

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, March 6, 2022

The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

Psalm 19:1

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 104:24-35 (p. 823)

How many are your works, O LORD!

In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number—
living things both large and small.

There the ships go to and fro and the leviathan, which you formed to frolic there.

These all look to you to give them their food at the proper time.

When you give it to them, they gather it up;

when you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things.

When you hide your face, they are terrified;

when you take away their breath, they die and return to the dust.

When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works—

he who looks at the earth, and it trembles, who touches the mountains, and they smoke.

I will sing to the LORD all my life;

I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

May my meditation be pleasing to him, as I rejoice in the LORD.

But may sinners vanish from the earth and the wicked be no more.

Praise the LORD, O my soul.

Praise the LORD.

* *Congregation is requested to stand, if able.*

This Is My Father's World

This is my Father's world, and to my list'ning ears,
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world, the birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world: he shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear him pass, he speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world, O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet.
This is my Father's world: the battle is not done;
Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and earth and heav'n be one. Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Almighty God, you are rich in mercy to all those who call upon you. Hear us as we come to you humbly confessing our sins and transgressions, and imploring your mercy and forgiveness.

All: We confess that we have again preferred the ways of this world to your ways. We have rebelled against your wisdom and sought after foolishness. We have rejected your fatherly commands and have done what is right in our own eyes.

Leader: Forgive us, we pray. Enable us by your Holy Spirit to put off sin and to put on Christ. Help us in our fight against sin, and empower us to act, speak, and think in ways that glorify you.

All: We ask all this through the merit and mediation of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Deuteronomy 5:6-21; Matthew 22:34-40

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

Hymn 119

I Sing the Almighty Power of God

I sing th'almighty pow'r of God
That made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad
And built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained
The sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at his command
And all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord
That filled the earth with food;
He formed the creatures with his word,
And then pronounced them good.
Lord, how your wonders are displayed
Where'er I turn mine eye,
If I survey the ground I tread
Or gaze upon the sky!

There's not a plant or flow'r below
But makes your glories known;
And clouds arise and tempests blow
By order from your throne;
While all that borrows life from you
Is ever in your care,
And everywhere that man can be,
You, God, are present there. Amen.

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 33. *What is justification?*

A. Justification is an act of God's free grace, in which he pardons all our sins, and accepts us as righteous in his sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone.

Q. 34. *What is adoption?*

A. Adoption is an act of God's free grace, by which we are received as sons of God, and have a right to all the privileges of that standing.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship

Doxology*

Hymn 731

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.

Lord's Prayer*

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

Second Reading*

Romans 1:18-32

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [Psalm 104])

Hymn 126

My Soul, Bless the Lord!

My soul, bless the Lord! The Lord is most great,
With glory arrayed, majestic his state;
The light is his garment, the skies are his shade,
And over the waters his courts he has laid.

He rides on the clouds, the wings of the storm,
The lightning and wind his mission perform;
The earth he has founded her station to keep,
And wrapped as a vesture about her the deep.

He waters the hills with rain from the skies,
And plentiful grass and herbs he supplies,
Supplying the cattle, and blessing man's toil
With bread in abundance, with wine and with oil.

The trees which the Lord has planted are fed,
And over the earth their branches are spread;
They keep in their shelter the birds of the air,
The life of each creature the Lord makes his care.

Your Spirit, O Lord, makes life to abound,
The earth is renewed, and fruitful the ground;
To God ascribe glory and wisdom and might,
Let God in his creatures forever delight.

Rejoicing in God, my thought shall be sweet,
While sinners depart in ruin complete;
My soul, bless Jehovah, his name be adored,
Come, praise him, you people, and worship the Lord. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“In the Beginning”
Genesis 1:1-2

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 660

O God Beyond All Praising

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
And sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
For we can only wonder at every gift you send,
At blessings without number and mercies without end:
We lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,
We honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.

Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,
That we who know your favor may serve you as our King;
And whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
We’ll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:
To marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
And make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise. Amen.

Benediction*

Congregational Benediction Response*

(Sung to STUTTGART [Hymn 5])

Honor, glory, might, and merit,
Be to God and God alone!
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
One in Three and Three in One. Amen.

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

The daily reading schedule follows the One Year Bible Reading Plan.

Monday, March 7

Scripture: Numbers 8:1 - 9:23; Mark 13:14-37; Psalm 50:1-23; Proverbs 10:29-30

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 31

Pray for: Our federal, state, and local government leaders.

Tuesday, March 8

Scripture: Numbers 10:1 - 11:23; Mark 14:1-21; Psalm 51:1-19; Proverbs 10:31-32

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 25

Pray for: Our military, police, fire, and medical personnel.

Wednesday, March 9

Scripture: Numbers 11:24 - 13:33; Mark 14:22-52; Psalm 52:1-9; Proverbs 11:1-3

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 26

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.

The churches in the Falkland Islands and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, March 10

Scripture: Numbers 14:1 - 15:16; Mark 14:53-72; Psalm 53:1-6; Proverbs 11:4

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 27

Pray for: Our Elders, Deacons, Women's Ministry, & the PCA.

Friday, March 11

Scripture: Numbers 15:17 - 16:40; Mark 15:1-47; Psalm 54:1-7; Proverbs 11:5-6

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 28

Pray for: Our members who have ongoing health care needs.

Our pregnant moms.

Saturday, March 12

Scripture: Numbers 16:41 - 18:32; Mark 16:1-20; Psalm 55:1-23; Proverbs 11:7

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 29

Pray for: The preaching, and for our Sunday School teachers.

Sunday, March 13

Scripture: Numbers 19:1 - 20:29; Luke 1:1-25; Psalm 56:1-13; Proverbs 11:8

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 30

Pray for: Our worship this morning.

MISSIONS CORNER

Pray for our missionaries. Their prayer requests are sent out through the Prayer Chain and their newsletters are published in Grace Notes as they become available.

Ray & Michele Call | Presbyterian Church in Belize

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LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

Genesis 1:1 reveals that God is the uncreated Creator. He preexisted his creation and then brought all things into being. He did not use existing matter, but he created it, and formed it, and gave life to it. In this way, God stands above his creation and is distinct from it. Many people think that God is like us, but he is just a lot bigger and stronger. The beginning of Genesis clearly teaches, however, that there is a Creator-creature distinction. And that is great news! If God were like us, he would be subject to limits, boundaries, and weakness. It is encouraging to know that God is God—he is infinite, eternal, and unchangeable. There is no limit to his power, to his majesty, and to his grace. Richard Phillips writes in his sermon on Genesis 1:1:

Reading that God was in the beginning provides the greatest comfort to the Christian, especially when he prays to God in time of need. God is involved and invested in his creation, otherwise we would not have Genesis 1:1. At the same time, God is exalted above the creation. He who was before is also after and above. His will, which formed the universe, is not constrained by any created power. This realization grounded the hope of Psalm 121: “I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth” (Psalm 121:1-2). The Creator’s help is one that cannot be thwarted by anything in this world.

1. Read Psalm 104. How does this psalm describe God’s creative power?
2. What does Genesis 1:1 reveal about God?
3. According to the Apostle Paul in Romans 1:18-32, why do people suppress the truth of God?
4. How should knowing that you were created for God’s glory affect your daily life?
5. Read Ezekiel 36:24-27. What is the promise of the New Covenant? How is this promise displayed in the vision of the dry bones in Ezekiel 37:1-14?
6. In preparation for next Sunday, read the remainder of Genesis 1. What do you learn about God in the remainder of the chapter?