



REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JULY 5

Welcome

Call to Worship

The Lord lives, and blessed be our rock,
and exalted be the God of our salvation!

**O LORD, God of my salvation,
I cry out day and night before you.
Let my prayer come before you;
incline your ear to my cry!**

Opening Hymn

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

**My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus’ name.**

**On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.
All other ground is sinking sand.**

**When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest upon unchanging grace;
In every rough and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.**

**On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.
All other ground is sinking sand.**

**His oath, his covenant, his blood
Support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my Hope and Stay.**

**On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.
All other ground is sinking sand.**

**When I shall launch in worlds unseen,
O may I then be found in him;
Dressed in his righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.**

**On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.
All other ground is sinking sand.**

words: Edward Mote 1834, music: William Bradbury 1863

Prayer of Confession

Lord, this is your world, but it can feel so dark.
Constant news of tragedy and pain,
the anguish of our own afflictions,
and our ongoing struggles with sin,
crash upon us like waves.

**We cry out to you in dismay,
“Why, Lord? How long, O Lord?”**

In the darkness, we think you’re not there.

**The darkness must mean you don’t love us;
or you’re too weak to save us.
We despair and give up on you.
We think we must write our own deliverance.**

We have failed to love others when they’re in the darkness.

**We’re scared that the darkness is catching.
If we climb down in the hole for someone,
then we’ll be stuck there too.
So, we hold back, we fail to reach out, to say something.**

The prince of darkness opposes you, Lord,
and all that you love.
The world is in the throes of darkness.
The darkness lives within us.

**Forgive us of our sins, Lord.
How long must this darkness persist?**

Song of Lament

“Draw Near”

The flood around me is rising;
the water’s up to my neck.
My voice is worn out from crying.
O Lord, please send me your help!

Draw near to my soul, O Lord!
Draw near to my soul, O Lord!

For those overwhelmed with trouble and trials,

We mourn.

For those in physical and mental anguish,

We mourn.

For those cut off and isolated,

We mourn.

For those who feel forgotten by God,

We mourn.

**My flesh and blood no more own me;
my family’s no more my home.
They hide their eyes from my grieving;
they stop their ears from my groans.**

Draw near to my soul, O Lord!
Draw near to my soul, O Lord!

For injustice, for systems of oppression,

We mourn.

For indulging freedom for selfishness
rather than service,

We mourn.

For prosperity gained
from the enslavement of others,

We mourn.

For those not yet free,

We mourn.

I asked them all for some comfort;
I begged, but there was no bread.
They gave me food that was poison;
with wine, they left me for dead.

Draw near to my soul, O Lord!
Draw near to my soul, O Lord!

Wendell Kimbrough, 2017

Assurance and Hope of the Gospel

*drawn from Isaiah 53; Luke 1; 22-23; John 1;
Acts 2; Revelation 22*

Jesus was cut off from those he loved:
His family thought he was crazy;
His friends ran for their lives;
His disciple betrayed him.

Lord Jesus, you suffered the darkness.

Jesus prayed in anguish and sorrow
until he sweat blood.
The authorities arrested him at night,
when darkness reigns.
They tortured him and mocked him.
They crucified him,
and the blazing noonday sun was extinguished.

Lord Jesus, you died in the darkness.

But the darkness could not hold him.
Death held no power
over one in whom there was no darkness.
After he suffered,
he saw the light of life and was satisfied.
In the morning, the stone was rolled away.

Lord Jesus, you were raised in the light!

He is the light of the world
who has come to shine on those living in darkness.
His resurrection promises
that our darkness will not be the last word.
One day there will be no more night.

**We won’t need the light of the sun in the new city,
for the Lord God himself will be our light.**

Song in the Gospel

“How Deep the Father’s Love”

How deep the Father’s love for us;
How vast beyond all measure,
That he would give his only Son
To make a wretch his treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss;
The Father turns his face away,
As wounds which mar the chosen One,
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross,
My guilt upon his shoulders.
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held him there,
Until it was accomplished.
His dying breath has brought me life,
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything:
No gifts, no powr’s, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from his reward?
I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart,
His wounds have paid my ransom.

How deep the Father’s love for us;
How vast beyond all measure,
That he would give his only Son
To make a wretch his treasure.

Stuart Townsend, 1995

Offering

Online giving available at [redeemindy.org/give]



Preparation for the Word

from Psalm 119:105

Oh LORD speak to us,
we are listening.

**Your word is a lamp to guide our feet,
and a light for our path.**

Scripture

Psalm 88

¹ LORD, you are the God who saves me;
day and night I cry out to you.

² May my prayer come before you;
turn your ear to my cry.

³ I am overwhelmed with troubles
and my life draws near to death.

⁴ I am counted among those who go down to the pit;
I am like one without strength.

⁵ I am set apart with the dead,
like the slain who lie in the grave,
whom you remember no more,
who are cut off from your care.

⁶ You have put me in the lowest pit,
in the darkest depths.

⁷ Your wrath lies heavily on me;
you have overwhelmed me with all your waves.

⁸ You have taken from me my closest friends
and have made me repulsive to them.

I am confined and cannot escape;
⁹ my eyes are dim with grief.

I call to you, Lord, every day;
I spread out my hands to you.

¹⁰ Do you show your wonders to the dead?
Do their spirits rise up and praise you?

¹¹ Is your love declared in the grave,
your faithfulness in Destruction?

¹² Are your wonders known in the place of darkness,
or your righteous deeds in the land of oblivion?

¹³ But I cry to you for help, Lord;
in the morning my prayer comes before you.

¹⁴ Why, Lord, do you reject me
and hide your face from me?

¹⁵ From my youth I have suffered
and been close to death;
I have borne your terrors and am in despair.

¹⁶ Your wrath has swept over me;
your terrors have destroyed me.

¹⁷ All day long they surround me like a flood;
they have completely engulfed me.

¹⁸ You have taken from me friend and neighbor—
darkness is my closest friend.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Charles Anderson
When I am in Darkness

Prayer

Life as Worship

Care for at-risk people
email jeff.nottingham@redeemindy.org

Men's Saturday Seminary | August 8
redeemindy.org/events/saturdayseminary

Valediction

from 1 Corinthians 12:12-14

Through Jesus, we became one body.

**We were all baptized by one Holy Spirit
and so all of us were formed into one body.**

It didn't matter that we were not the same race
or social status or had anything else
in common at all.

**We were all given the same Spirit to drink
and so were formed into one body
with many different functions and gifts.**

Father, we lack the fullness of your body here
and even those who are present now
have barriers of distance and masks.

**We can only worship in part,
can only commune in part,
can only rejoice in part,
can only be built up in part.**

Lord, we come to you separated,
yet longing for our community
to be together again.

**Jesus, for your glory and our good,
come and heal
and make our joy complete.**

Closing Hymn

"Be Still My Soul"

**Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.
Leave to thy God to order and provide;
In every change, He faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly Friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.**

**Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake
To guide the future, as He has the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
His voice Who ruled them while He dwelt below.**

**Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
When we shall be forever with the Lord.
When disappointment, grief and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.**

Music: Finlandia, Jean Sibelius, 1899

Community Group Questions

1. What words does Psalm 88 use to describe the darkness? Have you ever felt the darkness like this? What did it feel like to you?

2. How is it significant that Ps 88:18 ends with "the darkness is my closest friend"? How can we truly hope in the gospel but not over-hope in our situation changing in this world?

3. Read Luke 22:39-46, 52-53; 23:44-49. Why is darkness language used for Jesus' death? What does that tell us about his death? Read John 1:4-5 and 2 Corinthians 4:6. What does the light of the resurrection mean for our darkness?

4. Twice Psalm 88 describes the darkness as being cut off from others (verses 8 and 18). How should the gospel enable us to go into the darkness with people? What can that look like?

RPC Budget Update

Year-to-Date Giving | \$ 987,766.93

Year-to-Date Budget | \$ 1,194,323.00

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REDEEMER Scripture Reading Plan

S U M M E R 2 0 2 0

MAY 31-JUNE 6

Day 1: John 1, Ps 8
Day 2: John 2, Josh 1
Day 3: John 3, Josh 2
Day 4: John 4, Josh 3
Day 5: John 5, Josh 4

JUNE 7-13

Day 1: John 6, Ps 16
Day 2: John 7, Josh 5
Day 3: John 8, Josh 6
Day 4: John 9, Josh 7
Day 5: John 10, Josh 8

JUNE 14-20

Day 1: John 11, Ps 30
Day 2: John 12, Josh 9
Day 3: John 13, Josh 10
Day 4: John 14, Josh 11
Day 5: John 15, Josh 12

JUNE 21-27

Day 1: John 16, Ps 46
Day 2: John 17, Josh 13
Day 3: John 18, Josh 14
Day 4: John 19, Josh 15
Day 5: John 20, Josh 16

JUNE 28-JULY 4

Day 1: John 21, Ps 143
Day 2: 1 John 1, Josh 17
Day 3: 1 John 2, Josh 18
Day 4: 1 John 3, Josh 19
Day 5: 1 John 4, Josh 20

JULY 5-11

Day 1: 1 John 5, Ps 88
Day 2: 2 John, Josh 21
Day 3: 3 John, Josh 22
Day 4: Rom 1, Josh 23
Day 5: Rom 2, Josh 24

JULY 12-18

Day 1: Rom 3, Ps 6
Day 2: Rom 4, Prov 1
Day 3: Rom 5, Prov 2
Day 4: Rom 6, Prov 3
Day 5: Rom 7, Prov 4

JULY 19-25

Day 1: Rom 8, Ps 77
Day 2: Rom 9, Prov 5
Day 3: Rom 10, Prov 6
Day 4: Rom 11, Prov 7
Day 5: Rom 12, Prov 8

JULY 26-AUG 1

Day 1: Rom 13, Ps 32
Day 2: Rom 14, Prov 9
Day 3: Rom 15, Prov 10
Day 4: Rom 16, Prov 11
Day 5: Rev 1, Prov 12

AUGUST 2-8

Day 1: Rev 2, Ps 145
Day 2: Rev 3, Prov 13
Day 3: Rev 4, Prov 14
Day 4: Rev 5, Prov 15
Day 5: Rev 6, Prov 16

AUGUST 9-15

Day 1: Rev 7, Ps 56
Day 2: Rev 8, Prov 17
Day 3: Rev 9, Prov 18
Day 4: Rev 10, Prov 19
Day 5: Rev 11, Prov 20

AUGUST 16-22

Day 1: Rev 12, Ps 73
Day 2: Rev 13, Prov 21
Day 3: Rev 14, Prov 22
Day 4: Rev 15, Prov 23
Day 5: Rev 16, Prov 24

AUGUST 23-29

Day 1: Rev 17, Ps 104
Day 2: Rev 18, Prov 25
Day 3: Rev 19, Prov 26
Day 4: Rev 20, Prov 27
Day 5: Rev 21, Prov 28

AUG 30-SEPT 5

Day 1: Rev 22, Ps 9
Day 2: Col 1, Prov 29
Day 3: Col 2, Prov 30
Day 4: Col 3, Prov 31
Day 5: Col 4, Ps 25