

# WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, April 23, 2023

LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you. I will praise your name,  
for you have accomplished wonders, plans formed long ago, with perfect faithfulness.  
**Isaiah 25:1**

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

## ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing\*

Responsive Reading\*

Psalm 16 (p. 788 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

Keep me safe, O God,  
**for in you I take refuge.**

I said to the LORD, “You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing.”

**As for the saints who are in the land,  
they are the glorious ones in whom is all my delight.**

The sorrows of those will increase who run after other gods.

**I will not pour out their libations of blood or take up their names on my lips.**

LORD, you have assigned me my portion and my cup; you have made my lot secure.

**The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;  
surely I have a delightful inheritance.**

I will praise the LORD, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me.

**I have set the LORD always before me.  
Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.**

Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure,

**because you will not abandon me to the grave,  
nor will you let your Holy One see decay.**

You have made known to me the path of life;

**you will fill me with joy in your presence,  
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.**

\* Congregation is requested to stand, if able.

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

*Hail to the Lord's Anointed*

Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son!  
Hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,  
To take away transgression, and rule in equity.

He comes with comfort speedy to those who suffer wrong;  
To help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong;  
To give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,  
Whose souls, condemned and dying, were precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;  
And love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth;  
Before him on the mountains shall peace, the herald, go;  
And righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.

O'er ev'ry foe victorious, he on his throne shall rest,  
From age to age more glorious, all-blessing and all-blessed;  
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove;  
His name shall stand forever— that name to us is Love. Amen.

**Congregational Confession of Sin**

**Leader:** Heavenly Father, we join with your Church around the world, with Christians now in heaven, and with the heavenly host of angels, to declare that you are holy, holy, holy; the whole earth is full of your glory.

**All:** As we think about your holiness, we recognize our unworthiness all the more. We have sinned against you and others. All the wrongs that we have done are not hidden from you. Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love and faithfulness.

**Leader:** Cause us to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which we have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

**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**

Ephesians 2:8-10

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

## ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading\*

Genesis 24:1-28

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

Hymn 706

### *Jesus Lives, and So Shall I*

Jesus lives, and so shall I.  
Death! thy sting is gone forever!  
He who deigned for me to die,  
Lives, the bands of death to sever.  
He shall raise me from the dust:  
Jesus is my hope and trust.

Jesus lives and reigns supreme;  
And, his kingdom still remaining,  
I shall also be with him,  
Ever living, ever reigning.  
God has promised; be it must:  
Jesus is my hope and trust.

Jesus lives, and by his grace,  
Vict'ry o'er my passions giving,  
I will cleanse my heart and ways,  
Ever to his glory living.  
Me he raises from the dust:  
Jesus is my hope and trust.

Jesus lives! I know full well  
Naught from him my heart can sever,  
Life nor death nor pow'rs of hell,  
Joy nor grief, henceforth forever.  
None of all his saints is lost:  
Jesus is my hope and trust.

Jesus lives and death is now  
But my entrance into glory.  
Courage, then, my soul, for thou  
Hast a crown of life before thee;  
Thou shalt find thy hopes were just:  
Jesus is the Christian's trust. Amen.

## Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

**Q. 67.** *Which is the sixth commandment?*

**A.** The sixth commandment is, “You shall not murder.”

**Q. 68.** *What is required in the sixth commandment?*

**A.** The sixth commandment requires all lawful endeavors to preserve our own lives and the lives of others.

**Q. 69.** *What is forbidden in the sixth commandment?*

**A.** The sixth commandment forbids the taking away of our own lives or the lives of our neighbors unjustly, or whatever tends to do so.

## 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\*

Genesis 24:29-67

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [Psalm 139:1-12])

Hymn 36

### *Lord, Thou Hast Searched Me*

Lord, thou hast searched me, and dost know  
Where'er I rest, where'er I go;  
Thou knowest all that I have planned,  
And all my ways are in thy hand.

My words from thee I cannot hide;  
I feel thy pow'r on every side;  
O wondrous knowledge, awesome might,  
Unfathomed depth, unmeasured height!

Where can I go apart from thee,  
Or whither from thy presence flee?  
In heav'n?—it is thy dwelling fair;  
In death's abode?—lo, thou art there.

If I the wings of morning take,  
And far away my dwelling make,  
The hand that leadeth me is thine,  
And my support thy pow'r divine.

If deepest darkness cover me,  
The darkness hideth not from thee;  
To thee both night and day are bright,  
The darkness shineth as the light. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“An Arranged Marriage”  
Genesis 24

## **GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE**

Hymn of Thanksgiving\*

Hymn 461

### *Not What My Hands Have Done*

Not what my hands have done can save my guilty soul;  
Not what my toiling flesh has borne can make my spirit whole.  
Not what I feel or do can give me peace with God;  
Not all my prayers and sighs and tears can bear my awful load.

Thy work alone, O Christ, can ease this weight of sin;  
Thy blood alone, O Lamb of God, can give me peace within.  
Thy love to me, O God, not mine, O Lord, to thee,  
Can rid me of this dark unrest, and set my spirit free.

Thy grace alone, O God, to me can pardon speak;  
Thy pow’r alone, O Son of God, can this sore bondage break.  
No other work, save thine, no other blood will do;  
No strength, save that which is divine, can bear me safely through.

I bless the Christ of God; I rest on love divine;  
And with unfalt’ring lip and heart, I call this Savior mine.  
His cross dispels each doubt; I bury in his tomb  
Each thought of unbelief and fear, each ling’ring shade of gloom.

I praise the God of grace; I trust his truth and might;  
He calls me his, I call him mine, my God, my joy, my light.  
’Tis he who saveth me, and freely pardon gives;  
I love because he loveth me, I live because he lives. Amen.

## **Benediction\***

### **Congregational Benediction Response\***

(Hymn 115, verse 5)

Let all things their Creator bless,  
and worship him in humbleness,  
O praise him, alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father,  
praise the Son,  
and praise the Spirit,  
three in One,  
O praise him, O praise him,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Amen.







# HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

## **Monday, April 24**

Scripture: Judges 2:10 - 3:31; Luke 22:14-34; Psalm 92:1 - 93:5; Proverbs 14:1-2

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 24

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

## **Tuesday, April 25**

Scripture: Judges 4:1 - 5:31; Luke 22:35-53; Psalm 94:1-23; Proverbs 14:3-4

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 58

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

## **Wednesday, April 26**

Scripture: Judges 6:1-40; Luke 22:54 - 23:12; Psalm 95:1 - 96:13; Proverbs 14:5-6

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 59

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.

The churches in Mali and persecuted Christians.

## **Thursday, April 27**

Scripture: Judges 7:1 - 8:17; Luke 23:13-43; Psalm 97:1 - 98:9; Proverbs 14:7-8

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 60

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

## **Friday, April 28**

Scripture: Judges 8:18 - 9:21; Luke 23:44 - 24:12; Psalm 99:1-9; Proverbs 14:9-10

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 61

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

## **Saturday, April 29**

Scripture: Judges 9:22 - 10:18; Luke 24:13-53; Psalm 100:1-5; Proverbs 14:11-12

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 62

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

## **Sunday, April 30**

Scripture: Judges 11:1 - 12:15; John 1:1-28; Psalm 101:1-8; Proverbs 14:13-14

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 63

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 24 records how toward the end of his life, Abraham realized he needed to find a wife for his son, Isaac. Every parent looks forward to seeing their children grown up and married with families of their own. But for Abraham, his desire to see Isaac married was more than sentimental—it was crucial. God had promised Abraham that he would have a large family and that his family would inherit the land of Canaan. God further revealed that these promises would come through Isaac's line. We read in Genesis 17:19 that God said to Abraham, "...Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him."

As Genesis 24 unfolds, there is suspense about how God will fulfill this promise. Will the servant find a wife for Isaac? Will she be willing to leave her family and return with the servant to marry Isaac—a man she has never met? Will her family allow her to leave and go off to be married? Will Isaac love her and want to marry her? As each of these questions are answered, God reveals his glory through his covenant faithfulness and sovereign providence.

1. Read Genesis 24:1-9. Why did Abraham insist that Isaac not marry a Canaanite woman? How does this apply to us in the New Covenant as is explained in 2 Corinthians 6:14-18?
2. Read Genesis 24:10-28. How did the servant reveal his trust in the Lord? What did Rebekah's actions reveal about her good character?
3. Read Genesis 24:52-59. How did Rebekah's response reveal her faith? How did her response mirror Abraham's response in Genesis 12:1-4? What do you learn from this about how to follow the Lord in your own life?
4. Read Genesis 24:62-67. What does this conclusion reveal about God's covenant faithfulness and sovereign providence? How might you apply these truths about God to your own life?