

02.12.12

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 PSALM 100**

**Leader**

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!  
Serve the LORD with gladness!  
Come into his presence with singing!  
Know that the LORD, he is God!

**People**

**It is he who made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

**Leader**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,  
and his courts with praise!  
Give thanks to him; bless his name!  
For the LORD is good.

**People**

**His steadfast love endures forever,  
and his faithfulness to all generations.**

*Opening Hymn*  
"THE LORD IS KING"

All

The Lord is King! Lift up your voice,  
O earth and all ye heav'ns, rejoice!  
From world to world, the joy shall ring,  
"The Lord omnipotent is King!"

Sing his praise, sing his praise,  
Lord of lords, Ancient of Days;  
Sing his praise, sing his praise,  
All your days, all your days.

The Lord is King! Who then shall dare  
Resist his will, distrust his care,  
Or murmur at his wise decrees,  
Or doubt his royal promises?

Sing his praise, sing his praise,  
Lord of lords, Ancient of Days;  
Sing his praise, sing his praise,  
All your days, all your days.

The Lord is King! Bow down you must;  
The Judge of all the earth is just;  
Holy and true are all his ways;  
Let every creature sing his praise.

Sing his praise, sing his praise,  
Lord of lords, Ancient of Days;  
Sing his praise, sing his praise,  
All your days, all your days.

Sing his praise, sing his praise,  
Lord of lords, Ancient of Days;  
Sing his praise, sing his praise,  
All your days, all your days.

*words: Josiah Conder, 1824; music: Nathan Partain, 2003*

## *Prayer of Adoration*

## *Prayer of Confession*

**Leader**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, our Mighty Savior, we love you.  
For out of your great love for us you died on our behalf,  
the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring us to God.  
You continue to pour out your grace and love upon us,  
even as we discover new depths of our sin.  
And you are coming again to restore all things,  
and to accomplish the final salvation of our souls.

**People**

**Jesus, though you are our past, present, and future Savior,  
our love for you has faded. It has become lukewarm,  
and has been compromised in so many ways.  
In our pride we lie to ourselves and others about the true ugliness of our sin,  
and so our hearts are not melted by your continued love and grace.  
In our self-reliance we vow to amend our ways and to heal ourselves,  
though we know your Word which says without you we can do nothing.**

**All**

**Lord Jesus Christ we love you and are truly sorry for our ugly sin.  
Our stupid pride. Our haughty self-reliance. And our lukewarm hearts.  
Help us see the depth of our sin, and the even greater depths of your love and  
grace, that we might again be filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy.**

## *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*  
**"REJOICE THE LORD IS KING"**

All

Rejoice, the Lord is King!  
Your Lord and King adore;  
Rejoice, give thanks and sing,  
And triumph evermore;  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
Rejoice, I say, rejoice!

Jesus, the Savior, reigns,  
The God of truth and love;  
When he had purged our stains  
He took his seat above;  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
Rejoice, I say, rejoice!

His kingdom cannot fail,  
He rules o'er earth and heaven,  
The keys of death and hell  
Are to our Jesus given;  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
Rejoice, I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope!  
Jesus, the Judge, shall come,  
And take his servants up  
To their eternal home.  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
Rejoice, I say, rejoice!

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
Rejoice, I say, rejoice!  
Rejoice, I say, rejoice!

words Charles Wesley, 1744; music Nathan Partain, 2003

*Song of Thanksgiving*  
**"ONLY IN GOD IS MY SOUL AT REST"**

All

Only in God is my soul at rest, in him comes my salvation;  
He only is my rock, my strength, and my salvation.

My stronghold, my Savior, I shall not be afraid at all;  
My stronghold, my Savior, I shall not be moved.

Only in God is found safety, when my enemy pursues me.  
Only in God is found glory, when I am found weak and found lowly.

My stronghold, my Savior, I shall not be afraid at all;  
My stronghold, my Savior, I shall not be moved.

My stronghold, my Savior, I shall not be afraid at all;  
My stronghold, my Savior, I shall not be moved.

Only in God is my soul at rest, in him comes my salvation.

*John Michael Talbot; Birdwing Music, 1980*

*Offering of Gifts and Service*

*Spotlight*  
**JEFF EARNEST**

**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*

**I PETER 1:8-9**

Reader

<sup>8</sup> Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,  
<sup>9</sup> obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

## *Congregational Response*

Reader

This is the Word of the Lord.

People

**Thanks be to God.**

## *Sermon*

**JASON DORSEY**

**“THE LOVE OF CHRIST”**

## *Community Groups Questions*

1. Have you experienced (are you experiencing?) love for Jesus? Are you now? Why? Why not?
2. What does this passage teach us about (1) the object of Christian love and (2) the experience of the love of Christ? (Specifically, what is the continual spiritual dynamic that results in ongoing love for Christ and what does the language - “inexpressible and glorious joy” - communicate about the “degree” of love for Christ that this dynamic creates?)
3. In light of question #2, do you see where there might be a breakdown in your own life in terms of your experiencing the dynamic that creates ongoing love for Jesus Christ resulting in “inexpressible and glorious joy”? Pray for each other in those areas.

## *Pastoral Prayer*

### *Call to Communion and Prayer*

Robin Owens, son of Quincy & Nikki Owens

#### **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*  
**"JUSTICE WILL ROLL DOWN"**

Leader

Oh my love, you have grown so cold,  
To the world outside, to the house next door  
She who has been loved much, has so much to give,  
Mercy is the fragrance, of the broken

Justice will roll down, oh justice will roll down  
From high upon those mountains with a mighty river sound  
It will roll down, It will roll down

Oh my child, I will be your light,  
In your secret pain, in the dark of night.  
No enemy, no conqueror, will steal your life from me,  
I am your salvation, and your victory.

Justice will roll down, oh justice will roll down  
From high upon those mountains with a mighty river sound  
It will roll down, It will roll down

Soon oh soon, when the trumpet sounds,  
Every knee shall bend, every heart will pound.  
I have made a new world, where the servant is the King,  
Oppression will be over, and the slave set free.

Justice will roll down, oh justice will roll down  
From high upon those mountains with a mighty river sound  
It will roll down, It will roll down

Justice will roll down, oh justice will roll down  
From high upon those mountains with a mighty river sound  
It will roll down, It will roll down

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*Song of Celebration*  
**"NOTHING ON MY OWN"**

Leader

Speak, Lord, what you want to say,  
Use me if you will.  
Put your words inside me,  
Cause I've got nothing to say on my own.

I've got nothing to say on my own,  
I've got nothing to say on my own.  
Put your words inside me,  
Cause I've got nothing to say on my own.

Equip, Lord, for the service  
You've prepared for me to do.  
Put your strength inside me,  
Cause I've got nothing to give on my own.

I've got nothing to give on my own,  
I've got nothing to give on my own.  
Put your strength inside me,  
Cause I've got nothing to give on my own.

Walk, Lord, this long road with me,  
Guard each step I take.  
Keep me close beside you,  
Cause I've got nowhere to go on my own.

I've got nowhere to go on my own,  
I've got nowhere to go on my own.  
Keep me close beside you,  
Cause I've got nowhere to go on my own.

*Rebekah Osborn, 2011*

## *Benediction*

**Leader**

Let us remember who we are and what Christ calls us to.

**People**

**Redeemer is a spiritual community that exists to ignite a movement of the gospel that changes Indianapolis - spiritually, socially, culturally - by connecting people to Jesus: who declares us righteous in his sight, welcomes us into his family, forms us into his image, and sends us as his servants to bring his kingdom into every sphere of our lives.**

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

*Departing Hymn*  
"MORE LOVE O CHRIST TO THEE"

All

More love, O Christ, to thee, more love to thee;  
Hear thou the prayer I make, on bended knee.  
This is my earnest plea, more love, O Christ, more love, O Christ,  
This is my earnest plea, more love, O Christ, more love, O Christ, to thee,  
More love, O Christ, to thee.

Once earthly joy I craved, sought peace and rest;  
Now thee alone I seek; give what is best.  
This all my prayer shall be, more love, O Christ, more love, O Christ,  
This all my prayer shall be, more love, O Christ, more love, O Christ, to thee,  
More love, O Christ, to thee.

Let sorrow do its work, send grief and pain:  
Sweet are thy messengers, sweet their refrain.  
When they can sing with me, more love, O Christ, more love, O Christ,  
When they can sing with me, more love, O Christ, more love, O Christ, to thee,  
More love, O Christ, to thee.

Then shall my final breath, whisper thy praise;  
This be the parting cry, my heart shall raise.  
This still my prayer shall be, more love, O Christ, more love, O Christ,  
This still my prayer shall be, more love, O Christ, more love, O Christ, to thee,  
More love, O Christ, to thee,  
More love, O Christ, to thee,  
More love, O Christ, to thee.

words Elizabeth Payson Prentiss, 1856; music Nathan Partain, 2001