



ACCEPT THE DAY

Redeemer Presbyterian Church

14 February 2024

Back Wall

Kyrie Lewis, Esther Gray, and Katie Ito with the Yeomans and Peacock families, Sacred Lineage, Holy Dependance, 2023, oil of canvas, fabric, baskets, and clay

Themes of hospitality, womanhood, and human dependance are woven together in this piece. The women mentioned in Jesus' genealogy: Ruth and Tamar, Bathsheba and Rahab, call out to us across generations before Mary. Their words and wombs bear witness to the protective and steadfast love of God, represented in the cluster of baskets at the center. Their portraits flank the table-like installation, illustrating the intimate meeting of heaven and earth through a teenager that made space in her literal body to bear Christ.

We call attention to Mary through the clay artifacts in each basket that honor her pregnancy, as her cells expanded and divided, as her body stretched, bled, and tore to make way for the Living Word to dwell as flesh among us. The edge of the table is lined with a braided rope, reminiscent of an umbilical cord. Christ baptizes our human dependency through his reception of Mary's nourishment, hospitality, and affection.

Hanging Installation

Nick Dodge, Tracing Our Roots, 2023

As Jesus comes in the flesh he is intertwined with a family blood line and their ancestral roots. This piece expresses how truly tangible Jesus' connection to humanity was by blending the ideas of tree roots and blood lines. Much like a tree is rooted to a specific place, Jesus had a specific place where he was born, lived and matured. Much like blood lines show who we are related to, Jesus had a family tree that connected him to real people. The central intertwined light represents how Jesus takes root in history to instill new life. He brings light to the whole of the family tree and is the root from which the tree will give new life to many others.

Banners

Karyl Boring, Dwelling as We Wait, 2023

The patchwork of our dwelling together as God's people is joined piece-by-piece with all those who have lived or will live, past, present and future, eagerly longing for Jesus' Return in Glory. Yet, in all of life, Jesus comes to us to dwell in and through us by his Holy Spirit. In joy and sorrow, in community and in solitude, in conflict and peace, in work and rest, in birth and death, in the light of day and the darkness of night, he is present with us as we wait. What wonder in this glorious, mysterious Truth!

Columns

Josie Thompson with Maggie Lotz, Merri Goebel, Moriah Taft, Sam Ueltschi, Megan Smith, and Quinton Thompson, 2023

Communion Set

Emily Johnston

Meditation

“Sin has, then, a twofold aspect:

1. Sin is a responsible guilt for which atonement must be made. It follows that the crucifixion is understood as a sacrifice for sin.
2. Sin is an alien power that must be driven from the field. All human beings are enslaved by this power (Rom. 3:9; John 8:34) and must be liberated by a greater power. The crucifixion is therefore understood to be Christ’s victory over the Powers of Sin and Death.”

— Fleming Rutledge

The Crucifixion: Understanding the Death of Jesus Christ

Welcome

Silence

Opening Hymn

“Immortal Invisible”

All

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most glorious, most holy, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unshaking, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
Thy justice, like mountains high, soaring above;
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life thou livest, the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish, but naught changest thee.**

**Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render, O help us to see,
‘Tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!**

words Walter C. Smith, 1867; on 1 Tim 1:17; Welsh melody from Canaidau y Cyssegr, John Roberts, 1839; arr. Nathan Partain, 2011

Call to Repentance and Confession

from Psalm 51:1-17 (NIV)

Leader

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.

All

**Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.**

Leader

For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.

All

**Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are right in your verdict
and justified when you judge.
Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;
you taught me wisdom in that secret place.**

Leader

Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

All

**Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquity.**

Leader

Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

All

**Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

Leader

Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
so that sinners will turn back to you.

All

**Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,
you who are God my Savior,
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.
Open my lips, Lord,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.
My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart
you, God, will not despise.**

Song of Confession

“O For A Closer Walk with God”

All

O for a closer walk with God,
A calm and heav’nly frame,
A light to shine upon the road
That leads me to the Lamb!
Where is the blessedness I knew
When first I saw the Lord?
Where is the soul-refreshing view
Of Jesus and his Word?

What peaceful hours I once enjoyed!
How sweet their memory still!
But they have left an aching void
The world can never fill.
Return, O holy Dove, return,
Sweet messenger of grace!
I hate the sins that made thee mourn
And drove thee from my breast.

The dearest idol I have known—
Whate’er that idol be,
Help me to tear it from thy throne
And worship only thee.
So shall my walk be close with God,
Calm and serene my frame;
So purer light shall mark the road
That leads me to the Lamb!

words William Cowper, 1772; music Nathan Partain, 2002

Assurance of Pardon

from *Heidelberg Catechism*, Question & Answer 1

Leader Dear children, what is your only hope in life and in death?

All **That we are not our own,
but belong body and soul, both in life and in death,
to our faithful savior Jesus Christ,
who has fully paid for all of our sins.**

Leader He has set you free from the tyranny of the devil.

All **Yes, and he also preserves our lives in such a way,
that without the will of our heavenly Father not a hair can fall from our heads;
indeed, all things must work together for our salvation.**

Leader Because you belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures you of eternal life,

All **And he makes us whole-heartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.**

Hymn

"You Have Redeemed my Soul"

All

**You have redeemed my soul from the pit of emptiness
You have redeemed my soul from death.
You have redeemed my soul from the pit of emptiness
You have redeemed my soul from death.**

**I was a hungry child, a dried up river.
I was a burned out forest
and no one could do anything for me.
But you put food in my body, water in my dry bed
and to my blackened branches,
You brought the spring time green of a new life.
And nothing is impossible for You**

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You have redeemed my soul from death.
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Don Chaffer, 1999 Blue Renaissance Music

Hymn

“Jesus, Cast a Look on Me”

All

**Jesus cast a look on me, give me sweet simplicity;
Make me poor and keep me low, seeking only thee to know.
Seeking only thee to know.**

**All that feeds my busy pride, cast it evermore aside;
Bid my will to thine submit, lay me humbly at thy feet.
Lay me humbly at thy feet.**

**Make me like a little child, of my strength and wisdom spoiled,
Seeing only in thy light, walking only in thy might.
Walking only in thy might.**

**Leaning on thy loving breast, where a weary soul can rest,
Feeling well the peace of God, flowing from his precious blood.
Flowing from his precious blood.**

**In this posture let me live, and hosannas daily give;
In this temper let me die, and hosannas ever cry!
And hosannas ever cry!**

© MPJ Music. Words: John Berridge. Music: Matthew Perryman Jones

Scripture

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 (NIV)

Reader

¹ Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 sound the alarm on my holy hill.

Let all who live in the land tremble,
 for the day of the LORD is coming.
It is close at hand—

² a day of darkness and gloom,
 a day of clouds and blackness.
Like dawn spreading across the mountains
 a large and mighty army comes,
such as never was in ancient times
 nor ever will be in ages to come.

¹² “Even now,” declares the LORD,
 “return to me with all your heart,
 with fasting and weeping and mourning.”

¹³ Rend your heart
 and not your garments.
Return to the LORD your God,
 for he is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and abounding in love,
 and he relents from sending calamity.

¹⁴ Who knows? He may turn and relent
 and leave behind a blessing—
grain offerings and drink offerings
 for the LORD your God.

- ¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion,
declare a holy fast,
call a sacred assembly.
- ¹⁶ Gather the people,
consecrate the assembly;
bring together the elders,
gather the children,
those nursing at the breast.
Let the bridegroom leave his room
and the bride her chamber.
- ¹⁷ Let the priests, who minister before the LORD,
weep between the portico and the altar.
Let them say, "Spare your people, LORD.
Do not make your inheritance an object of scorn,
a byword among the nations.
Why should they say among the peoples,
'Where is their God?'"

*Reader
People*

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

Hymn

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

Scripture

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 (NIV)

Reader ^{5:20} We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{6:1} As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. ² For he says,

"In the time of my favor I heard you,
and in the day of salvation I helped you."

I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

³ We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. ⁴ Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; ⁵ in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; ⁶ in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; ⁷ in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; ⁸ through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; ⁹ known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; ¹⁰ sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

*Reader
People*

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

Homily

Ben Reed

Prayers of the People

Leader Answer us when we call to you, our righteous God.

People **Give me relief from my distress;
be merciful to me and hear my prayer.**

(prayers offered from the congregation aloud)

Doxology

All

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!
Amen.**

Imposition of Ashes

from Psalm 103:14

Leader

Your Father knows how you are formed. He remembers that you are dust.

Questions for Reflection

What are my characteristic sins, and do I still hope in God and pray for change?

What idols have captured my imagination so that my love for the living God has grown cold?

Is there anything that I am holding back from God? (Relationships, Money, Plans, Dreams, where I say "No" to God's lordship?)

In what ways is my devotion to Christ and His church less than wholehearted?

Am I building my life on Christ's free justification or am I insecure and guilt-ridden?

Have I done anything simply because I love Jesus?

Have I stopped doing something simply because I love Jesus?

Song of Dependence

“Weak and Helpless, yet Believing”

Leader

O my Savior, I am weary!
Let my cry to Thee ascend
While in humble supplication
Now before Thy throne I bend!

O my Savior, tho' unworthy,
I have nowhere else to go;
Thou canst pardon my transgressions,
Thou canst wash me white as snow!

Weak and helpless, yet believing,
Casting all my care on Thee,
I am hoping, trusting, praying;
Have compassion, Lord, on me!

O my Savior, by Thy Spirit
Thou hast called me o'er and o'er;
Now repentant I am coming;
Lord, my wand'ring soul restore!

O my Savior, do not leave me
Here to perish at Thy throne;
In Thy tender, loving mercy
Cleanse and make me all Thine own!

Weak and helpless, yet believing,
Casting all my care on Thee,
I am hoping, trusting, praying;
Have compassion, Lord, on me!

words Henry F. Lyte, 1847; music Nathan Partain 2001

Song of Dependence

“Jesus is Mine”

Leader

Fade, fade, each earthly joy: Jesus is mine!
Break every tender tie: Jesus is mine!
Dark is this wilderness, Earth has no resting place,
Jesus alone can bless: Jesus is mine!

Tempt not my soul away: Jesus is mine!
Here would I ever stay: Jesus is mine!
Perishing things of clay, Born for but one brief day,
Pass from my heart away: Jesus is mine!

Farewell, ye dreams of night: Jesus is mine!
Lost in this dawning bright: Jesus is mine!
All that my soul has tried Left but a dismal void;
Jesus has satisfied: Jesus is mine!

Farewell, mortality: Jesus is mine!
Welcome, eternity: Jesus is mine!
Welcome, O loved and blest, Welcome, sweet scenes of rest,
Welcome, my Savior’s breast: Jesus is mine!

words Jane C. Bonar, 1843; music Nathan Partain, 2003

Song of Dependence

“When I See the Blood”

Leader

Christ our Redeemer died on the cross,
Died for the sinner, paid all his due.
“Sprinkle your soul with the blood of the Lamb,
And I’ll pass over you.”

Chiefest of sinners, Jesus can save;
All he has promised, surely he’ll do.
“Wash in the fountain where sinners can bathe,
And I’ll pass over you.”

Refrain:

“When I see the blood of my Holy One,
My wrath shall be quenched, my judgments be through.
When I see the blood of my only Son,
Yes, I will pass over you.”

Judgment is coming, all will be there,
Each one receiving justly his due.
“Hide in the saving, sin-cleansing blood,
And I’ll pass over you.”

[Refrain]

O great compassion! O boundless love!
Now crowned with power, Jesus is true;
Find peace and shelter under his blood,
And I’ll pass over you.

[Refrain x2]

“When I see the blood of my only Son,
Yes, I will pass over you.”

words John G. Foote, Elisha A. Hoffman, 19th cent.; music Nathan Partain, 2004

Song of Dependence

"Give Me Jesus"

Leader

In the morning when I rise,
In the morning when I rise,
In the morning when I rise, give me Jesus.

Give me Jesus, give me Jesus
You can have all this world,
But give me Jesus.

When I'm all alone,
When I'm all alone,
When I'm all alone, give me Jesus.

Give me Jesus, give me Jesus
You can have all this world,
But give me Jesus.

And when I come to die,
Oh when I come to die,
And when I come to die, give me Jesus.

Give me Jesus, give me Jesus
You can have all this world,
But give me Jesus.

Arr. By Fernando Ortega

Song of Dependence

“Lord Jesus Christ Be Present Now”

Leader

Lord Jesus Christ, be present now,
Our hearts in true devotion bow;
Thy Spirit send with grace divine
And let thy truth within us shine.
Lord Jesus Christ, be present now.

Unseal our lips to sing thy praise,
Our souls to thee in worship raise;
Make strong our faith, increase our light,
That we may know thy name aright.
Lord Jesus Christ, be present now.

Until we join the hosts that cry,
“Holy art thou, O Lord, Most High!”
And in the light of that blest place,
Fore’er behold thee face to face.
Lord Jesus Christ, be present now.

Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To thee, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise throughout eternity!
Lord Jesus Christ, be present now.

words Duke Wilhelm II, 1651; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; music Nathan Partain, 2001



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