

# WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, November 26, 2023

Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

**John 6:33**

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

## ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

**Greeting and Blessing\***

**Responsive Reading\***

Psalm 66 (p. 807 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

Shout with joy to God, all the earth!

**Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious!**

Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds!

**“So great is your power that your enemies cringe before you.**

“All the earth bows down to you; they sing praise to you, they sing praise to your name.”

**Come and see what God has done, how awesome his works in man’s behalf!**

He turned the sea into dry land, they passed through the waters on foot—come, let us rejoice in him.

**He rules forever by his power, his eyes watch the nations—  
let not the rebellious rise up against him.**

Praise our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard;

**he has preserved our lives and kept our feet from slipping.**

For you, O God, tested us; you refined us like silver.

**You brought us into prison and laid burdens on our backs.**

You let men ride over our heads;

**we went through fire and water, but you brought us to a place of abundance.**

I will come to your temple with burnt offerings and fulfill my vows to you—  
vows my lips promised and my mouth spoke when I was in trouble.

**I will sacrifice fat animals to you and an offering of rams; I will offer bulls and goats.**

Come and listen, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me.

**I cried out to him with my mouth; his praise was on my tongue.**

If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;  
but God has surely listened and heard my voice in prayer.

**Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me!**

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

*The pastor will read the plain text; the congregation will read the bold text.*

*Lord of the Sabbath, Hear Us Pray*

Lord of the Sabbath, hear us pray, in this your house, on this your day;  
And own, as grateful sacrifice, the songs which from your temple rise.

Now met to pray and bless your name, whose mercies flow each day the same,  
Whose kind compassions never cease, we seek instruction, pardon, peace.

Your earthly Sabbaths, Lord, we love, but there's a nobler rest above;  
To that our lab'ring souls aspire with ardent hope and strong desire.

In your blest kingdom we shall be from ev'ry mortal trouble free;  
No sighs shall mingle with the songs resounding from immortal tongues.

No rude alarms of raging foes; no cares to break the long repose;  
No midnight shade, no waning moon, but sacred, high, eternal noon.

O long-expected day, begin, dawn on these realms of woe and sin!  
Break, morn of God, upon our eyes; and let the world's true Sun arise! Amen.

**Congregational Confession of Sin**

**Leader:** Have mercy on us, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out our transgressions. Wash away all our iniquity and cleanse us from our sins.

**All:** For we know our transgressions, and our sins are ever before us. Against you, you only, have we sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.

**Leader:** Surely we were sinful at birth, sinful from the time we were conceived. Cleanse us, and we will be clean; wash us, and we will be whiter than snow. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and grant us steadfast obedience.

**All:** Restore to us the joy of your salvation and grant to each of us a willing spirit, to sustain us. Then we will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you. You are God our Savior, and we will sing of your righteousness. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

**Private Confession of Our Sins**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

Ephesians 4:31-32

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

## ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading\*

Genesis 40

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

Hymn 715

### *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home:  
All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin;  
God, our Maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied:  
Come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field, fruit unto his praise to yield;  
Wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown:  
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear:  
Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take his harvest home;  
From his field shall in that day all offenses purge away;  
Give his angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,  
But the fruitful ears to store in his garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come to thy final harvest home;  
Gather thou thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin;  
There forever purified, in thy presence to abide:  
Come, with all thine angels, come, raise the glorious harvest home. Amen.

## Confession of Faith

*The Nicene Creed* (p. 846 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

We 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 we 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 worshipped and glorified;  
who spoke by the prophets;  
and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church;  
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;  
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship ❖

### Gloria Patri\*

Hymn 735

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, 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.

❖ *Tithes and offerings may be placed in the box at the entrance to the sanctuary or given online through our church's website.*

## THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

Second Reading\*

Hebrews 1:1-4

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [Psalm 65]) (refer to the bulletin insert for music)

### *Praise Waits for Thee in Zion*

Praise waits for thee in Zion; all men shall worship there  
And pay their vows before thee, O God who hearest prayer.

Our sins rise up against us, prevailing day by day,  
But thou wilt show us mercy and take our guilt away.

How blest the man thou callest and bringest near to thee,  
That in thy courts forever his dwelling place may be;  
He shall within thy temple be satisfied with grace  
And filled with all the goodness of thy most holy place.

O God of our salvation, since thou dost love the right,  
Thou wilt an answer send us in wondrous deeds of might.

In all earth's habitations, on all the boundless sea,  
Man finds no sure reliance, no peace, apart from thee.

Thy might sets fast the mountains; strength girds thee evermore

To calm the raging peoples and still the ocean's roar.

Thy majesty and greatness are through all lands confessed,  
And joy on earth thou sendest afar, from east to west.

To bless the earth thou sendest from thine abundant store

The waters of the springtime, enriching it once more.

The seed by thee provided is sown o'er hill and plain,  
And thou with gentle showers dost bless the springing grain.

The year with good thou crownest, the earth thy mercy fills,

The wilderness is fruitful, and joyful are the hills;

With corn the vales are covered, the flocks in pastures graze;

All nature joins in singing a joyful song of praise. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“Forgotten by Man, but Remembered by God”  
Genesis 40

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

## **GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE**

Hymn of Thanksgiving\*

Hymn 429

### ***Let Thy Blood in Mercy Poured***

Let thy blood in mercy poured,  
Let thy gracious body broken,  
Be to me, O gracious Lord,  
Of thy boundless love the token:  
*Thou didst give thyself for me,  
Now I give myself to thee.*

Thou didst die that I might live;  
Blessed Lord, thou cam’st to save me;  
All that love of God could give,  
Jesus by his sorrows gave me.  
*Thou didst give thyself for me,  
Now I give myself to thee.*

By the thorns that crowned thy brow,  
By the spear wound and the nailing,  
By the pain and death, I now  
Claim, O Christ, thy love unfailing.  
*Thou didst give thyself for me,  
Now I give myself to thee.*

Wilt thou own the gift I bring?  
All my penitence I give thee;  
Thou art my exalted King,  
Of thy matchless love forgive me.  
*Thou didst give thyself for me,  
Now I give myself to thee. Amen.*

## Benediction\*

### Congregational Benediction Response\*

May the peace of God, our heav'nly Father,  
And the grace of Christ, the risen Son,  
And the fellowship of God, the Spirit  
Keep our hearts and minds within his love.

*And to him be praise for his glorious reign;  
From the depths of earth to the heights of heaven  
We declare the name of the Lamb once slain—  
Christ eternal, the King of kings.*

May this peace which passes understanding,  
And this grace which makes us what we are,  
And this fellowship of his communion,  
Make us one in spirit and in heart.

*And to him be praise for his glorious reign;  
From the depths of earth to the heights of heaven  
We declare the name of the Lamb once slain—  
Christ eternal, the King of kings. Amen.*







# HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

## **Monday, November 27**

Scripture: Daniel 4:1-37; 2 Peter 1:1-21; Psalm 119:97-112; Proverbs 28:17-18

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 22

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

## **Tuesday, November 28**

Scripture: Daniel 5:1-31; 2 Peter 2:1-22; Psalm 119:113-128; Proverbs 28:19-20

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 30

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

## **Wednesday, November 29**

Scripture: Daniel 6:1-28; 2 Peter 3:1-18; Psalm 119:129-152; Proverbs 28:21-22

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 31

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.

The churches in New Zealand and persecuted Christians.

## **Thursday, November 30**

Scripture: Daniel 7:1-28; 1 John 1:1-10; Psalm 119:153-176; Proverbs 28:23-24

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 32

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

## **Friday, December 1**

Scripture: Daniel 8:1-27; 1 John 2:1-17; Psalm 120:1-7; Proverbs 28:25-26

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 33

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

## **Saturday, December 2**

Scripture: Daniel 9:1 - 11:1; 1 John 2:18 - 3:6; Psalm 121:1-8; Proverbs 28:27-28

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 34

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

## **Sunday, December 3**

Scripture: Daniel 11:2-35; 1 John 3:7-24; Psalm 122:1-9; Proverbs 29:1

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 35

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**

**Dave & Darlene Eby | Africa Reformation Theol. Seminary Uganda**

## LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

As Joseph languished in prison for a crime that he did not commit, we see that he did not languish in despair. There are hints in Genesis 40 of Joseph's kindness and faith. For example, Joseph noticed that the cupbearer and the baker were troubled, and he took the time to ask them what was wrong. We read in Genesis 40:7 that he asked them, "Why are your faces downcast today?" Rather than becoming bitter and angry because of his imprisonment, Joseph was kind toward those who were suffering, and he took the time to notice and inquire about those with needs around him.

Joseph also revealed his ongoing faith in the Lord by his response to the cupbearer and the baker who were sad that no one was around to interpret their dreams. When these two men were still a part of Pharaoh's court, they would have had access to the sorcerers and dream-interpreters that were used by the king. But Joseph replied to these men in verse 8, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams." Joseph showed by his response that he trusted the Lord and he trusted what the Lord revealed. Over ten years before this, God had revealed to Joseph in two dreams that he would be exalted above his family. Though Joseph was now in prison in Egypt, he did not lose his trust in the Lord. He still believed that interpretations belong to God and that God would fulfill his Word in due time. The study note for Genesis 40 in the Reformation Heritage KJV Study Bible explains:

Painful circumstances in our lives may drag on for years. Sometimes, we must endure great disappointments when our hopes get raised only to be dashed to the ground. We must wait on the Lord. Nothing is more difficult than waiting, but nothing is more profitable for our souls. By grace, waiting cultivates faith, prayer, submission, and humility; it prepares us for greater fruitfulness in the future. Above all, it focuses our hope not on earthly things or relationships, but upon the Lord Himself. Have you, too, learned to wait actively, prayerfully, and expectantly on God?

1. For review, read Genesis 39. How did Joseph deal with temptation, and what do you learn that you can apply to your own life? What does the repetition of the phrase "the Lord was with Joseph" at the beginning and end of the chapter teach us about depending upon God's grace?
2. Read Genesis 40, and spend some time considering God's providence in Joseph's life up to this point. How was God revealing his sovereignty and goodness in all that was happening to Joseph? How does knowing about God's providence comfort you?
3. What does it mean to wait on the Lord as we trust in his perfect timing? Who are some other believers in the Bible who learned to wait on the Lord to fulfill his promises? How does learning about their faith and patience help you wait on the Lord?
4. After the cupbearer was freed, he forgot about Joseph. The contrast here is that God never forgets about his people. His steadfast love is eternal. Read Psalm 136 which describes how God's steadfast love endures forever. How is Christ's death and resurrection the greatest display of God's steadfast love for his people?