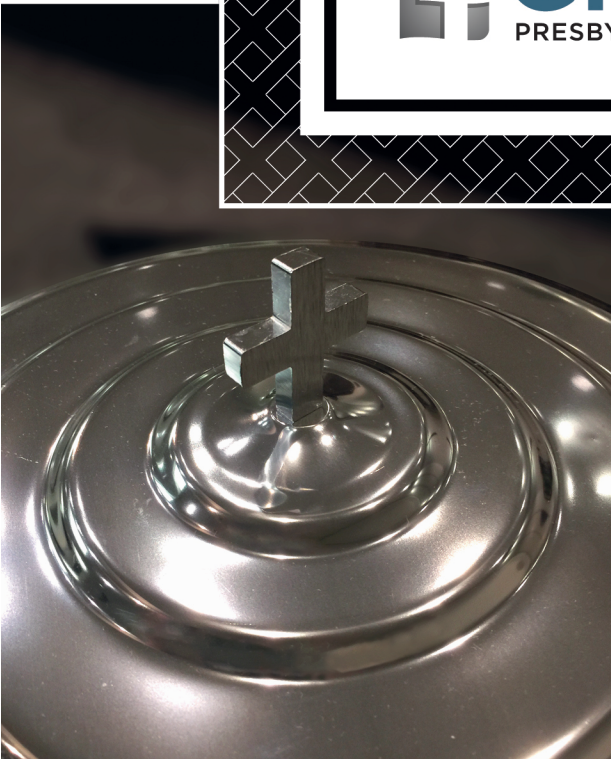




 **GRACE**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



# WORSHIP SERVICE

August 4, 2024

For kingship belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.

**Psalm 22:28**

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

## ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing\*

Responsive Reading\*

Psalm 103 (p. 821 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

**Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits—**

who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,

**who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion,**

who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

**The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.**

He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel:

**The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.**

He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever;

**he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.**

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him;

**as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.**

As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;

**for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.**

As for man, his days are like grass, he flourishes like a flower of the field;

**the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more.**

But from everlasting to everlasting the LORD'S love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children—

**with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts.**

The LORD has established his throne in heaven,

**and his kingdom rules over all.**

Praise the LORD, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word.

**Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will.**

Praise the LORD, all his works everywhere in his dominion.

**Praise the LORD, O my soul.**

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

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

***Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise***

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unchanging and silent as light,  
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
All praise we would render; O help us to see  
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth thee! Amen.

**Congregational Confession of Sin**

**Leader:** Have mercy on us, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion, blot out our transgressions. Wash away our iniquity and cleanse us from our sins.

**All:** For we know our transgressions, and our sins are always before us. Against you, you only, have we sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.

**Leader:** Surely we were sinful at birth, sinful from the time we were conceived. Cleanse us, and we will be clean; wash us, and we will be whiter than snow. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and grant us steadfast obedience.

**All:** We praise 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**

John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

## ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading\*

Exodus 3:18 - 4:17

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

Hymn 348

### *Jesus, with Thy Church Abide*

Jesus, with thy church abide, be her Savior, Lord and Guide,  
While on earth her faith is tried: we beseech thee, hear us.

Keep her life and doctrine pure; grant her patience to endure,  
Trusting in thy promise sure: we beseech thee, hear us.

May she one in doctrine be, one in truth and charity,  
Winning all to faith in thee: we beseech thee, hear us.

May she guide the poor and blind, seek the lost until she find,  
And the brokenhearted bind: we beseech thee, hear us.

Save her love from growing cold, make her watchmen strong and bold,  
Fence her round, thy peaceful fold: we beseech thee, hear us.

May her lamp of truth be bright, bid her bear aloft its light  
Through the realms of heathen night: we beseech thee, hear us.

Arm her soldiers with the cross, brave to suffer toil or loss,  
Counting earthly gain but dross: we beseech thee, hear us.

May she holy triumphs win, overthrow the hosts of sin,  
Gather all the nations in: we beseech thee, hear us. Amen.

## Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

**Q. 1.** *What is the chief end of man?*

**A.** Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

**Q. 2.** *What rule has God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?*

**A.** The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.

**Q. 3.** *What do the Scriptures principally teach?*

**A.** The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship ❖

### Doxology\*

Hymn 731

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. 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\*

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [Psalm 103])

Hymn 6

### *O Come, My Soul, Bless Thou the Lord*

O come, my soul, bless thou the Lord thy Maker, and all within me bless his holy name;  
Bless thou the Lord, forget not all his mercies, his pard'ning grace and saving love proclaim.

*Bless him forever, wondrous in might, bless him, his servants that in his will delight.*

Good is the Lord and full of kind compassion, most slow to anger, plenteous in love;  
Rich is his grace to all that humbly seek him, boundless and endless as the heav'ns above.

*Bless him forever, wondrous in might, bless him, his servants that in his will delight.*

His love is like a father's to his children, tender and kind to all who fear his name;  
For well he knows our weakness and our frailty, he knows that we are dust, he knows our frame.

*Bless him forever, wondrous in might, bless him, his servants that in his will delight.*

We fade and die like flow'rs that grow in beauty, like tender grass that soon will disappear;  
But evermore the love of God is changeless, still shown to those who look to him in fear.

*Bless him forever, wondrous in might, bless him, his servants that in his will delight.*

High in the heav'ns his throne is fixed forever, his kingdom rules o'er all from pole to pole;  
Bless ye the Lord through all his wide dominion, bless his most holy name, O thou my soul.

*Bless him forever, wondrous in might, bless him, his servants that in his will delight. Amen.*

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“God Is All-Powerful”  
Exodus 3:18 - 4:17

## **GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE**

Hymn of Thanksgiving\*

### *The Power of the Cross*

Oh, to see the dawn of the darkest day;  
Christ on the road to Calvary.  
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten, then  
Nailed to a cross of wood.

*This the pow’r of the cross: Christ became sin for us.  
Took the blame, bore the wrath; we stand forgiven at the cross.*

Oh, to see the pain written on your face,  
Bearing the awesome weight of sin.  
Ev’ry bitter thought, ev’ry evil deed  
Crowning your bloodstained brow.

*This the pow’r of the cross: Christ became sin for us.  
Took the blame, bore the wrath; we stand forgiven at the cross.*

Now the daylight flees; now the ground beneath  
Quakes as its Maker bows his head.  
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life—  
“Finished!” the victory cry.

*This the pow’r of the cross: Christ became sin for us.  
Took the blame, bore the wrath; we stand forgiven at the cross.*

Oh, to see my name written in the wounds,  
For through your suff’ring I am free.  
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live,  
Won through your selfless love!

*This the pow’r of the cross: Son of God—slain for us.  
What a love, what a cost! We stand forgiven at the cross. Amen.*

**Benediction\***

**Congregational Benediction Response\***

(Sung to STUTTGART [Hymn 5])

Honor, glory, might, and merit,  
Be to God and God alone!  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
One in Three and Three in One. Amen.







# HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

## **Monday, August 5**

Scripture: Ezra 1:1 - 2:70; 1 Corinthians 1:18 - 2:5; Psalm 27:7-14; Proverbs 20:22-23

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 25

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

## **Tuesday, August 6**

Scripture: Ezra 3:1 - 4:23; 1 Corinthians 2:6 - 3:4; Psalm 28:1-9; Proverbs 20:24-25

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 32

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

## **Wednesday, August 7**

Scripture: Ezra 4:24 - 6:22; 1 Corinthians 3:5-23; Psalm 29:1-11; Proverbs 20:26-27

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 33

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.

The churches in Sint Maarten and persecuted Christians.

## **Thursday, August 8**

Scripture: Ezra 7:1 - 8:20; 1 Corinthians 4:1-21; Psalm 30:1-12; Proverbs 20:28-30

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 34

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

## **Friday, August 9**

Scripture: Ezra 8:21 - 9:15; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; Psalm 31:1-8; Proverbs 21:1-2

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 35

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

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

## **Saturday, August 10**

Scripture: Ezra 10:1-44; 1 Corinthians 6:1-20; Psalm 31:9-18; Proverbs 21:3

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 36

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

## **Sunday, August 11**

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

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 37

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

After Moses killed the Egyptian who was beating the Hebrew, Pharaoh found out about it and sought to kill Moses. In response, Moses fled to Midian for safety. Now, forty years later, God called Moses to return to Egypt in order to lead his people out of slavery and into the Promised Land. This would require Moses to return to danger, to the area where he was likely still a wanted man. Would Moses be killed by Pharaoh? To assure him of his safety, God revealed his power to Moses. God is stronger than the false gods of Egypt, and he is stronger than Pharaoh himself. God uses his strength to protect his people and ultimately to bring us to eternal salvation in Jesus Christ. We truly have nothing to fear. Anthony T. Selvaggio, in his book *From Bondage to Liberty*, writes:

As I write this book, our nation is in the midst of another presidential election. Elections are replete with promises. Candidates offer endless platitudes and promises to solve our nation's problems. Most people count these promises as what they all too frequently are—empty promises. Very few politicians actually deliver on their promises. Part of the reason why they can't is that they simply lack the power to bring their agendas to fruition by themselves. When it comes to God, however, there are no empty promises. When God makes a promise he backs it up with his power to fulfill it. He is the God who can create all things out of nothing, flood the earth, part the Red Sea, and topple the walls of Jericho. Through the incarnate Son of God, God once again displays his almighty power as Jesus heals the sick and raises the dead. Even greater than all these amazing demonstrations of his power is the reality that through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God displays his power to conquer sin and death.

1. For review, read Exodus 3:1 - 4:17. What objections did Moses raise to following God's call? Do you think Moses had legitimate reasons for his objections? What did God reveal about himself after each of Moses' objections as a way to encourage Moses in his call?
2. In Exodus 3:18-22, what does God reveal about his power over humanity? How does the Apostle Paul explain God's purpose in Romans 9:14-18?
3. In Exodus 4:1-9, what does each miracle reveal about God's sovereign power over creation? How is this also a revelation of his power over the false gods of Egypt?
4. In Exodus 4:10-17, what does God's use of Moses to accomplish this great and dangerous task reveal about God's power? How does this connect with what the Apostle Paul writes about the cross in 1 Corinthians 1:18-31?
5. How are you encouraged by knowing that our all-powerful God uses seemingly weak means to accomplish his purpose? How might this embolden you in your evangelism and witness to the gospel?



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