

02.05.12

REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Ordinary Time*



## *Explanation of Vestments*

### **1 PETER 1**

<sup>18</sup> For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

<sup>7</sup> These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

<sup>2</sup> who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood:

*“While reading through 1 Peter 1, I was struck by references to gold, blood, and faith. I also was struck by images of a life empty without faith, and images of Christ’s suffering as our sacrificial lamb who pays for our salvation. I chose to work out my response through use of contrast: I wanted to use the shiny sparkly trappings of valentines to illustrate the dark death that brought about our redemption.*

*Banners -- We are sprinkled with his blood, which brings about a new life. But that coverage even flows into our present suffering in this life. The sprinkling blood drops here are actually price tags covered with a magical glitter red and are attached with nails, referencing Christ nailed to the cross. The drops travel through an iridescent transcendent blue but then drape over into the present dark sufferings of our earthly lives.*

*Frames -- I hate frames. A peeve of mine is when people spend more money on frames than on the art shown within them, perceiving that a big old frame signifies fancy art. This practice feels to me like an emperor-without-clothes effect . . . trying to inflate the inner worth with gilt outer trappings. Each Christmas season, we try to see Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol” at the IRT. The set is sparse, highlighting a few pieces, including one huge gold frame that, to me, symbolizes the emptiness of Scrooge’s value system. Very recently, I was given the frames used here, and I began to see them in this context . . . as a stand-in for grandiose emptiness or worldly fluff. The empty gold frames represent the emptiness of putting too much stake in present-day wealth for security, and also represent our lives altogether empty without Christ.”*

*-Kyle Ragsdale*

*Cover Photograph by Kyle Ragsdale*

# *Welcome*

## *Call to Worship* **BASED ON ISAIAH 55:1-3, 6-7**

Leader

Come, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and he who has no money,  
come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.  
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?  
Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.  
Incline your ear, and come to me;  
hear, that your soul may live;  
and I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.

People

**Seek the LORD while he may be found;  
call upon him while he is near;  
let the wicked forsake his way,  
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;  
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.**

*Opening Hymn*  
**"HOLY, HOLY, HOLY"**

All

Holy, holy, holy!  
Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning,  
Our song shall rise to thee.  
Holy, holy, holy!  
Merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons,  
Blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy!  
All the saints adore thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns  
Around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim  
Falling down before thee,  
Who wert and art and  
Evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy!  
Though the darkness hide thee,  
Though the eye of sinful man  
Thy glory may not see,  
Only thou art holy;  
There is none beside thee,  
Perfect in pow'r,  
In love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy!  
Lord God Almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy name  
In earth and sky and sea.  
Holy, holy, holy!  
Merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons,  
Blessed Trinity!

*words Reginald Heber, 1826; music John B. Dykes, 1860; Public Domain*

## *Prayer of Adoration*

## *Prayer of Confession*

Leader

Our Father in Heaven, as our Creator you grant our every breath.  
As our Redeemer you have rescued us from the dominion of death  
and have given us your Holy Spirit to guide our every step.

People

**But we are full of pride and rebellious independence.  
We want to go our own way and to do our own thing  
rather than to submit to your Spirit's guidance.  
We would rather be in control of our own lives and futures,  
rather than to rest in your arms and to trust in your loving provision.**

All

**Father in Heaven, strengthen and refine our faith in the fire of suffering,  
that we might learn to rest in your arms and trust in your provision  
and that we might bring praise, glory, and honor to your name.**

## *Assurance of Pardon in the Gospel*

**BASED ON I PETER 3:24**

Leader

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins  
and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

*Song of Thanksgiving*  
"ABIDE IN ME"

All

Abide in me, O Lord, and I in thee,  
From this good hour, O leave me nevermore;  
Then shall the discord cease, the wound be healed,  
The lifelong bleeding of the soul be o'er.  
Abide in me, o'ershadow by thy love  
Each half-formed purpose and dark thought of sin;  
Quench, ere it rise, each selfish, low desire,  
And keep my soul, as thine, calm and divine.

We raise our voices to the Father. He hears our prayers through his Son.  
We are enabled by his Spirit.  
Let your name be hallow'd, let your kingdom come.

As some rare perfume in a vase of clay,  
Pervades it with a fragrance not its own,  
So, when thou dwellest in a mortal soul,  
All heav'n's own sweetness seems around it thrown.  
Abide in me; there have been moments blest  
When I have heard thy voice and felt thy pow'r;  
Then evil lost its grasp, and passion, hushed,  
Owned the divine enchantment of the hour.

We raise our voices to the Father. He hears our prayers through his Son.  
We are enabled by his Spirit.  
Let your name be hallow'd, let your kingdom come.

These were but seasons beautiful and rare;  
Abide in me, and they shall ever be;  
Fulfill at once thy precept and my prayer:  
Come and abide in me and I in thee.

We raise our voices to the Father. He hears our prayers through his Son.  
We are enabled by his Spirit.  
Let your name be hallow'd, let your kingdom... .

We raise our voices to the Father. He hears our prayers through his Son.  
We are enabled by his Spirit.  
Let your name be hallow'd, let your kingdom come.

words Harriet Beecher Stowe, 1855; chorus and music Nathan Partain, 2002

*Song of Thanksgiving*  
"HOLD THOU MY HAND"

All

Hold thou my hand;  
So weak I am, and helpless,  
I dare not take one step without thy aid;  
Hold thou my hand;  
For then, O loving Savior,  
No dread of ill shall make my soul afraid.

Hold thou my hand,  
And closer, draw me closer,  
To thy dear self my hope, my joy, my all;  
Hold thou my hand,  
Lest haply I should wander,  
And, missing thee, my trembling feet should fall.

Hold thou my hand;  
The way is dark before me,  
Without the sunlight of thy face divine;  
But when by faith,  
I catch its radiant glory,  
What heights of joy, what rapturous songs are mine!

Hold thou my hand,  
That when I reach the margin,  
Of that lone river thou didst cross for me,  
A heavenly light  
May flash along its waters,  
And every wave like crystal bright shall be.

Hold thou my hand; so weak I am, and helpless,  
I dare not take one step without thy aid;  
I dare not take one step without thy aid.

words Fanny Crosby, 1879; music Nathan Partain, 2003

## *New Members*

### **2ND SERVICE**

Adrienne Henning

Angie Kohlmeier and son Justin Kohlmeier

Tyler and Natalie Sadek

### **VOWS**

**Leader**

1. Do you acknowledge yourself to be a sinner in the sight of God, justly deserving his displeasure and without hope save in his sovereign mercy?
2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon him alone for salvation as he is offered in the gospel?
3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?
4. Do you promise to support the church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
5. Do you submit yourself to the government and discipline of the church and promise to study its purity and peace?

# *Offering of Gifts and Service*

## **CHILDREN'S WORSHIP**

*We offer Children's Worship for ages 4 through 1st grade. Children are also welcome to remain with their parents throughout the service. Children's Worship is a time for children to learn to worship. Parents are welcome to sit in. Due to the number of children and the specific program, please keep children older than 1st grade with you in the service.*

*Scripture*  
**1 PETER 1:3-7**

**Reader**

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup> so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

*Congregational Response*

**Reader**

This is the Word of the Lord.

**People**

**Thanks be to God.**

## *Sermon*

**JASON DORSEY**

**“THE CENTRALITY OF FAITH”**

### *Community Groups Questions*

1. Faith is central to the Christian identity - to being a Christian. Why do you think that faith is central?
2. From the passage of Scripture what do we learn about (1) the nature of faith, (2) the worth of faith, and (3) the results of faith?
3. Share a recent experience where your faith prevailed through trials. Praise God for his mighty faith-guarding and faith-protecting power! Also, in light of these testimonies, encourage and honor each other for the faith revealed in the life of each saint is the wonder of the ages and the marvel of the angels.



## *Call to Communion and Prayer*

### **GUIDELINES FOR THE RECEPTION OF COMMUNION**

Redeemer welcomes all Christians who are willing to forsake their sin and trust in Jesus Christ for salvation and who are members of congregations which proclaim the gospel to receive Communion with us. We will be coming forward for the distribution of Communion. Please eat the bread privately, and then drink the cup together with us after everyone has returned to their seats. Clear cups (located on the perimeter of the tray) contain grape juice. Red cups (interior of tray) contain wine. Children who have been examined by the elders and admitted to the Lord's Table are able to partake of Communion.

### **MINISTRY OF PRAYER**

The ministry of prayer is one of the ways we live together as a community of believers and seekers. During Communion, members of our prayer team are available at the front and back of the sanctuary. It would be our privilege to pray with you as we walk together through the joys and struggles of life.

## *Confession of Faith*

### **WESTMINSTER LARGER CATECHISM: QUESTION 171**

**Leader**

How are they who receive the sacrament of the Lord's Supper to prepare themselves before they come unto it?

**People**

**They who receive the sacrament of the Lord's Supper are, before they come, to prepare themselves for it, by examining themselves, of their being in Christ, of their sins and wants; of the truth and measure of their knowledge, faith, repentance; love to God and the brothers, charity to all men, forgiving those who have done them wrong; of their desires after Christ, and of their new obedience; and by renewing the exercise of these graces, by serious meditation, and fervent prayer.**

*Song of Celebration*  
**“O LOVE THAT WILT NOT LET ME GO”**

Leader

O Love that will not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give you back the life I owe,  
That in your ocean depths its flow  
May richer, fuller be.

O Light that follows all my way,  
I yield my flick’ring torch to thee;  
My heart restores its borrowed ray,  
That in your sunshine’s blaze its day  
May brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seeks me through the pain,  
I cannot close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain  
And find the promise is not vain.  
That morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that now lifts up my head,  
I dare not ask to fly from thee;  
I lay in dust, life’s glory dead,  
And from the ground there blossoms red  
Life that shall endless be,

Should brighter, fairer be,  
It will richer, fuller be.  
O Cross lift up my head,  
That life that shall endless be. . .

*words George Matheson, 1882; music Rick Jensen, 2001*

*Song of Celebration*  
**"JESUS PAID IT ALL"**

Leader

I hear the Savior say,  
"Thy strength indeed is small;  
Child of weakness, watch and pray,  
Find in Me thine all in all."

Jesus paid it all,  
All to Him I owe;  
Sin had left a crimson stain,  
He washed it white as snow.

For nothing good have I  
Whereby Thy grace to claim;  
I'll wash my garments white  
In the blood of Calv'ry's Lamb.

And now complete in Him,  
My robe, His righteousness,  
Close sheltered neath His side,  
I am divinely blest.

Lord, now indeed I find  
Thy pow'r, and Thine alone,  
Can change the leper's spots  
And melt the heart of stone.

When from my dying bed  
My ransomed soul shall rise,  
"Jesus died my soul to save,"  
Shall rend the vaulted skies.

And when before the throne  
I stand in Him complete,  
I'll lay my trophies down,  
All down at Jesus' feet.

*Words by Elvira M. Hall, Music by John T. Grape*

*Benediction*  
**BASED ON ISAIAH 55**

**Leader**

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven  
and do not return there but water the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

**People**

**For you shall go out in joy  
and be led forth in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you  
shall break forth into singing,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.  
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;  
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;  
and it shall make a name for the LORD,  
an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.**

*All of our children are invited to come forward to rejoice  
during the closing hymn and receive the benediction.*

*Departing Hymn*  
"O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES"

All

O for a thousand tongues to sing  
My great Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and King,  
The triumphs of his grace!  
Jesus! the name that charms our fears,  
That bids our sorrows cease,  
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'Tis life, and health, and peace.

He breaks the power of reigning sin,  
He sets the prisoner free;  
His blood can make the foulest clean,  
His blood availed for me.  
He speaks, and, listening to his voice,  
New life the dead receive,  
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice,  
The humble poor believe.

Look unto him, you nations, own.  
Your God, you fallen race;  
Look, and be saved through faith alone,  
Be justified by grace.  
Glory to God, and praise and love,  
Be ever, ever given,  
By saints below and saints above,  
The church in earth and heaven.

My gracious Master and my God,  
Assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth abroad  
The honors of thy name.  
O for a thousand tongues to sing,  
My great Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and King,  
The triumphs of his grace!

words Charles Wesley, 1739; music Carl G. Glaser, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839; Public Domain

*Benediction*



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