



COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PCA

The Lord's Day

September 3, 2023

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

September 3, 2023

Preparation for Worship

Music for Gathering

Announcements

Scripture for Meditation

Ephesians 2:19-22

Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Silent Prayer of Preparation

God Calls Us Into His Presence

† Salutation

Pastor: We are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

People: **Who made heaven and earth.**

Psalm 124:8

† Call to Worship

Psalm 95:1-3

We Respond to God's Call

†* Hymn of Praise, No. 2

O Worship the King

Congregational Response: Amen!

† Prayer of Adoration

God Cleanses Us of Our Sins

Call to Confession

Proverbs 17:3

The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, but the LORD tests the hearts.

We Confess Our Sins (congregation kneels as able)

All: Holy and merciful God, in Your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against You. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from Your ways, in wasting Your gifts, in forgetting Your

love. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease You. Forgive our sins and help us to live in Your light and walk in Your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. [*Silent prayer of confession*] Amen.

† Assurance of Pardon

1 Peter 3:18

Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God.

We Respond to God's Declaration of Forgiveness

† 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.*

†* Hymn of Praise, No. 345

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

Congregational Response: Amen!

God Consecrates us By His Word

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 48

(Responsive Reading – congregation reads bold print)

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised
In the city of our God,
In His holy mountain.
Beautiful in elevation,
The joy of the whole earth,
Is Mount Zion on the sides of the north,
The city of the great King.
God is in her palaces;
He is known as her refuge.
For behold, the kings assembled,
They passed by together.
They saw it, and so they marveled;
They were troubled, they hastened away.
Fear took hold of them there,
And pain, as of a woman in birth pangs,
As when You break the ships of Tarshish
With an east wind.
As we have heard,
So we have seen
In the city of the LORD of hosts,
In the city of our God:
God will establish it forever.

We have thought, O God, on Your lovingkindness,

In the midst of Your temple.

According to Your name, O God,

So is Your praise to the ends of the earth;

Your right hand is full of righteousness.

Let Mount Zion rejoice,

Let the daughters of Judah be glad,

Because of Your judgments.

Walk about Zion,

And go all around her.

Count her towers;

Mark well her bulwarks;

Consider her palaces;

That you may tell it to the generation following.

For this is God,

Our God forever and ever;

He will be our guide

Even to death.

Congregational Response

Pastor: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

†

Psalm 48

Tune: CWM RHONDDA – “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

vv. 1-3

Great is God, now greatly praise Him in the city of the Lord.

Holy she, His lovely mountain, great and glorious by His Word!

God her King is great within her, He, her Stronghold ever sure!

He, her Stronghold ever sure!

vv. 4-8

Earthly kings, amazed and wond'ring, look upon the Church with fear.

See them flee in dread and anguish, knowing that the Lord is near.

For the city of the Savior God will keep forevermore!

God will keep forevermore!

vv. 9-11

For Your grace and lovingkindness we proclaim Your matchless worth!

As Your Name is, great and boundless, let Your praise fill all the earth.

Let Your people sing rejoicing for the judgment of Your truth;

For the judgment of Your truth.

vv. 12-14

Walk about the bless-ed city, see her beauty, see her pow'r.

Count her ramparts, filled with glory, look on ev'ry mighty tower.

Tell her glory to the children: God will guide her evermore;

God will guide her evermore!

Congregational Response: Amen!

† **New Testament Reading**

Hebrews 12:18-24

† **Congregational Response**

Matthew 4:4

Pastor: Man shall not live by bread alone,

People: but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.

Sermon

“The Beautiful City of God”

We Respond to God’s Instruction

† **Affirmation of Faith**

The 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

**catholic=universal*

† **Prayer of Supplication and Intercession**

† **The 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.

And 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

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

† **Doxology, No. 731**

(with hands lifted)

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

God Communes with Us at His Table

The Communion

Eucharistic Meditation and Fencing of the Table

Distribution of the Bread and Communion in the Body of Christ

Hymn No. 420 (hymnal insert)

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

Distribution of the Cup and Communion in the Blood of Christ

(Outermost ring of cups contain grape juice; all others contain wine)

Silent Prayer

Prayer

We Respond to God's Gift

† **Hymn of Faith and Commitment, No. 353**

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

Congregational Response: Amen!

God Commissions Us to Go Into the World

† **Charge**

† **Benediction**

We Respond to God's Charge

† **Threefold Amen, No. 740**