



REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MAY 3

Welcome

Call to Worship

from Deuteronomy 32:1-4

Listen, you heavens, and the LORD will speak;
hear, you earth, the words of his mouth.

**Let his teaching fall like rain
and his words descend like dew,
like showers on new grass,
like abundant rain on tender plants.**

I will proclaim the name of the LORD.
Oh, praise the greatness of our God!

**He is the Refuge, his works are perfect,
and all his ways are just.
A faithful God who does no wrong,
upright and just is he.**

Opening Hymn

“Praise to the Lord the Almighty”

**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; trans.: Catherine Winkworth, 1863;
music: Lobe den Herren, 1665

Prayer of Confession

Redeemer family, we are to seek
the life-giving authority of Scripture,
But Father, we do not think you word is life-giving.

**In fact, we accuse you of life-taking.
Your words feel only like prohibitions,
obstacles in the way of our happiness.
Father, forgive us,
we reject your means of giving us faith and life.**

Father, we do not want your authority.

**In fact, we don’t want any authority other than our own.
We think freedom means self-rule,
so we blame you for any guilt we feel,
and our hard hearts resist like a stubborn horse,
refusing to submit until we are broken by calamity.
Father, forgive us,
we reject your rule which leads to true freedom.**

Father, we do not believe in Scripture.

**In fact, we do not think that your very breath
is in every word.
We are sure it must be diluted and distorted
by a human agenda.
Your word is strange to us,
from a distant time and place and culture,
no longer relevant to speak into our evolved society,
Father, forgive us,
we deny that we are sheep who need a shepherd.**

Father, in your great mercy, forgive our rejection of you
and the very food that we are desperate for.
Be patient with our rebellion
but active in your healing of our hearts,
until we see you as you truly are:
the source of all good,
with no shifting shadow,
in whose presence is a river of delights,

For your glory and through Jesus we ask. Amen.

Assurance and Hope of the Gospel

based on Isaiah 55:6-7; 59:16; Hebrews 12:2; Colossians 1:13-14

The LORD saw that there was no one,
so his own arm achieved salvation for him.

**God took the initiative
by coming near in Jesus to seek us out,
to become like us in order to save us.**

Jesus is God's king;
through him, he is putting all things right.

**Jesus is God like us,
who became fully human
in order to take our sin upon himself.**

Jesus is God's faithful one,
the pioneer and perfecter of faith,
through whom God has delivered
us from the kingdom of darkness
into the kingdom of his well-loved Son.

**In order that we may be
well-loved sons and daughters in the Son,
in whom we have redemption,
the forgiveness of our sins.**

Song in the Gospel

"When I See the Blood"

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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 in the Gospel

"How Firm a Foundation"

**How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he hath said,
You, who unto Jesus for refuge have fled?**

**Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.**

**When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.**

**The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake.**

**That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake.**

words: John Rippon, 1787; attr: John Keene, Kirkham, John Keith; music: Joseph Funk, 1832

Offering

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Preparation for the Word

based on 1 Thessalonians 2:13

Let us honor our Father together.

**Father, we receive your word, which we have heard
through the prophets,
the apostles
and Jesus, your Son,
And accept it not as a human word,
but as it actually is,
the word of God.**

Yes, for it is indeed at work
in all who believe.

Scripture

2 Peter 1:16-21

¹⁶ For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” ¹⁸ We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

¹⁹ We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰ Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. ²¹ For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

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

Homily

Ben Reed
God’s Word is Trustworthy

Prayer

Life as Worship

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Valediction

Colossians 1:15-20

Who is the Son?

**The Son is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn over all creation.**

For in him all things were created:

**Things in heaven and on earth,
visible and invisible,
whether thrones or powers
or rulers or authorities;
all things have been created
through him and for him.**

**He is before all things,
and in him all things hold together.**

And he is the head of the body, the church;

**He is the beginning
and the firstborn from among the dead,
so that in everything
he might have the supremacy.**

For God was pleased to have all his fullness
dwell in him,

**And through him to reconcile to himself all things,
whether things on earth or things in heaven,
by making peace through his blood,
shed on the cross.**

Closing Hymn

“It is Well”

**When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, thou has taught me to say,
“It is well, it is well with my soul.”**

It is well, with my soul;
It is well, with my soul;
It is well, it is well with my soul.

**Tho’ Satan should buffet, tho’ trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control:
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate
And has shed his own blood for my soul.**

It is well, with my soul;
It is well, with my soul;
It is well, it is well with my soul.

**My sin - O the bliss of this glorious thought! -
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more;
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!**

It is well, with my soul;
It is well, with my soul;
It is well, it is well with my soul.

**And Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend;
“Even so,” it is well with my soul.**

It is well, with my soul;
It is well, with my soul;
It is well, it is well with my soul.

It is well, with my soul;
It is well, with my soul;
It is well, it is well with my soul.

words: Horatio G. Spafford, 1873; music: Philip P. Bliss, 1876

Benediction