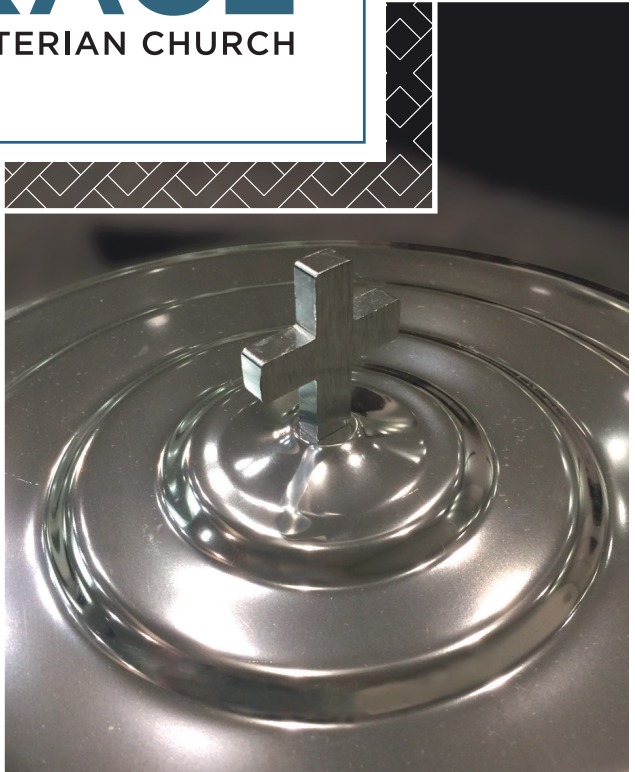


 **GRACE**
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



WORSHIP SERVICE

March 30, 2025

He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.

Psalm 40:3

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 99 (p. 820 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

The LORD reigns, let the nations tremble;

he sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake.

Great is the LORD in Zion; he is exalted over all the nations.

Let them praise your great and awesome name—he is holy.

The King is mighty, he loves justice—

you have established equity;

in Jacob you have done what is just and right.

Exalt the LORD our God and worship at his footstool; he is holy.

Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel was among those who called on his name;

they called on the LORD and he answered them.

He spoke to them from the pillar of cloud;

they kept his statutes and the decrees he gave them.

O LORD our God, you answered them; you were to Israel a forgiving God,
though you punished their misdeeds.

**Exalt the LORD our God and worship at his holy mountain,
for the LORD our God is holy.**

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

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

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.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Heavenly Father, we acknowledge that your commandments are righteous and good. They reveal your holiness, and they teach us how to live as your children in a way that pleases you.

All: We confess that we broke your commandments by our careless deeds, our hurtful words, and by the sinful affections of our hearts.

Leader: Forgive us, we pray. Apart from Christ there is nothing in us that gives us reason for hope, yet in him we have received pardon and are clothed in his righteousness. Enable us to wholeheartedly believe your assurance of forgiveness and to live godly, righteous, and devout lives as we await our Savior's return.

All: All praise, honor, and glory be to you, O God, through 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

1 John 4:9-11

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

2 Kings 17:7-23

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

Hymn 473

Jesus Sinners Doth Receive

“Jesus sinners doth receive”
Word of surest consolation;
Word all sorrow to relieve,
Word of pardon, peace, salvation!
Naught like this can comfort give:
“Jesus sinners doth receive.”

On God’s grace we have no claim,
Yet to us his pledge is given;
He hath sworn by his own name,
Open are the gates of heaven.
Take to heart this word and live:
“Jesus sinners doth receive.”

When a helpless lamb doth stray,
After it, the Shepherd, pressing
Thro’ each dark and dang’rous way,
Brings it back, his own possessing.
Jesus seeks thee, O believe:
“Jesus sinners doth receive.”

Oh, how blest it is to know:
Were as scarlet my transgression,
It shall be as white as snow
By thy blood and bitter passion;
For these words I now believe:
“Jesus sinners doth receive.”

Now my conscience is at peace,
From the Law I stand acquitted;
Christ hath purchased my release
And my every sin remitted.
Naught remains my soul to grieve—
“Jesus sinners doth receive.” 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*

Acts 17:22-34

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [Psalm 115:1-3, 9-14, 18])

Hymn 67

Not Unto Us, O Lord of Heaven

Not unto us, O Lord of heav'n,
But unto you be glory giv'n;
In love and truth you do fulfill
The counsels of your sovereign will;
Though nations fail your pow'r to own,
Yet you do reign, and you alone.

Let Israel trust in God alone,
The Lord whose grace and pow'r are known;
To him your full allegiance yield,
And he will be your help and shield.
All those who fear him God will bless;
His saints have proved his faithfulness.

All you that fear him and adore,
The Lord increase you more and more;
Both great and small who him confess,
You and your children he will bless.
Yes, we will ever bless his name;
Praise you the Lord, his praise proclaim. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“The First Commandment: Worship Only the One True God”
Exodus 20:1-3

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

Pastor Rudy Manrique

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Yet Not I, but Through Christ in Me

What gift of grace is Jesus, my Redeemer; there is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom, my steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.

To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus, for my life is wholly bound to His.
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

The night is dark, but I am not forsaken, for by my side, the Savior, He will stay.

I labor on in weakness and rejoicing, for in my need His power is displayed.

To this I hold: my Shepherd will defend me; through the deepest valley He will lead.
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread; I know I am forgiven; the future sure, the price, it has been paid.
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon, and He was raised to overthrow the grave.

To this I hold: my sin has been defeated; Jesus now and ever is my plea.
Oh the chains are released, I can sing: I am free! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

With every breath I long to follow Jesus, for He has said that He will bring me home.

And day by day I know He will renew me until I stand with joy before the throne.

To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus; all the glory evermore to Him.
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat: yet not I, but through Christ in me. 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

“The First Commandment: Worship Only the One True God”
Exodus 20:1-3

The Ten Commandments reveal:

God's holiness.

Christ's obedience.

Our need for Christ's righteousness imputed to us.

How we are to live as redeemed and thankful followers of Christ.

1. The First Commandment requires us to know and acknowledge God to be the only true God, and our God; and to worship and glorify him accordingly.

Isaiah 45:5

2. The First Commandment forbids the denying, or not worshiping and glorifying, the true God as God, and our God; and the giving to any other of that worship and glory due to him alone.

Deuteronomy 32:16-17; 1 Corinthians 10:20

3. The First Commandment points us to Christ.

Matthew 17:5; 1 Timothy 2:5; Philippians 2:10-11

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

Monday, March 31

Scripture: Deuteronomy 16:1 - 17:20; Luke 9:7-27; Psalm 72:1-20; Proverbs 12:8-9

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 26

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

Tuesday, April 1

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:1 - 20:20; Luke 9:28-50; Psalm 73:1-28; Proverbs 12:10

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 22

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

Wednesday, April 2

Scripture: Deuteronomy 21:1 - 22:30; Luke 9:51 - 10:12; Psalm 74:1-23; Prov. 12:11

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 23

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.

The churches in the United States and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, April 3

Scripture: Deuteronomy 23:1 - 25:19; Luke 10:13-37; Psalm 75:1-10; Prov. 12:12-14

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 24

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

Friday, April 4

Scripture: Deut. 26:1 - 27:26; Luke 10:38 - 11:13; Psalm 76:1-12; Prov. 12:15-17

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 25

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

The Shepherd's Church Plant in Riverside and the Manrique Family.

Saturday, April 5

Scripture: Deuteronomy 28:1-68; Luke 11:14-36; Psalm 77:1-20; Proverbs 12:18

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 26

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

Sunday, April 6

Scripture: Deut. 29:1 - 30:20; Luke 11:37 - 12:7; Psalm 78:1-31; Prov. 12:19-20

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 27

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 in Belize

Dave Eby in Uganda

Christ Bible Institute in Japan

The Shepherd's Church in Riverside

LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

When God prepared to reveal his moral law to his people, he began by repeating how he had first shown them his grace by redeeming them out of slavery in Egypt. The moral law, then, was not a way for his people to be redeemed, but it was the way they were to live as his redeemed people. The First Commandment makes perfect sense in light of this context. Since God is the only God who could redeem his people and who did redeem his people, he is the only one worthy of worship. He is the LORD, and there is no other; besides him there is no God (Isaiah 45:5). In reflecting on the First Commandment for us as Christians, J.V. Fesko writes:

As we reflect upon the First Commandment in the light of Christ, we may think that we are not prone to such silly idolatrous behavior as the worship of cows or frogs. We may think we are far more sophisticated than our Old Testament counterparts; we no longer believe in such antiquated notions. Yet, despite our modern advancements, we are still as idolatrous as ever and worship all sorts of things. Paul makes that clear in the first chapter of Romans: “Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things” (Romans 1:22-23). Indeed, how often do we refuse to acknowledge the existence of any god, yet check our horoscope in the local paper or read the messages in fortune cookies? The worship of false gods abounds in every age, which is why the apostle John closes his first epistle with the words: “Little children, keep yourselves from idols” (1 John 5:21). All people have the obligation to believe in the one true God as he is revealed in Jesus Christ. With the Apostles, we must say that there is no other name under heaven or earth by which we can be saved. (*The Rule of Love: Broken, Fulfilled, and Applied*)

Go to www.opc.org/lc.html to access a copy of the Westminster Larger Catechism:

1. Read Larger Catechism Q/A 95. How does the moral law point us to Christ?
2. Read Larger Catechism Q/A 99. Of the 8 rules listed, are there any that you have never considered? How does understanding all of these rules change your understanding of the Ten Commandments?
3. Read Larger Catechism Q/A 104. How can you seek to live out these requirements in your life out of a regenerate and grateful heart?
4. Read Larger Catechism Q/A 105. Of the sins forbidden, which do you struggle with most? How would living in more consistent repentance and looking to Christ in faith help you overcome these particular struggles?

Not unto Us, O Lord of Heaven

Not to us, LORD, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness. Ps. 115:1

1. Not un - to us, O Lord of heav'n, but un - to
 2. Let Is - rael trust in God a - lone, the Lord whose
 3. All you that fear him and a - dore, the Lord in -

you be glo - ry giv'n; in love and truth you do ful -
 grace and pow'r are known; to him your full al - le - giance
 crease you more and more; both great and small who him con -

fil the coun - sels of your sov - ereign will; though na - tions
 yield, and he will be your help and shield. All those who
 fess, you and your chil - dren he will bless. Yes, we will

fail your pow'r to own, yet you do reign, and you a - lone.
 fear him God will bless; his saints have proved his faith - ful - ness.
 ev - er bless his name; praise you the Lord, his praise pro - claim.



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