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**prelude**

*As the music plays, please quietly prepare your heart and mind for worship, lifting your thoughts up from the cares of this world.*

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**preparing our hearts**

Your righteousness, O God,  
reaches the high heavens.  
You who have done great things,  
O God, who is like you?

– Psalm 71:19<sub>ESV</sub>

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**\*\* call to worship**

*Leader:* Blessed be the LORD, my rock,

**All:** **He is my steadfast love and my fortress,**

*Leader:* My stronghold and my deliverer,

**All:** **My shield and he in whom I take refuge.**

*Leader:* Blessed are the people whose God is the LORD!

**All:** **We come to worship him!**

– Adapted from Psalm 144:1-2, 15b<sub>ESV</sub>

\*\* Please stand if you are able

## FAIREST LORD JESUS

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature, O thou of God and man the Son,  
Thee will I cherish, thee will I honor, thou, my soul's glory, joy and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands, robed in the blooming garb of spring;  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations! Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forever more be thine.

Words: Anonymous; Music: ST. ELIZABETH, Silesian Folk Song. Public Domain.

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## \*\* prayer of invocation

*Leader:* O God Above, let your love draw us nearer to you. Let your beauty wean us from sin and weaken our attachment to this world. Let your mercy strengthen us and give us courage to count all things loss for the sake of knowing you and being found in your Son. By the light of your Spirit, train our eyes on Jesus, our anchor and our hope, and visit us today with grace that pulls us ever forward toward our heavenly prize. We pray this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

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## \*\* affirmation of faith

*Leader:* Since, according to God's righteous judgment we deserve temporal and eternal punishment, how can we escape this punishment and be again received into favour?

**All: God demands that His justice be satisfied. Therefore full payment must be made either by ourselves or by another.**

*Leader:* Can we ourselves make this payment?

**All: Certainly not. On the contrary, we daily increase our debt.**

*Leader:* What kind of mediator and deliverer must we seek?

**All: One who is a true and righteous man, and yet more powerful than all creatures; that is, one who is at the same time true God.**

—*Heidelberg Catechism*, Q&A 12, 13, & 15

## COME BEHOLD THE WONDROUS MYSTERY

Come behold the wondrous mystery, in the dawning of the King.  
He the theme of heaven's praises, robed in frail humanity.  
In our longing, in our darkness, now the light of life has come.  
Look to Christ, who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us.

Come behold the wondrous mystery, he the perfect Son of Man.  
In his living, in his suffering, never trace nor stain of sin.  
See the true and better Adam, come to save the hell-bound man.  
Christ the great and sure fulfillment of the law; in him we stand.

Come behold the wondrous mystery, Christ the Lord upon the tree.  
In the stead of ruined sinners hangs the Lamb in victory.  
See the price of our redemption; see the Father's plan unfold.  
Bringing many sons to glory, grace unmeasured, love untold.

Come behold the wondrous mystery; slain by death the God of life.  
But no grave could e'er restrain Him; praise the Lord; He is alive!  
What a foretaste of deliverance; how unwavering our hope.  
Christ in power resurrected as we will be when he comes.

"Come Behold The Wondrous Mystery," Words & Music: Matt Papa, Matt Boswell, & Michael Bleecker.  
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## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

*Leader:* If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

– 1 John 1:8-9<sup>ESV</sup>

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**All:** **God of everlasting love,  
We confess that we have been unfaithful  
To our covenant with you and with one another;  
We have worshiped other gods: money, power, pleasure, convenience.  
We have served our own self-interests  
Instead of serving you and your people.  
We have not loved our neighbor as you have commanded,  
Nor have we rightly loved ourselves.  
Forgive us, gracious God, and bring us back into the fullness of our covenant  
With you and with one another.  
Through Christ our Lord.**

– Adapted from *The Worship Sourcebook*

*Please reflect and silently confess your sins.*

## ASSURANCE OF GRACE \*\*

*Leader:* “Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.”

– Isaiah 1:18<sup>ESV</sup>

**All:** **Thanks be to God!**

## 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.

Words: Katherine A. von Schlegel (trans. by Jane Borthwick); Music: FINLANDIA, Jean Sibelius. Public Domain.

*Leader:* Deuteronomy 7:6-12  
This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

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prayer

*An officer of the church prays for the world, nation, community, and church.*

*Leader:* All these mercies we ask in the name of Jesus, who prayed saying,

**All: Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be your name;  
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors,  
Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil,  
For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, Amen.**

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\*\* passing the peace

*Leader:* Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.” In a world filled with trouble, let us encourage one another to look to the one who has overcome the world. May the peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

**While your children are welcome and encouraged to worship with you, at this time they can be dismissed for an age-appropriate worship for ages 3-5.**

If you would like to hear more about CPC or would like to let us know of a prayer need, please include your contact information or prayer request in the welcome pad when it comes around to you.

*An elder will lead the passing of the peace. If you are joining us from your home, please unmute yourself so that you can greet one another. If you are gathered here with us today, greet one another warmly with the peace of Christ.*

Series | “Romans: The Foundation of Our Faith”

Sermon | “The Bad News of the Gospel”

October 1, 2023

**Romans 3:1-20** <sup>ESV</sup> | 1 Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? 2 Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. 3 What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? 4 By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written,

“That you may be justified in your words,  
and prevail when you are judged.”

5 But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) 6 By no means! For then how could God judge the world? 7 But if through my lie God’s truth abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner? 8 And why not do evil that good may come? – as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just.

9 What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, 10 as it is written:

“None is righteous, no, not one;

11 no one understands;  
no one seeks for God.

12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless;  
no one does good,  
not even one.”

13 “Their throat is an open grave;  
they use their tongues to deceive.”

“The venom of asps is under their lips.”

14 “Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.”

15 “Their feet are swift to shed blood;

16 in their paths are ruin and misery,

17 and the way of peace they have not known.”

18 “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

19 Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. 20 For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.



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*Leader:* This is the Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God!

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**sermon notes**

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**\*\* gospel charge**

*Leader:* In response to the Gospel of grace, how shall we then live?

**All:** Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

– 1 Peter 1:13-16<sub>ESV</sub>

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## WELCOME TO HIS TABLE

*The Lord's Supper is a family meal for Christians — a time when we delight in Christ and in the good news that His work alone has made us right with God. All baptized Christians who trust in Christ alone as their Savior, belong to a church that embraces the gospel, and seek strength to live more faithfully to Christ are invited to participate. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, please use this time to meditate on the following prayer.*

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

*Please remain seated for communion. As a symbol of our unity in Christ, wait until everyone has been served the elements, and we will all partake together. Once you are finished with your cup, please pass it to the inside aisles and the ushers will retrieve them.*

*If you have a gluten allergy, there are gluten-free wafers available in the center of the bread trays. During the celebration of communion, we will sing the printed hymn.*

**NOTE TO PARENTS:** *To receive communion, a child must have been baptized, publicly professed their faith in Christ, and been formally received as a communing member by the elders of this church or the governing body of the church to which you belong. We look forward to welcoming your children to the table when they come to this point and ask that you speak to the pastor when you feel your child is ready to begin the process of becoming a communing member.*

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## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.” And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And he said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.”

– Mark 14:22-24<sup>ESV</sup>

*Minister:* Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them up to the Lord.**

*Minister:* Let us give thanks to our Lord God.

**All: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Minister:* Let us pray.

**All: O Lord and heavenly Father, when we celebrate and observe this memorial your Son has commended to us, we remember his suffering and death, his mighty resurrection, and glorious ascension; and we await his coming again with power and great glory. God of Mercy, hear our prayer and by your Word and Holy Spirit bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine. Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Holy Name. Amen.**

*Minister:* Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

*Minister:* Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life.

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

**All: When we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
We proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come again.**

*Minister:* The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*As the elements are distributed, sing as one body, affirming that in Christ we are united to him and to one another.*

## JESUS PAID IT ALL

I hear the Savior say, “Your strength indeed is small.  
Child of weakness, watch and pray. Find in me your all in all.” \*

*\* Chorus:*

Jesus paid it all; all to him I owe.  
Sin had left a crimson stain; he washed it white as snow.

Lord, now indeed I find your power, and yours alone,  
Can change the leper’s spots and melt the heart of stone. \*

For nothing good have I whereby your grace to claim;  
I’ll wash my garments white in the blood of Calvary’s Lamb. \*

And when, before the throne I stand in him complete,  
“Jesus died my soul to save,” my lips shall still repeat. \*

Words: Elvina Hall; Music: ALL TO CHRIST, John Grape. Public Domain.

*The offering is a vital part of our response to God's grace provided for us in the preaching of his word and administration of the Lord's Supper. Our tithes and offerings represent the entirety of our lives being consecrated to the Lord Jesus Christ and the coming of his kingdom to this world. As God's grace is freely given to us, so we give freely in return; not in any way to add to Christ's supremely adequate atonement for us, but in joyful response to this work and in thanksgiving for such unmerited grace.*

## GRACE GREATER THAN OUR SIN

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord, grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt;  
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured, there where the blood of the Lamb was spilt. \*

*\* Chorus:*

Grace, grace, God's grace; grace that will pardon and cleanse within.

Grace, grace, God's grace; grace that is greater than all our sin!

Sin and despair, like the sea waves cold, threaten the soul with infinite loss;  
Grace that is greater, yes, grace untold, points to the refuge, the mighty cross! \*

Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace; freely bestowed on all who believe.  
You that are longing to see his face, will you this moment his grace receive? \*

Words: Julia Johnston; Music: MOODY, Daniel Towner. Public Domain.

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**announcements**

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**\*\* benediction**

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**\*\*doxology**

**All: 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.**

**for first-time visitors**

Whether you are visiting us from out of town or looking for a church to call home, we're so glad to have you with us. Please fill out the visitor section in the attendance pad when it circulates.

**NEWCOMERS' GATHERING | TODAY**

Visitors, we are thrilled you have joined us for worship at CPC. To help us get to know one another better, please join us for a brief time of refreshments **today** following the worship service in the conference room by the side exit. The pastoral staff will be there to greet you, share about our church, and answer any questions you may have.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING | OCTOBER 8**

Please make plans to attend a congregational meeting at the end of the worship service **Sunday, October 8** to elect members of the church to serve on the search committee for the future senior pastor. **Please note:** Parents, nursery care will be available for the meeting, but kids in children's worship need to be picked up at the end of service before the meeting begins.

**COME JOIN THE ADVENT ENSEMBLE**

We need singers and musicians (preferably brass instrumentalists) to form an ensemble for Advent. If you are interested, **please contact Van Henry** (hsdb@aol.com).

**NURSERY UPDATE**

Parents and families of CPC - We have been blessed to have Angie Guzman serve the youngest little ones in our church body for the past three years. Angie has recently shared with us that she will be stepping away from her childcare position at CPC in order to fulfill the needs and hours of a promotion she's received at her full-time job. We are excited for her opportunity and sad to see her leave. Please join us in praying for her in her transition and also for our nursery as we seek to fill that position. Her last day with us is October 22. If you would like to donate a gift for her to show our gratitude for her faithful service, **please email Korina Slabach** (kids@cpcgeorgetown.org).

**men's fellowship | october 14**

Men of all ages - Come join us for a day of fellowship at David Moore's ranch **Saturday, October 14, 9-2p!** We will have great food and men doing manly things. This is a come and go event and a GREAT opportunity to invite your neighbors, coworkers, or friends. **Please respond to the Evite, or email James Schell** to RSVP or to be added to the Evite list (men@cpcgeorgetown.org).

**an evening of hope | october 17**

Don't miss The Pregnancy Help Center of Williamson County's annual benefit dinner, *An Evening of Hope*, **Tuesday, October 17, 7p** at High Pointe Estate (5555 Co Rd 258, Liberty Hill). The doors open at 630p. There will be a delicious meal, silent auction, and a keynote speaker. Jess Ford of Live Action will share his powerful story of survival and his passion for the gift of life. Larry and Molly Brown are sponsoring two tables at the event. If you are interested in joining for dinner, **please email Abbey Jennings** (abbey@cpcgeorgetown.org). If you would also like to sponsor a table or provide underwriting for this event, please call (512) 868.0153 or visit [www.phcwc.com/events](http://www.phcwc.com/events). Do not wait! **The last day to purchase tickets is October 2.**

**building dedication celebration | october 22**

Please plan to join us for our Building Dedication Celebration, **Sunday, October 22, 12-3p**. The dedication and prayer time will be during worship service, 1030a. Immediately following the worship service there will be food, fun, and fellowship! **Contact Suzanne Joffrion** (hospitality@cpcgeorgetown.org) if you would like to sign up to help with the event! We need volunteers! Also, please note that there will be no Sunday school this day.

**men's discipleship groups**

We are launching a new men's ministry this fall at CPC. Groups of 3-5 men will be meeting every 2-4 weeks for a time of life-on-life discipleship through fellowship, prayer, Scripture memory, discussion, accountability, and encouragement through personal testimonies and life updates. Each group will also have outreach and acts of service components. For more information or to sign up, **please contact Daniel McDowell** (daniel@cpcgeorgetown.org).