the LORD, bless His name;**  
**Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day.**  
**Declare His glory among the nations,**  
**His wonders among all peoples.**

### *We Respond to God's Call*

Stand and sing the following hymn together:

**Hymn of Praise, No. 2    *O Worship the King***

## 2

## O Worship the King

All you have made will praise you, O LORD; your saints will extol you. Ps. 145:10

1. O wor - ship the King all - glo - rious a - bove, O grate - ful - ly  
 2. O tell of his might, O sing of his grace, whose robe is the  
 3. The earth with its store of won - ders un - told, Al - might - y, your  
 4. Your boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite? It breathes in the

5. sing his pow'r and his love; our shield and De - fend - er, the  
 6. light, whose can - o - py space. His char - iots of wrath the deep  
 7. pow'r has found - ed of old; has 'stab - lished it fast by a  
 8. air; it shines in the light; it streams from the hills; it de -

9. An - cient of Days, pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor and gird - ed with praise.  
 10. thun - der - clouds form, and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.  
 11. change - less de - cree, and round it has cast, like a man - tle, the sea.  
 12. scends to the plain; and sweet - ly dis - tils in the dew and the rain.

5. Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,  
 in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;  
 your mercies how tender, how firm to the end,  
 our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!
6. O measureless Might! Ineffable Love!  
 While angels delight to hymn you above,  
 the humbler creation, though feeble their lays,  
 with true adoration shall lisp to your praise.

**Have leader pray the following prayer aloud, all responding with "Amen":**

**Prayer of Adoration**

Lord God, we come to honor You as our King all glorious! We gather gratefully to sing of Your power and love, to tell of Your might, to sing of Your grace, and to celebrate Your tender mercies that are firm to the end. We bow before You, our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend! Receive now our worship as we offer it to You in the name Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. **Amen.**

**God Cleanses Us of Our Sins**

**Be seated. Have leader read the verses before and after, with all praying aloud together.**

**Call to Confession**

1 John 1:8

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**Confession of Sin**

(kneel, as able)

Leader: Let us confess our sins together.

**All: Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In Your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Stand.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

## *We Respond to God's Declaration*

**All remain standing and sing together:**

**The Gloria Patri**

(with hands lifted)

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen, amen.*

**Be seated.**

## **God Consecrates Us By His Word**

**Have leader pray the following prayer aloud, all responding with "Amen":**

**Prayer for Illumination**

Lord, Your commandments are our delight. Your testimonies are righteous forever. Give us understanding of Your Word that we might live. This we ask, through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

**Have one person read each of the Scripture passages:**

**Old Testament Lesson    Psalm 46:1-11**

God is our refuge and strength,  
A very present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear,  
Even though the earth be removed,  
And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;  
Though its waters roar and be troubled,  
Though the mountains shake with its swelling.  
There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God,  
The holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High.  
God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved;  
God shall help her, just at the break of dawn.  
The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved;  
He uttered His voice, the earth melted.  
The LORD of hosts is with us;  
The God of Jacob is our refuge.

Come, behold the works of the LORD,  
Who has made desolations in the earth.  
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;  
He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two;  
He burns the chariot in the fire.  
Be still, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth!  
The LORD of hosts is with us;  
The God of Jacob is our refuge.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**New Testament Lesson** Revelation 21:1-4; 22:1-5

Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

All: Thanks be to God!

Homily: Listen to the message posted on the homepage of the church website: [www.cpcjackson.org](http://www.cpcjackson.org)

### *We Respond to God's Instruction*

Have leader ask, "Christians, what do we believe?" Then, all respond by reciting the creed together:

#### **Affirmation of Faith**

Nicene Creed

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

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His 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 and 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 is seated at the right hand of the Father;  
and He shall come again, with glory,  
to judge both the living and the dead;

whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;  
who with the Father and the Son together  
is worshiped and glorified;  
who spoke by the prophets;  
and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church;  
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;  
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### **The Prayer of the Church**

**Have leader read each section of prayer, all responding after "God of all mercies," with "Hear our prayer" and final "Amen."**

Blessed Lord, we thank You that You give sight to the blind, You open the ears of the deaf, and You make the lame to walk. In the darkness of sin and death, we cry to You. Continually open our ears to Your Word, our minds by Your Spirit, and our hearts by Your grace, that we may know and be thankful for all the blessings You have given to us in Christ, especially the gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. Strengthen us in faith, that we may serve You with all our body, mind, soul and strength.

God of all mercies,                    **People: Hear our prayer.**

We pray to You, O Lord, on behalf of Your Church and all Your people scattered and isolated in the United States and throughout the world. Keep us safe from illness and injury, and guide pastors, elders, and deacons as they serve Your people boldly in chaotic times. Be with all of the churches that are currently exiled from their regular meeting places, such as Covenant, and grant that this circumstance would be short-lived.

God of all mercies,                    **People: Hear our prayer.**

We ask You, O Lord, to provide us with good and faithful civil servants who will preserve the precious gift of liberty and protect the lives and property of our citizens. Give them godly wisdom, and cause them to obey Your statutes, even in the midst of

this Coronavirus pandemic. Forbid evil men from using this as an opportunity to persecute churches and private businesses, and we pray against government overreach and abuse of power.

God of all mercies,                    **People: Hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, we confess that our nation is a nation deserving of your judgment. We are a nation that has forsaken Your laws. We are a nation of thieves, murderers, and the sexually immoral. We confess these sins to You, and we ask that on account of Jesus's blood and for the sake of Your Church, You would be gracious to us. During this time, draw the lost to Yourself. May they fear Your judgments and run to Jesus for refuge.

God of all mercies,                    **People: Hear our prayer.**

We do pray for all of those who are suffering from illnesses and injuries of various sorts, including the coronavirus. Grant healing to those who are suffering, and may they give glory to You during their trials. We pray for all members of Covenant – keep us safe from the virus and sustain us until the day that You call us into eternal life.

God of all mercies,                    **People: Hear our prayer.**

Finally, Lord, we thank You for Your generous goodness to us, and that You take pleasure in those who fear You, in those who hope in Your steadfast love. We thank You for demonstrating Your love for us by saving us through Your Son, Jesus Christ who, with You and the Holy Spirit, reign as one God forever and ever. **Amen.**

## **God Commissions Us to Go Into the World**

**Hymn of Commitment, No. 92**

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

*Listen to tune here: <https://www.hymnal.net/en/hymn/h/886>*



## A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

*God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Ps. 46:1*

1. A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er  
 2. Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be  
 3. And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -  
 4. That Word a - bove all earth - ly pow'rs, no thanks to them, a -

fail - ing; our help - er he a - mid the flood of  
 los - ing; were not the right man on our side, the  
 do us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his  
 bid - eth; the Spir - it and the gifts are ours through

mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe  
 man of God's own choos - ing. Dost ask who that may be?  
 truth to tri - umph through us. The prince of dark - ness grim,  
 him who with us sid - eth. Let goods and kin - dred go,

doth seek to work us woe; his craft and pow'r are great;  
 Christ Je - sus, it is he, Lord Sa - ba - oth his name,  
 we trem - ble not for him; his rage we can en - dure,  
 this mor - tal life al - so; the bod - y they may kill:

and armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.  
 from age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.  
 for lo! his doom is sure; one lit - tle word shall fell him.  
 God's truth a - bid - eth still; his king - dom is for - ev - er.

**Closing Prayer**

**Have all pray aloud together Psalm 67:1:**

**God be merciful to us and bless us,**

**And cause His face to shine upon us. Amen.**