



COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PCA

The Lord's Day

October 1, 2023

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

October 1, 2023

Preparation for Worship

Music for Gathering

Announcements

Scripture for Meditation

John 4:23-24

“The hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

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 149:1-2

We Respond to God's Call

+* Hymn of Praise, No. 342

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

Congregational Response: Amen!

+ Prayer of Adoration

God Cleanses Us of Our Sins

Call to Confession

Romans 3:23

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

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

Romans 5:1

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord
Jesus Christ.

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.*

†* Song of Praise (bulletin insert)

In Christ Alone

Congregational Response: Amen!

God Consecrates us By His Word

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 46

(Responsive Reading; congregation reads bold print)

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.

Congregational Response

Pastor: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

† **Hymn No. 40 (Psalm 46)**

God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength

Congregational Response: Amen!

† **New Testament Reading**

Revelation 21:9-22:5

† **Congregational Response**

Isaiah 11:9

Pastor: The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD

People: As the waters cover the sea.

Sermon

“There is a River: The Church in its Three-fold State”

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. 92**

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Congregational Response: Amen!

God Commissions Us to Go Into the World

† **Charge**

† **Benediction**

We Respond to God's Charge

† **Threefold Amen, No. 740**

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