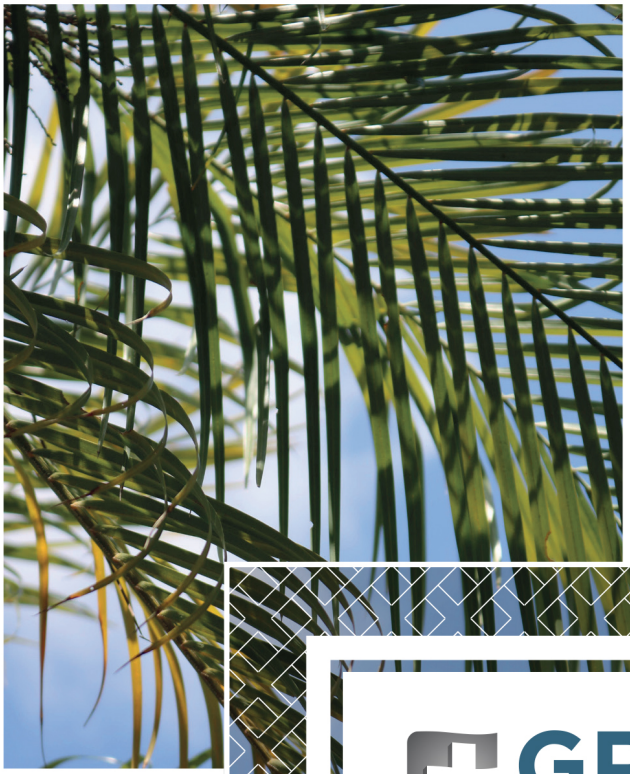
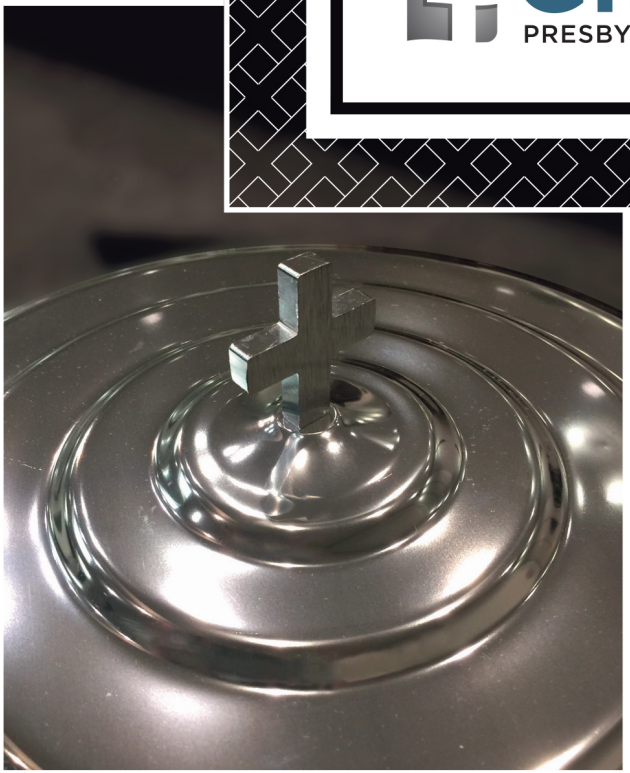


GRACE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, August 24, 2025

O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
Psalm 63:1

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading* Psalm 8 (p. 786 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise,

because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

what is man that you are mindful of him,
the son of man that you care for him?

You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings
and crowned him with glory and honor.

You made him ruler over the works of your hands;
you put everything under his feet:

all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field, the birds of the air,
and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

* *Congregation is requested to stand, if able.*
The pastor will read the plain text; the congregation will read the bold text.

Hymn of Preparation* Hymn 92

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: Gracious God, we delight in your Law, which is holy, righteous, and good. It is firmly fixed in the heavens forever.

All: The Ninth Commandment of your Law is, "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."

Leader: Father, we confess that we have broken this commandment by lying, gossiping, boasting, slandering, and concealing the truth. We have not earnestly sought to protect the good reputations of our neighbors, as well as our own.

All: Forgive us, we pray, and enable us to always reject what is false and to rejoice in the truth. 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 Colossians 2:13-14

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading* Exodus 25:10-22

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. 22. *How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?*

A. Christ, the Son of God, became man by taking to himself a true body and a reasonable soul, being conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, in the womb of the virgin Mary, and born of her, yet without sin.

Q. 23. *What offices does Christ execute as our Redeemer?*

A. Christ, as our Redeemer, executes the offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king, both in his estate of humiliation and exaltation.

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* Exodus 37:1-9

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.

Professions of Faith

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon Pastor Ben Muresan

"The Ark of the Covenant"
Exodus 25:10-22; 37:1-9

GOD'S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving* Hymn 455

And Can It Be That I Should Gain

And can it be that I should gain an int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain? For me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

'Tis myst'ry all! Th'Immortal dies: who can explore his strange design?
In vain the firstborn seraph tries to sound the depths of love divine.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore, let angel minds inquire no more.
Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

He left his Father's throne above (so free, so infinite his grace!),
Humbled himself (so great his love!) and bled for all his chosen race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free; for, O my God, it found out me.
Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

Long my imprisoned spirit lay fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray; I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free; I rose, went forth, and followed thee.
Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach th'eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.
Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me? 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.

SERMON NOTES

"The Ark of the Covenant"
Exodus 25:10-22; 37:1-9

1. Its design:
   It was the footstool of God's throne. (1 Chronicles 28:2; Psalm 99:5)

2. Its use:
   It was God's dwelling place among his people. (Exodus 25:22)

   It revealed God's mercy for his people. (Leviticus 16:2, 12-15)

3. How it pointed to Christ:
   Christ dwelt among us (John 1:14);
   he indwells us (Ephesians 2:22);
   we will dwell with him forever (Revelation 21:3).

   Christ secured our salvation once-for-all. (Hebrews 9:11-14; Romans 3:25)

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

Monday, August 25
Scripture: Job 16:1 - 19:29; 1 Corinthians 16:1-24; Psalm 40:1-10; Proverbs 22:1
Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 14
Pray for: Our federal, state, and local government leaders.

Tuesday, August 26
Scripture: Job 20:1 - 22:30; 2 Corinthians 1:1-11; Psalm 40:11-17; Proverbs 22:2-4
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 41
Pray for: Our military, police, fire, and medical personnel.

Wednesday, August 27
Scripture: Job 23:1 - 27:23; 2 Corinthians 1:12 - 2:11; Psalm 41:1-13; Proverbs 22:5-6
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 42
Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.
The churches in Anguilla and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, August 28
Scripture: Job 28:1 - 30:31; 2 Corinthians 2:12-17; Psalm 42:1-11; Proverbs 22:7
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 43
Pray for: Our Elders, Deacons, Women's Ministry, & the PCA.

Friday, August 29
Scripture: Job 31:1 - 33:33; 2 Corinthians 3:1-18; Psalm 43:1-5; Proverbs 22:8-9
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 44
Pray for: Our members who have ongoing health care needs.
The Shepherd's Church Plant in Riverside and the Manrique Family.

Saturday, August 30
Scripture: Job 34:1 - 36:33; 2 Corinthians 4:1-12; Psalm 44:1-8; Proverbs 22:10-12
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 45
Pray for: The preaching and for our Sunday School teachers.

Sunday, August 31
Scripture: Job 37:1 - 39:30; 2 Corinthians 4:13 - 5:10; Psalm 44:9-26; Proverbs 22:13
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 46
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

As God began explaining to Moses about how Israel needed to build the Tabernacle, God began with the details of the Ark of the Covenant. The fact that the Ark was the first item described revealed its importance. God explained to Moses that the Ark was the place that would reveal his presence and his mercy: "There I will meet with you, and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim that are on the ark of the testimony, I will speak with you about all that I will give you in commandment for the people of Israel" (Exodus 25:22). The Lord used the Ark to point his people to Christ, who came and dwelt among us and who revealed loving mercy by his sacrifice. J.V. Fesko in his book, *Christ and the Desert Tabernacle*, explains the assurance we have by faith in Christ in the New Covenant:

> In the light of Christ's sacrifice, we can enter into the presence of God without fear. We no longer have to depend upon the yearly sacrifice on the Day of Atonement. We are no longer restricted by the limitations of the high priest entering the holy of holies and sprinkling blood upon the mercy seat. Instead, we have Christ, our great high priest, who has entered the heavenly holy of holies and has shed his own precious blood so that we may enter the presence of God. The author of Hebrews therefore writes: 'Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need' (Heb. 4:16, NKJV). Through Christ and his sacrifice, we can obtain the grace of forgiveness and God's mercy. Christ is the propitiation for our sins: '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' (1 John 4:10).

1. Why is it significant that the Ark was identified as God's footstool on earth? (1 Chronicles 28:2; Psalm 99:5)
2. Are you encouraged by the biblical theme of God's dwelling with his people? What does it reveal about God's love for his people? How should it affect your attitude in worship each Lord's Day?
3. What is the comparison the author of Hebrews is making in Hebrews 9:11-14? Why was Christ's blood superior to the blood of the Old Covenant sacrifices?
4. Read Westminster Confession of Faith 8:1-8, which describes Christ's mediation. How ought Christ's past and ongoing mediation comfort and embolden you daily?

GRACE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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