

**Redeemer
Presbyterian
Church**

*Mercy Month
Nov 1, 2020*



Welcome

Call to Worship

from Isaiah 40:12-18, 21-26

Leader Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand,
or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens?
Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket,
or weighed the mountains on the scales
and the hills in a balance?

All **Surely all the nations of the earth are like a drip from a full bucket;
they are regarded as dust that is wiped off the scales before measuring something.
The most abundant country has no voice at the throne of God,
nor enough wealth for its offering to be noticed.**

Leader Do you not know?
Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood since the earth was founded?

All **He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth,
and its people are like grasshoppers.
He brings rulers to nothing
and renders those who govern worthless.**

Leader “To whom will you compare me?
Or who is my equal?” says the Holy One.
Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens:
Who created all these?

All **He who brings out the starry host one by one
and calls forth each of them by name.
Because of his great power and mighty strength,
not one of them is missing.**

Opening Hymn

“Praise to the Lord the Almighty”

All

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near;
Join me in glad adoration.**

**Praise to the Lord, who o’er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e’er have been
Granted in what he ordaineth?**

**Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee!
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
If, with his love, he befriend thee.**

**Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him.
Let the amen sound from his people again,
Gladly fore’er we adore him.**

**Let the amen sound from his people again,
Gladly fore’er we adore him.**

words Joachim Neander, 1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; music: Lobe den Herren, 1665

Prayer of Adoration

Prayer of Confession

Drawn from 1 Peter 1-2; Galatians 1:4; Ephesians 2:2

Leader Apart from you, Lord, our way of life seems full and right,
 but really, it's only empty, cut off from true light and life.

All **We're like sheep going astray,
 who don't even know they don't know their own way.**

Leader The Bible describes the time between Christ's advent and his return
 as this present evil age, under the sway of the devil,
 the spirit now at work in those who are disobedient.

All **We encounter evil in us and around us,
 but it does not drive us to you, Jesus.**

Leader Instead, in the face of evil, we are prone

All **To shrink back in fear of opposition;
 To strike back at wrongs done to us;
 To fight evil and bring justice by human means;
 To grow numb to the way things are;
 To give up hope that God will do anything.**

Leader Unless you call us, God, we remain in darkness.

All **Restore us to yourself, Shepherd and Guardian of our souls.**

Assurance of Pardon in the Gospel

Drawn from 1 Peter 1-3

Leader

Jesus is special and dear to God.
The Father chose him before the creation of the world
to be the cornerstone of the new world.

All

**Christ was revealed when he suffered for us,
bearing our sins in his body on the cross, to bring us to God.**

Leader

Put to death in the body, he was made alive in the Spirit.

All

**He ascended into heaven where he reigns at his Father's right hand,
over every power, authority, ideology, structure, and sphere.**

Leader

You are special and dear to God.
God has chosen and redeemed you to make you his special possession
that you would trust him and follow in Jesus' steps.

All

**Let us walk, then, in both joy and hardship,
until Jesus is revealed in glory.**

Leader

Once you were not a people,

All

but now we are God's people!

Leader

Once you had not received mercy,

All

but now we have received mercy!

Song in the Gospel

“Jesus Thy Blood and Righteousness”

All

**Jesus, thy blood and righteousness
My beauty are, my glorious dress;
'Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed,
With joy shall I lift up my head.**

**Bold shall I stand in thy great day;
For who aught to my charge shall lay?
Fully absolved, through these I am,
From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.**

**So I join with the song of the Lord's redeemed.
And I praise with the throngs at the throne of my King!
Oh the might! Oh the fear! Oh the mercy that's His,
In the blood of his Son and the grace that it gives.**

**This spotless robe the same appears,
When ruined nature sinks in years;
No age can change, its glorious hue,
The robe of Christ is ever new.**

**So I join with the song of the Lord's redeemed.
And I praise with the throngs at the throne of my King!
Oh the might! Oh the fear! Oh the mercy that's His,
In the blood of his Son and the grace that it gives.**

**O let the dead now hear thy voice;
Now bid thy banished ones rejoice;
Their beauty this, their glorious dress,
Jesus, thy blood and righteousness.**

**So I join with the song of the Lord's redeemed.
And I praise with the throngs at the throne of my King!
Oh the might! Oh the fear! Oh the mercy that's His,
In the blood of his Son and the grace that it gives.**

words Nikolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1739; music Nathan Partain, 2010

Song in the Gospel

“Hold Thou My Hand”

All

Hold thou my hand; so weak I am, and helpless,
I dare not take one step without thy aid;
Hold thou my hand; for then, O loving Savior,
No dread of ill shall make my soul afraid.

Hold thou my hand, and closer, draw me closer,
To thy dear self, my hope, my joy, my all;
Hold thou my hand, lest haply I should wander,
And, missing thee, my trembling feet should fall.

Hold thou my hand; the way is dark before me,
Without the sunlight of thy face divine;
But when by faith, I catch its radiant glory,
What heights of joy, what rapturous songs are mine!

Hold thou my hand, that when I reach the margin,
Of that lone river thou didst cross for me,
A heavenly light may flash along its waters,
And every wave like crystal bright shall be.

Hold thou my hand; so weak I am, and helpless,
I dare not take one step without thy aid;
I dare not take one step without thy aid.

words Fanny Crosby, 1879; music Nathan Partain, 2003

Prayer of Dependence

Offering of Gifts and Service

Online giving available at [redeemindy.org/give]



Preparation for the Word

Isaiah 40:6-8; 1 Peter 1:24-25

Leader This is the living and abiding word of God;

All **For all the people of the earth are like grass
and all their glory like the flowers of the field.**

Leader The grass withers,
and the flower falls,

All **But the word of the Lord remains forever.**

Scripture

1 Peter 3:17-22

Reader ¹⁷ For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the Spirit, ¹⁹ in which he went and made proclamation to the spirits in prison— ²⁰ to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, ²¹ and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of filth from the flesh but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Charles Anderson

Jesus Triumphs over Evil

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Community Group Questions

- 1) When you face up to the depths of evil—in the world and in your own heart—how do you tend to respond? With despair? Indifference? Resignation? How does your response make it harder for you to carry on in the Christian life?
- 2) This is a difficult passage—one of the most difficult, in fact, in the New Testament. The trees matter, but not at the expense of the forest. Trace out what these verses tell us about Jesus. What, according to the sermon, is the main point about the “spirits in prison”? What is the main point about baptism? How would you express the big idea of this passage?
- 3) Jesus has ascended and triumphed over evil. How should that encourage and challenge you as you respond to the chaos (and evil) of 2020? What difference can that make practically for your heart this election week?

Call to Communion and Prayer

Guidelines for the Reception of Communion

Redeemer welcomes all Christians who are willing to forsake their sin and trust in Jesus Christ for salvation and who are members of congregations which proclaim the gospel to receive Communion with us. We will be coming forward for the distribution of Communion. Please eat the bread privately, and then drink the cup together with us after everyone has returned to their seats. Clear cups (located in the interior rings) contain grape juice. Red cups (exterior ring of tray) contain wine. Children who have been interviewed by the elders are able to partake of Communion.

The ministry of prayer is one of the ways we live together as a community of believers and seekers. During Communion, members of our prayer team are available at the front of the sanctuary. It would be our privilege to pray with you as we walk together through the joys and struggles of life. We also encourage you to pray with one another in the pews during this time of movement in our service.

Prayers

Prayer for Guidance to Truth

God, I don't know how I feel about what I have heard today but I want to trust that you are good, that you are loving, and that you are just. I want to know if you are the true God. If you are there, would you guide my soul to the truest truth. I don't want to be tricked or believe a lie. I don't want to believe in something just to make me feel better. Please God, lead me to the truth.

Prayer of Belief and Repentance

Jesus, I believe that you are who you say you are: the Son of God and the savior of broken people like me. I need forgiveness. I need to be made new and to start over again. I now turn away from all I have been doing. I turn away from my self-centered life. I turn my whole heart toward you. I believe that when you were crucified, you took all of my evil and somehow you gave me all of your beauty. I invite your Holy Spirit to live in me. I do not want to live for myself any more. I want you to lead my life. I want to know you and to receive your love for me. Please teach me and protect me and guide me. I am yours. I ask these things in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Prayer of Doubt and Faith

God, I don't really believe all of this, but there is a part of my heart that knows there is truth and goodness here. I am confused by the fact that there are so many things that I don't understand or that make me angry about you. There are also so many things that fill my heart with hope and many things that draw me to you, and I want to put my trust in you. God, you say I can come to you and ask for anything, so if you are real, please give me the faith I need to believe. Give me the desire to continue to seek after you. Keep my heart from self-deception. Protect me from any evil misleading or binding spirits. Calm my fears. Soften my cynicism. Be patient with me, and if you are God, please don't let me go, but instead let me know that you are real. I have a little faith, help me in my doubt.

Song of Celebration

“Will Your Anchor Hold”

All

Will your anchor hold in the storms of life,
When the clouds unfold their wings of strife?
When the strong tides lift and the cables strain,
Will your anchor drift or firm remain?

We have an anchor that keeps the soul
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
Fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
Grounded firm and deep, grounded firm and deep,
In the Savior’s love, the Savior’s love.

It is safely moored, ’twill the storm withstand,
For ’tis well secured by the Savior’s hand;
Though the tempest rage and the wild winds blow,
Not an angry wave shall our bark o’erflow.

We have an anchor that keeps the soul
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
Fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
Grounded firm and deep, grounded firm and deep,
In the Savior’s love, the Savior’s love.

When our eyes behold through the gath’ring night
The city of gold, our harbor bright,
We shall anchor fast by the heav’nly shore,
With the storms all past forevermore.

We have an anchor that keeps the soul
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
Fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
Grounded firm and deep, grounded firm and deep,
In the Savior’s love, the Savior’s love.

words Priscilla J. Owens, 1882; music Nathan Partain, 2003

Community Life

Mercy Month

[redeemindy.org/mercymonth]

Unity Fund



An Evening of Prayer for the Church and the Election

[redeemindy.org/events]

Men's Chili Cookoff Event

[redeemindy.org/events]

Valediction

from Isaiah 40:27-31

All Why do you complain, Beloved?
Why do you say, dear children,
“My way is hidden from the LORD;
my cause is disregarded by my God”?
Do you not know?
Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

Leader **He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one can fathom.
He gives strength to the weary
and increases the power of the weak.**

All Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;

Leader **But those who hope in the LORD
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.**

Closing Hymn

"We Shall Sing"

All

**We shall sing with hearts on fire. Yes, we shall rise and not be ashamed.
O we shall look and all be radiant. For we shall see him face to face.**

**Though we wait, the garden groaning,
Cut down by greed, used up, bereft.
What death has taken, or curse has ruined,
Jesus has turned, upon its head.**

**We shall sing with hearts on fire. Yes, we shall rise and not be ashamed.
O we shall look and all be radiant. For we shall see him face to face.
The whole world of despair is not worth being compared to what we shall see.**

**Though we outwardly seem to be wasting away,
And yet inwardly, we are more new day by day.
Though we don't see now, yet our hearts believe
And our hope cannot die 'til our joy is complete.**

**And so we wait, the children hunger,
The weak enslaved, the voiceless poor.
Though weeping lasts, throughout this long night,
Jesus shall come, like joyous morn.**

**We shall sing with hearts on fire. Yes, we shall rise and not be ashamed.
O we shall look and all be radiant, for we shall see him face to face.
The whole world of despair is not worth being compared,
As we tremble with love when we meet in the air,
The whole world of despair is not worth being compared to what we shall see.**

Nathan Partain, 2016

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year to date giving	2020 budget:
\$ 1,756,764.92	\$ 2,256,301

Jan-Oct budget:
\$ 1,880,250.83

Congregational Giving

Oct 25th	\$	\$60,443.98
Oct Total	\$	166,998.05
Oct Budget	\$	188,025.08