

# WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, April 28, 2024

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received:  
that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,  
that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

**1 Corinthians 15:3-4**

## Prelude

## Welcome and Announcements

## ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

### Greeting and Blessing\*

### Responsive Reading\*

Psalm 121 (p. 831 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

I lift up my eyes to the hills—  
where does my help come from?

**My help comes from the LORD,  
the Maker of heaven and earth.**

He will not let your foot slip—  
he who watches over you will not slumber;

**indeed, he who watches over Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

The LORD watches over you—  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

**the sun will not harm you by day,  
nor the moon by night.**

The LORD will keep you from all harm—  
he will watch over your life;

**the LORD will watch over your coming and going  
both now and forevermore.**

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

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

***Fairest Lord Jesus***

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Thee will I cherish, thee will I honor,  
Thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,  
Robed in the blooming garb of spring:  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,  
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,  
And all the twinkling, starry host:  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer  
Than all the angels heav'n can boast.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations!  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,  
Now and forevermore be thine. Amen.

**Congregational Confession of Sin**

**Leader:** Heavenly Father, we acknowledge along with the psalmist that “the sum of your Word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.”

**All:** The Second Commandment of your Law is: “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.”

**Leader:** We confess that we have broken this commandment by making idols of wealth, comfort, and pleasure. We have neglected to worship you in sincerity and to prioritize your glory.

**All:** Strengthen us by your Holy Spirit to serve and please you in newness of life, through the merit and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord in whose Name we pray. Amen.

**Private Confession of Our Sins**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

Isaiah 44:21-22

Remember these things, O Jacob, and Israel, for you are my servant; I formed you; you are my servant; O Israel, you will not be forgotten by me. I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you.

## ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading\*

Isaiah 65:17-25

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

Hymn 244

### *He Was Wounded for Our Transgressions*

He was wounded for our transgressions,  
He bore our sins in his body on the tree;  
For our guilt he gave us peace,  
From our bondage gave release,  
And with his stripes, and with his stripes,  
And with his stripes our souls are healed.

He was numbered among transgressors,  
We did esteem him forsaken by his God;  
As our sacrifice he died,  
That the law be satisfied,  
And all our sin, and all our sin,  
And all our sin was laid on him.

We had wandered, we all had wandered  
Far from the fold of “the Shepherd of the sheep”  
But he sought us where we were,  
On the mountains bleak and bare,  
And brought us home, and brought us home,  
And brought us safely home to God.

Who can number his generation?  
Who shall declare all the triumphs of his cross?  
Millions dead now live again,  
Myriads follow in his train!  
Victorious Lord, victorious Lord,  
Victorious Lord and coming King! Amen.

## Confession of Faith

*The Nicene Creed (p. 846)*

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\*

2 Peter 3:10-18

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [Psalm 111])

(music printed on p. 12)

## *O Give the LORD Wholehearted Praise*

O give the LORD wholehearted praise.  
To him thanksgiving I will bring;  
With all his people I will raise  
My voice and of his glory sing.

His saints delight to search and trace  
His mighty works and wondrous ways.  
Majestic glory, boundless grace,  
And righteousness his work displays.

God's wondrous deeds of faithfulness  
His people ever keep in mind.  
His works of love and graciousness  
Reveal that God the LORD is kind.

God's promise shall forever stand;  
He cares for those who trust his word.  
Upon his saints his mighty hand  
The wealth of nations has conferred.

His works are true and just indeed;  
His precepts are forever sure.  
In truth and righteousness decreed,  
They shall forevermore endure.

From God his saints' redemption came;  
His cov'nant sure no change can know.  
Let all revere his holy name  
In heav'n above and earth below.

In rev'rence and in godly fear  
Man finds the gate to wisdom's ways;  
The wise his holy name revere.  
Through endless ages sound his praise! Amen.

Installation of Deacons

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“Live in Light of Christ’s Return”  
2 Peter 3:10-18

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

Pastor Rudy Manrique

## **GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE**

Hymn of Thanksgiving\*

Hymn 295

### *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;  
Hark! how the heav’nly anthem drowns all music but its own:  
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
And hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,  
Rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified:  
No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,  
But downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of peace; whose pow’r a scepter sways  
From pole to pole, that wars may cease, absorbed in prayer and praise:  
His reign shall know no end; and round his pierced feet  
Fair flow’rs of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of years, the Potentate of time;  
Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime:  
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me:  
Thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity. 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.*

# SERMON NOTES

“Live in Light of Christ’s Return”  
2 Peter 3:10-18

- 1. Christ will return and renew his creation. (v. 10)

The time of his return is unpredictable. (1 Thess. 5:2; Matthew 24:42-44)

Westminster Confession of Faith 33.3: As Christ would have us to be absolutely convinced that there will be a day of judgment, both to deter all men from sin and to give greater consolation to the godly in their adversity, so will he have that day unknown to men, that they may shake off all carnal security, may always be watchful—because they do not know at what hour the Lord will come—and may always be prepared to say, “Come, Lord Jesus. Come quickly. Amen.”

When he returns, he will renew (not destroy) his creation. (Romans 8:20-22)

- 2. Live in light of Christ’s return:

Live in holiness and godliness. (v. 11, 14, 18)

Desire Christ’s return. (v. 12; Romans 2:4)

Hasten Christ’s return through your witness. (v. 12; Acts 17:31; 1 Thess. 4:11-12)

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# HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

## **Monday, April 29**

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

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 11

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

## **Tuesday, 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 55

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

## **Wednesday, May 1**

Scripture: Judges 13:1 - 14:20; John 1:29-51; Psalm 102:1-28; Proverbs 14:15-16

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 56

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.  
The churches in Réunion and persecuted Christians.

## **Thursday, May 2**

Scripture: Judges 15:1 - 16:31; John 2:1-25; Psalm 103:1-22; Proverbs 14:17-19

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 57

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

## **Friday, May 3**

Scripture: Judges 17:1 - 18:31; John 3:1-21; Psalm 104:1-24; Proverbs 14:20-21

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 58

Pray for: Our members who have ongoing health care needs.  
The Shepherd's Church Plant in Riverside and the Manrique Family.

## **Saturday, May 4**

Scripture: Judges 19:1 - 20:48; John 3:22 - 4:3; Psalm 104:25-35; Proverbs 14:22-23

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 59

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

## **Sunday, May 5**

Scripture: Judges 21:1 - Ruth 1:22; John 4:4-42; Psalm 105:1-15; Proverbs 14:24-25

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 60

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**

**Christ Bible Institute | Nagoya, Japan**

## LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

The Bible teaches that when Christ returns, he will renew his creation by purging away all sin and restoring all that was corrupted by sin. In the same way that our bodies will be raised to newness of life, creation will also be restored to its created glory so that we will enjoy it without corruption for eternity. Mark Jones, in his book *Living for God*, writes:

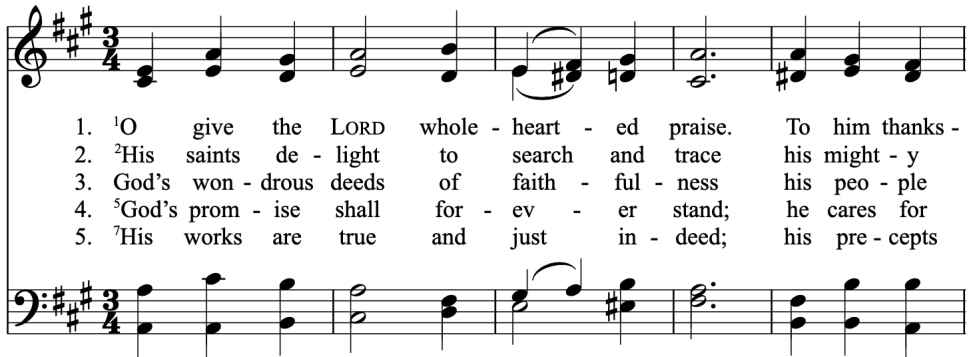
Like our bodies, which will be raised without losing our former identities, the new heavens and new earth will be recreated in terms of their former identity. God does not absolutely destroy and start brand-new with the world or us. He redeems both the world and us. The world and God's people anticipate the liberation of creation from its bondage to decay (Romans 8:18–25). So we are filled with hope because of what God has promised.

The language in Scripture suggests that we have much to look forward to as human beings, not just as isolated souls. In other words, the very joys and delights that we possess on earth are a mere taste of the eternal joys and delights we will experience in the new heaven and new earth. Whatever food we now enjoy will be like a grain of dust compared to the food we will enjoy in heaven. The best wine today will be like vinegar compared to the wine of heaven. Our bodies and souls will enjoy all that God's renewed creation can possibly offer.

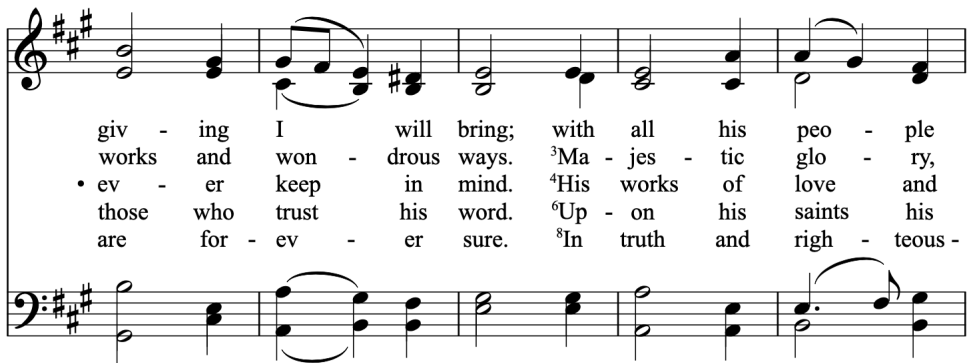
Of course, we should not lose sight of the fact that we will do all things to the glory of God, but we should also not get caught up in thinking about heaven as a place where we escape the physical. Far from it: God redeems body and soul, so that both may function as they were intended in the paradise of God.

1. Read Isaiah 65:17-25. How does Isaiah describe the Messianic Kingdom? What images and analogies does he use to describe the peace, joy, and freedom we will enjoy?
2. Read 2 Peter 3:10. What does Peter say will happen when Christ returns? Review the cited readings from the sermon outline as you think about the significance of creation's renewal rather than its annihilation.
3. Read 2 Peter 3:11-18 as you answer the following questions with your personal responses:
  - How do you seek to live in holiness and godliness?
  - Do you desire Christ's return?
  - How are you hastening Christ's return through your witness?
4. Take a minute to skim all of 2 Peter. What do you recall from the sermon series that left an impression on you? What did you learn about our faith that challenged you? What did you learn that encouraged you?


# O Give the LORD Wholehearted Praise 111B



1. <sup>1</sup>O give the LORD whole - heart - ed praise. To him thanks -  
 2. <sup>2</sup>His saints de - light to search and trace his might - y  
 3. God's won - drous deeds of faith - ful - ness his peo - ple  
 4. <sup>5</sup>God's prom - ise shall for - ev - er stand; he cares for  
 5. <sup>7</sup>His works are true and just in - deed; his pre - cepts



giv - ing I will bring; with all his peo - ple  
 works and won - drous ways. <sup>3</sup>Ma - jes - tic glo - ry,  
 • ev - er keep in mind. <sup>4</sup>His works of love and  
 those who trust his word. <sup>6</sup>Up - on his saints his  
 are for - ev - er sure. <sup>8</sup>In truth and righ - teous -



I will raise my voice and of his glo - ry sing.  
 bound - less grace, and righ - teous - ness his work dis - plays.  
 • gra - cious - ness re - veal that God the LORD is kind.  
 might - y hand the wealth of na - tions has con - ferred.  
 ness de - creed, they shall for - ev - er - more en - dure.

6. <sup>9</sup>From God his saints' redemption came;  
 his cov'nant sure no change can know.  
 Let all revere his holy name  
 in heav'n above and earth below.

7. <sup>10</sup>In rev'rence and in godly fear  
 man finds the gate to wisdom's ways;  
 the wise his holy name revere.  
 Through endless ages sound his praise!