



GRACE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, March 8, 2026

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

Psalm 46:1

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.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and pow'r are great; and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
Were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he,
Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same, and he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo! his doom is sure; one little word shall fell him.

That Word above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still; his kingdom is forever. 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.” 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.”

All: 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. Forgive us and enable 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*

Psalm 14

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

Hymn 103

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

Holy God, we praise your name;
Lord of all, we bow before you;
All on earth your scepter claim,
All in heav'n above adore you.
Infinite your vast domain,
Everlasting is your reign.

Hark, the loud celestial hymn
Angel choirs above are raising;
Cherubim and seraphim
In unceasing chorus praising,
Fill the heav'ns with sweet accord:
"Holy, holy, holy Lord."

Lo! the apostolic train
Join your sacred name to hallow;
Prophets swell the glad refrain,
And the white-robed martyrs follow;
And from morn to set of sun,
Through the church the song goes on.

Holy Father, Holy Son,
Holy Spirit, Three we name you;
While in essence only One,
Undivided God we claim you,
And adoring bend the knee,
While we sing this mystery. Amen.

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 85. *What does God require of us, that we may escape his wrath and curse, due to us for sin?*

A. To escape the wrath and curse of God, due to us for sin, God requires of us faith in Jesus Christ, repentance to life, with the diligent use of all the outward means by which Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption.

Q. 86. *What is faith in Jesus Christ?*

A. Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, by which we receive and rest on him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel.

Q. 87. *What is repentance to life?*

A. Repentance to life is a saving grace, by which a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and understanding of the mercy of God in Christ, does, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it to God, with full intention of, and endeavor after, new obedience.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship ❖

Gloria Patri*

Hymn 734

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*

Matthew 14:22-33

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month: Psalm 22:23-26, 31)

Hymn 9

All You That Fear Jehovah's Name

All you that fear Jehovah's name,
His glory tell, his praise proclaim;
You children of his chosen race,
Stand in awe before his face,
Stand in awe before his face.

The suff'ring One he has not spurned,
Who unto him for help has turned;
From him he has not hid his face,
But answered his request in grace,
But answered his request in grace.

O Lord, your goodness makes me raise
Amid your people songs of praise;
Before all them that fear you, now
I worship you and pay my vow,
I worship you and pay my vow.

For all the meek you will provide;
They shall be fed and satisfied;
All they that seek the Lord shall live
And never-ending praises give,
And never-ending praises give.

The Lord's unfailing righteousness
All generations shall confess;
From age to age shall men be taught
What wondrous works the Lord has wrought,
What wondrous works the Lord has wrought. Amen.

Installation of a Deacon

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“Stable and Steadfast”
Colossians 1:21-23

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found, he is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all—here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones he came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied;
For ev’ry sin on him was laid—here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay, light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory, sin’s curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am his and he is mine—bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death—this is the pow’r of Christ in me;
From life’s first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow’r of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from his hand;
Till he returns or calls me home—here in the pow’r of Christ I’ll stand. 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, March 9

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

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 10

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

Tuesday, 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 102

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

Wednesday, 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 103

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.

The churches in Cambodia and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, 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 104

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

Friday, 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 105

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

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

Saturday, March 14

Scripture: Numbers 21:1 - 22:20; Luke 1:26-56; Psalm 57:1-11; Proverbs 11:9-11

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 106

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

Sunday, March 15

Scripture: Numbers 22:21 - 23:30; Luke 1:57-80; Psalm 58:1-11; Proverbs 11:12-13

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 107

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 the Dominican Republic

Dave Eby in Uganda

Christ Bible Institute in Japan

The Shepherd's Church in Riverside

LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

In Colossians 1:21-23, the Apostle Paul reminds the Christians in Colossae about their salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. In verse 23, he includes a conditional statement meant to encourage them to persevere in their faith in Christ. Paul knew that they were tempted to turn away from Christ and to follow the false teachings that had infiltrated the church. Paul's conditional statement is a reminder that there is no other way of salvation apart from Christ. God uses warning passages like this in the Bible to help us refocus on Christ and grow in our faith in him. Joel Beeke, in his systematic theology book, writes:

Such warnings stir up the members of the church to examine themselves and press on in sound doctrine and holiness. For any among them who are unconverted, such warnings may result in conviction and salvation so that they do not apostatize. For those who are converted, these warnings serve to make them more vigilant and diligent. Vos said, "They are intended and formulated precisely to cause believers to persevere. In this, too, God makes use of means by which He awakens us and causes us to persevere." Thomas Watson said that such admonitions serve believers "as goads and spurs to quicken them to greater diligence in working out their salvation."

1. For review, read Colossians 1:18-20. What do these verses teach about Christ's relationship with his church? What does it mean that Christ is the "firstborn from the dead"? How did Christ secure our peace with God?
2. Reflect on the first point of the sermon. Do you recall what you were like before your conversion? How has your mind changed since then? What does this verse teach you about how to pray for unbelievers?
3. Reflect on the second point of the sermon. What does it mean that you are "reconciled" by Christ's death? How does this comfort you?
4. Reflect on the third point of the sermon. Why can you be sure that you will stand "holy and blameless and above reproach" on the day of judgment? How does this assurance encourage you in your daily, progressive sanctification?
5. Reflect on the last point of the sermon. How should you as a Christian understand conditional passages like this in the Bible? What do they reveal about God's loving guidance for us in our Christian lives?



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