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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**

He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior[.]

–Titus 3:5-6<sub>ESV</sub>

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**\*\* call to worship**

*Leader:* Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth!

**All:** **Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.**

*Leader:* Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

**All:** **Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!**

*Leader:* Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts!

**All:** **Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!**

– Psalm 96:1-2, 6-9<sub>ESV</sub>

## O WORSHIP THE KING

O worship the King, all-glorious above, O gratefully sing his power and his love;  
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days, pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

O tell of his might, O sing of his grace, whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.  
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form, and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

Your bountiful care, what tongue can recite? It breathes in the air; it shines in the light;  
It streams from the hills; it descends to the plain; and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail, in you do we trust, nor find you to fail.  
Your mercies how tender, how firm to the end; our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.

Words: Robert Grant; Music: LYONS, Johann Haydn. Public Domain.

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## **\*\* prayer of invocation**

*Leader:* God of wonders, who set the stars and moon in their place, who established the sun and tells it when to rise and fall: It is your voice that establishes our days and quiets our spirit. Only your words can fill our souls and quench our thirst. Therefore, come, Father of mercies! Come, Son of God and Word of Life! Come, Holy Spirit, Comforter of our souls! This morning and every day, inhabit the praises and worship of your people, O Great God, and fill us with awe at your power and might, for you are indeed the only living God. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

## THE NICENE CREED

*Leader:* Christians, what do you believe?

**All:** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of his Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,  
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven,  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered and was buried;  
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,  
and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead;  
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified;  
who spoke by the prophets;  
and I believe in one holy catholic\* and apostolic church;  
I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

\* Here, "catholic" means "universal," and refers to the Christian church in all places

## COME THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING

Come, thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it; mount of thy redeeming love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I've come;  
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be.  
Let thy goodness like a fetter bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

On that day when freed from sinning, I shall see thy lovely face;  
Clothed by thee in blood-washed linen, how I'll sing thy sovereign grace.  
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry; take my ransomed soul away.  
Send thine angels now to carry me to realms of endless day.

Words: Robert Robinson, Bradford J. Brown (v. 4); Music: NETTLETON, Asahel Nettleton. Public Domain.

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

*Leader:* If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

– 1 John 1:9 ESV

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**All:** **O my Savior, help me.**  
**I am slow to learn, prone to forget, and weak to climb;**  
**I am in the foothills when I should be on the heights;**  
**I am pained by my graceless heart, my prayerless days,**  
**My poverty of love, my sloth in the heavenly race,**  
**My sullied conscience, my wasted hours, my unspent opportunities.**  
**I am blind while the light shines around me:**  
**Take the scales from my eyes; grind to dust my heart of unbelief.**  
**Make it my highest joy to study you, meditate on you, gaze on you,**  
**To sit like Mary at your feet,**  
**To lean like John upon your breast,**  
**To appeal like Peter to your steadfast love,**  
**And to count like Paul all my achievements in the flesh as refuse.**  
**Lord God, like the desperate father with the child possessed by evil,**  
**I run to you, fall to my knees before your majesty, and**  
**Cry out with tears: “I believe, help my unbelief!” Amen.**

*Please reflect and silently confess your sins.*

## ASSURANCE OF GRACE \*\*

*Leader:* The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

– 1 Timothy 1:15 ESV

**All:** **Thanks be to God for such glorious and abounding grace!**

## HOW BLEST IS HE WHOSE TRESPASS



How blest is he whose tres - pass has free - ly been for - giv'n,  
While I kept guil - ty si - lence my strength was spent with grief,  
So let the god - ly seek thee in times when thou art near,



whose sin is whol - ly cov - ered be - fore the sight of heav'n.  
thy hand was heav - y on me, my soul found no re - lief;  
no whelm - ing floods shall reach them, nor cause their hearts to fear.



Blest he to whom Je - ho - vah will not im - pute his sin,  
but when I owned my tres - pass, my sin hid not from thee,  
In thee, O Lord, I hide me, thou sav - est me from ill,



who has a guile - less spir - it, whose heart is true with - in.  
when I con - fessed trans - gres - sion, then thou for - gav - est me.  
and songs of thy sal - va - tion my heart with rap - ture thrill.

Words: From Psalm 32; Music: RUTHERFORD, Chrétien Urhan. Public Domain.

*Leader:* Matthew 22:34-40  
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. Greet one another warmly with the peace of Christ.*

about our guest speaker | **Rick Box**

Preaching today and worshiping with us again is Rick Box. Rick has preached for CPC and served Communion several times in the recent past. He was born and raised in Texas, and he and his family served as Mission to the World church planting missionaries in Bogota, Colombia for 29 years. Rick retired from MTW in 2020 and now lives in the Austin metroplex area. If you have an opportunity, please greet Rick, and express our thanks for his service to us today.

**Sermon** | “Jesus’ Letter to Ephesus”

**September 1, 2024**

**Revelation 2:1-7** ESV | 1 “To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: ‘The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands.

2 “I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. 3 I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name’s sake, and you have not grown weary. 4 But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. 6 Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.’

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

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



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**\*\* gospel charge**

*Leader:* In light of the Word we have heard, how ought we live?

**All:** **Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.**

– Based on James 1:22-25 ESV

## 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

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”

— Matthew 26:26-28<sub>ESV</sub>

*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 of all, you have ordained this supper as a reminder that you gave your body and blood to redeem us. The elements call out to us to consider your sacrificial death on our behalf. You have taken upon yourself the Father’s just displeasure on account of our sins, bearing what we deserved. Even so, O Lord, our participation in this supper signifies our fellowship and participation with you in dying to the world. Lead us, Lord, to understand that we cannot partake of your cup and also of the cup of the world’s idols, and grant us to be strengthened by your example in resisting sin and the evil one. Let us not grow weary or fainthearted, but live by faith to honor and praise you and the Father and the Holy Spirit. 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:* Take these symbols of Christ’s sacrifice in remembrance and proclamation that he died for you, and partake of them in faith and thanksgiving.

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

## DEAR REFUGE OF MY WEARY SOUL

Dear refuge of my weary soul, on thee, when sorrows rise  
On thee, when waves of trouble roll, my fainting hope relies.  
To thee I tell each rising grief, for thou alone canst heal.  
Thy Word can bring a sweet relief, for every pain I feel.

Thy mercy seat is open still, here let my soul retreat.  
With humble hope attend thy will, and wait beneath thy feet.  
Thy mercy seat is open still, here let my soul retreat.  
With humble hope attend thy will, and wait beneath thy feet.

“Dear Refuge of My Weary Soul,” Words: Anne Steele, Public Domain. Music: Kevin Twit.  
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*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.*

## HIS LOVE CAN NEVER FAIL

I do not ask to see the way my feet will have to tread;  
But only that my soul may feed upon the living Bread.  
'Tis better far that I should walk by faith close to his side;  
I may not know the way I go, but oh, I know my Guide. \*

*\* Chorus:*

His love can never fail, his love can never fail,  
My soul is satisfied to know his love can never fail.  
My soul is satisfied to know his love can never fail.

And if my feet would go astray, they cannot, for I know  
That Jesus guides my faltering steps, as joyfully I go.  
And tho' I may not see his face, my faith is strong and clear,  
That in each hour of sore distress my Savior will be near. \*

I will not fear, tho' darkness come abroad o'er all the land,  
If I may only feel the touch of his own loving hand.  
And tho' I tremble when I think how weak I am, and frail,  
My soul is satisfied to know his love can never fail. \*

"His Love Can Never Fail," Words: E. S. Hall, Public Domain. Music: Christopher Miner.  
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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.

Words: Thomas Ken; Music: OLD HUNDREDTH. Public Domain.

**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 welcome pad when it comes to you.

**NEWCOMERS' GATHERING | SEPTEMBER 8**

Immediately following the worship service Sunday, September 8, we will be hosting a Newcomers' Gathering in the conference room across the hallway. This is an informal social event for visitors to meet the staff, some of the ordained officers, and each other as well as the chance to ask some questions. Light refreshments will be provided. This event normally goes for about 30 minutes, but it is come and go as you please.

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

For the fall, we will be studying the book of Colossians using the study guide *Colossians: Fullness of Life in Christ* (Flourish Bible Study) by Lydia Brownback. Books are available on Amazon. Our Bible study will begin **September 18 & 19** (depending on the day you choose). We will meet at the church building for a daytime study on **Wednesdays at 930a** (childcare by reservation) or **Thursdays at 7p** (no childcare). Please contact **Nicole Mardian** (nicolemardian@protonmail.com) with questions.

**intro to cpc class**

We will be offering a membership class this fall in the church lobby **Sundays, September 22 & 29, 1230p**. Lunch will be served. This is a wonderful time to learn more about CPC, our denomination, beliefs, ministry philosophy, and where you might fit in and serve. If you are interested in membership or just learning more about our church, please reach out to **Daniel McDowell** (daniel@cpcgeorgetown.org). Both classes are required for membership. Childcare will be provided.

**pca global missions conference**

The 2024 PCA Global Missions Conference will be held **November 1-3** in Atlanta, GA. The theme will be "Multiply! Rediscovering our mission to go and make disciples" and will include many engaging speakers and informational breakout sessions. If you are interested in the multifaceted work of the church in missions, in need of having your love for missions refreshed, or are interested in learning more about how missions might be a part of your future, please seriously consider attending this wonderful opportunity. For more information, please visit their website at [www.mtw.org](http://www.mtw.org).

**sunday school**

Sunday School begins next week! Sunday school classes begin **September 8, 915a**. Everyone is encouraged to participate. Come early enough to get your coffee and join in. It is important for God's people to be immersed in his Word often and repeatedly. The regular exposure places God's Word in our minds and hearts ready for the Holy Spirit to teach and convict us.

**Preschool - Kindergarten Sunday School:** God's story is the most beautiful story ever told, full of wonder and grace. There is nothing more important for the younger ones than imparting to them a concrete understanding of the gospel. This fall, our preschoolers and kindergarteners are beginning their study through Pastor Kevin DeYoung's *The Biggest Storybook* (an adapted age-appropriate version of the book our elementary kids are studying). Children will be encouraged by God's love and faithfulness to his people in these lessons. We can't wait to see your precious 3-5 year olds in this class!

**Elementary Sunday School:** The 1st-5th graders will be embarking on their second year of making their way through the curriculum based on the bestselling *The Biggest Story Bible Storybook* by Pastor Kevin DeYoung. Teachers are leading kids through key Bible stories. They have faithfully studied through Genesis-Ruth and are picking up in 1 Samuel this fall. The children are diving into God's story of redemption and discovering how every story and every lesson points them to their Savior. This Sunday School class will help children understand God's plan to redeem the world through Jesus.

**CPC Youth (Grades 6-12):** Calling all 6th-12th graders! Welcome to the CPC Youth Ministry! We want to know Jesus Christ better, learn his Word deeply, and form solid friendships with each other. For our twice-monthly Youth Fellowship Nights we'll be walking through the life of Christ in the Gospel of Mark, seeing the beauty and goodness of Jesus again. Our fall semester of Sunday school will begin a study of Israel's history in 1 & 2 Kings. And along the way, we will have loads of fun together with special events, games, and activities! For further information, or if you're interested in volunteering, please contact Ryan Slabach (youth@cpcgeorgetown.org).

**Adult Sunday School:** This fall, CPC will offer two adult Sunday School classes. Please join the class of your choice.

*The Promise Keeper, The God of the Covenants* – Led by Eric Mardian in the sanctuary. These days there's much talk of promises particularly in an election year. Most of the time, the focus is on man's promises rather than on God's promises. But as we have all experienced, the promises of sinful man fail time and time again. In this 12-week Ligonier Ministries video series "The Promise Keeper, The God of the Covenants," R.C. Sproul demonstrates that the one true Promise Keeper always keeps his promises through an overarching covenant relationship of grace as recorded for us in Scripture. By examining the various forms of this 'Covenant of Grace' in the Bible, Dr. Sproul explains how God, throughout history, has and is fulfilling his long-promised plan of redemption of his people. You'll learn about the Creation Covenant, Noahic Covenant, Abrahamic Covenant, Mosaic Covenant, Davidic Covenant, and the New Covenant – each a reflection of the continuing, expanding work of God's grace. The videos and discussion will help participants further grasp that they can trust in God's promises because he is the Promise Keeper.

*The Five "Solos" of the Reformation* – Led by Allen Utzig in the conference room. "Sola" is a Latin term meaning 'alone' and these five foundational principles (Scripture Alone, Christ Alone, Grace Alone, Faith Alone and the Glory of God Alone) encapsulate the core Biblical beliefs that arose out of the Reformation. These Biblical ideas distinguished the "reformers" and their understanding of the Scriptures from the Roman Catholic teachings of that day. This series of classes will explore the historical backstory that led to the Reformation and discuss the Biblical basis for each of these "Solos".