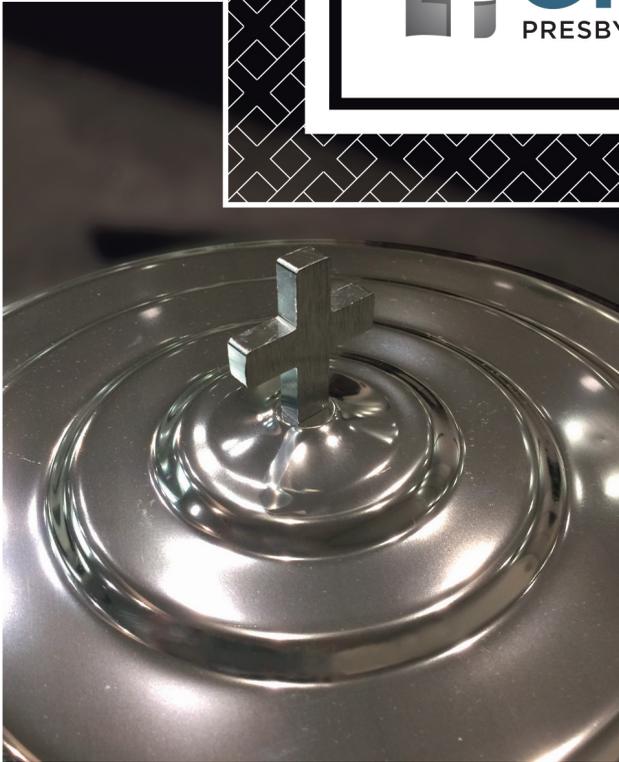


 **GRACE**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



# WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, August 10, 2025

For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation.  
He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken.

**Psalm 62:1-2**

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

## ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

**Greeting and Blessing\***

**Responsive Reading\***

Psalm 4 (p. 786 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

Answer me when I call to you, O my righteous God.

**Give me relief from my distress;  
be merciful to me and hear my prayer.**

How long, O men, will you turn my glory into shame?  
How long will you love delusions and seek false gods?

**Know that the LORD has set apart the godly for himself;  
the LORD will hear when I call to him.**

In your anger do not sin;  
when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent.

**Offer right sacrifices and trust in the LORD.**

Many are asking, "Who can show us any good?"

**Let the light of your face shine upon us, O LORD.**

You have filled my heart with greater joy  
than when their grain and new wine abound.

**I will lie down and sleep in peace,  
for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.**

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

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

***O Father, You Are Sovereign***

O Father, you are sovereign in all the worlds you made;  
Your mighty word was spoken and light and life obeyed.  
Your voice commands the seasons and bounds the ocean's shore,  
Sets stars within their courses and stills the tempest's roar.

O Father, you are sovereign in all affairs of man;  
No pow'rs of death or darkness can thwart your perfect plan.  
All chance and change transcending, supreme in time and space,  
You hold your trusting children secure in your embrace.

O Father, you are sovereign, the Lord of human pain,  
Transmuting earthly sorrows to gold of heav'nly gain.  
All evil over-ruling, as none but Conqu'ror could,  
Your love pursues its purpose—our souls' eternal good.

O Father, you are sovereign! We see you dimly now,  
But soon before your triumph earth's every knee shall bow.  
With this glad hope before us our faith springs up anew:  
Our sovereign Lord and Savior, we trust and worship you! Amen.

**Congregational Confession of Sin**

**Leader:** Father, we come before you to acknowledge our sin, because if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**All:** We confess that we have walked in darkness rather than living according to what you have revealed to us in your Word. We have sinned against you and our neighbors, and we are ashamed and sorry for how we have displeased you.

**Leader:** Forgive us, we pray, and renew our wills. We desire to be conformed more and more to the likeness of Christ; grant us grace and work in us by your Holy Spirit to that end.

**All:** Thank you for the assurance we have of forgiveness through the blood of our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

**Private Confession of Our Sins**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

Micah 7:18-19

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

## ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading\*

Exodus 24:1-11

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

Hymn 529

### *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down:  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
All thy faithful mercies crown:  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
Pure, unbounded love thou art;  
Visit us with thy salvation,  
Enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit  
Into ev'ry troubled breast;  
Let us all in thee inherit,  
Let us find the promised rest:  
Take away the love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its Beginning,  
Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver,  
Let us all thy life receive;  
Suddenly return, and never,  
Nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve thee as thy hosts above,  
Pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
Glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation;  
Pure and spotless let us be:  
Let us see thy great salvation  
Perfectly restored in thee;  
Changed from glory into glory,  
Till in heav'n we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before thee,  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise. Amen.

## Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

**Q. 16.** *Did all mankind fall in Adam's first transgression?*

**A.** The covenant being made with Adam, not only for himself, but for his descendants, all mankind, descending from him by ordinary generation, sinned in him, and fell with him, in his first transgression.

**Q. 17.** *Into what estate did the Fall bring mankind?*

**A.** The Fall brought mankind into an estate of sin and misery.

**Q. 18.** *What is the sinfulness of that estate into which man fell?*

**A.** The sinfulness of that estate into which man fell consists of: the guilt of Adam's first sin, the lack of original righteousness, and the corruption of his whole nature, which is commonly called original sin, together with all actual transgressions that proceed from it.

## 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\*

Hebrews 10:1-25

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [based on Psalm 31])

Hymn 684

### *My Times Are in Thy Hand*

My times are in thy hand;  
My God, I wish them there;  
My life, my friends, my soul, I leave  
Entirely to thy care.

My times are in thy hand,  
Whatever they may be;  
Pleasing or painful, dark or bright,  
As best may seem to thee.

My times are in thy hand;  
Why should I doubt or fear?  
My Father's hand will never cause  
His child a needless tear.

My times are in thy hand,  
Jesus the Crucified;  
Those hands my cruel sins had pierced  
Are now my guard and guide. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“Full Assurance”

Exodus 24:1-11

## **GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE**

Hymn of Thanksgiving\*

Hymn 305

### *Arise, My Soul, Arise*

Arise, my soul, arise, shake off your guilty fears;  
The bleeding Sacrifice in my behalf appears:  
Before the throne my Surety stands, before the throne my Surety stands,  
My name is written on his hands.

He ever lives above, for me to intercede,  
His all-redeeming love, his precious blood to plead;  
His blood atoned for ev’ry race, his blood atoned for ev’ry race,  
And sprinkles now the throne of grace.

Five bleeding wounds he bears, received on Calvary;  
They pour effectual prayers, they strongly plead for me.  
“Forgive him, O forgive,” they cry, “forgive him, O forgive,” they cry,  
“Nor let that ransomed sinner die!”

My God is reconciled; his pard’ning voice I hear;  
He owns me for his child, I can no longer fear;  
With confidence I now draw nigh, with confidence I now draw nigh,  
And “Father, Abba, Father!” cry. 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, August 11**

Scripture: Nehemiah 1:1 - 3:14; 1 Corinthians 7:1-24; Psalm 31:19-24; Proverbs 21:4

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 12

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

## **Tuesday, August 12**

Scripture: Nehemiah 3:15 - 5:13; 1 Corinthians 7:25-40; Psalm 32:1-11; Prov. 21:5-7

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 29

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

## **Wednesday, August 13**

Scripture: Nehemiah 5:14 - 7:73; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Psalm 33:1-11; Prov. 21:8-10

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 30

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

## **Thursday, August 14**

Scripture: Nehemiah 8:1 - 9:21; 1 Corinthians 9:1-18; Psalm 33:12-22; Prov. 21:11-12

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 31

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

## **Friday, August 15**

Scripture: Nehemiah 9:22 - 10:39; 1 Cor. 9:19 - 10:13; Psalm 34:1-10; Prov. 21:13

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 32

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

## **Saturday, August 16**

Scripture: Nehemiah 11:1 - 12:26; 1 Cor. 10:14-33; Psalm 34:11-22; Prov. 21:14-16

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 33

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

## **Sunday, August 17**

Scripture: Nehemiah 12:27 - 13:31; 1 Cor. 11:1-16; Psalm 35:1-16; Prov. 21:17-18

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 34

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

Exodus 24:1-11 describes the glory that Moses and the elders of Israel experienced as the Mosaic Covenant was ratified. They ate and drank with God! It was amazing. However, the Bible describes what we have in the new covenant with Christ as better in every way. Ryan McGraw in his book, *What Is Covenant Theology? Tracing God's Promises through the Son, the Seed, and the Sacraments*, writes:

The Mosaic covenant illustrates how Christ would fulfill the covenant of works, according to the terms of the covenant of redemption. Christ obeyed the covenant of works for his people, keeping God's commandments and living by them (Lev. 18:5; Rom. 5:12–21). He also bore the curse of the broken covenant, becoming a curse for us on the cross (Deut. 21:23; Gal. 3:13). He did this as a better prophet, priest, and king than Moses, who could not ultimately save anyone because he could neither die for their sins nor change their hearts. The sacraments of the Mosaic covenant were defective by design, with an expiration date, teaching people to look for something better and more permanent in Christ. Bloody sacrifices were repeated daily and yearly, priests had to cleanse themselves and eventually they died, and the ark was lost in exile, keeping believers' eyes on the horizon to look for the Seed of the woman who would crush the serpent's head. God administered the covenant of grace under Moses very differently from how he does now, yet this covenant was the covenant of grace and not the covenant of works. Even the built-in defects of the Mosaic covenant are God's blessings to us because they lead us to Christ without letting us be satisfied with Moses.

1. Read Exodus 24:1-11 and consider each step of this covenant-making ceremony. What was the significance of each step, and what was God teaching his people through this ceremony?
2. Exodus 24:3 and 7 record the peoples' response. Why did they respond with such confidence? How is our assurance in the new covenant better in every way because of Christ according to Hebrews 10:7 and 10?
3. Why do you think the inspired author had to encourage the Hebrew Christians to "draw near" to God in Hebrews 4:16 and 10:22? Why might they have been hesitant? Are you ever hesitant? If so, why? What can you do to overcome your reluctance?
4. Read Hebrews 10:22. What does it mean to have "full assurance of faith"? What means has God provided for us to strengthen our assurance? Read and consider Westminster Larger Catechism Q/A 80-81.
5. What did you learn in the sermon today that you want to prayerfully apply this week?



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