

02.19.12

REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Ordinary Time



Explanation of Vestments

1 PETER 1

¹⁸ 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, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

⁷ 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.

² 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 57:8-10**

- Leader** My heart is fixed on you, O God.
My heart is fixed on you.
- All** **I will sing and make melody!**
Awake, my whole being!
I will awaken the dawn!
- Leader** I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples.
- People** **I will sing praises to you among the nations.**
- Leader** For the zeal of your love overflows to the heavens,
and Your faithfulness is vast like the sky.
- All** **Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!**
Let your glory be over all the earth!

Opening Hymn
"BREAK FORTH, O JOYFUL HEART"

All

'Twas Jesus sought my wand'ring soul, and with a shepherd's care,
He brought me kindly to his fold, and still protects me there.

Break forth, break forth, O joyful heart, O joyful heart,
Break forth and no more silent be;
Break forth, break forth in grateful praise, in grateful praise,
To him who came to ransom thee.

He is my Advocate with God, my Savior and my Friend,
His mercies new with every morn, like healing showers descend.

Break forth, break forth, O joyful heart, O joyful heart,
Break forth and no more silent be;
Break forth, break forth in grateful praise, in grateful praise,
To him who came to ransom thee.

My soul shall magnify the Lord, my voice his love proclaim,
And every power within me join to bless and praise his name.

Break forth, break forth, O joyful heart, O joyful heart,
Break forth and no more silent be;
Break forth, break forth in grateful praise, in grateful praise,
To him who came to ransom thee.

Break forth, break forth, O joyful heart, O joyful heart,
Break forth and no more silent be;
Break forth, break forth in grateful praise, in grateful praise,
To him who came to ransom thee.

words Fanny Crosby, 1881; music Nathan Partain, 2009

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
"JESUS THY BLOOD AND RIGHTEOUSNESS"

All

Jesus, thy blood and righteousness
My beauty are, my glorious dress;
'Midst flaming worlds,
In these arrayed,
With joy shall I lift up my head.

Bold shall I stand in thy great day;
For who aught to my charge shall lay?
Fully absolved
Through these I am
From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.

This spotless robe the same appears,
When ruined nature sinks in years;
No age can change
Its glorious hue,
The robe of Christ is ever new.

O let the dead now hear thy voice;
Now bid thy banished ones rejoice;
Their beauty this,
Their glorious dress,
Jesus, thy blood and righteousness.

words Nikolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1739; music Nathan Partain, 2010

Song of Thanksgiving
"EMPTY HANDS"

All

From these empty hands up to heaven, from the first day unto the seventh,
Let me glorify the King of all kings.
From the firstborn of all creation, the Savior of all the nations,
Reign, your love, the first of all loves.

So fill my hands with your hands, fill my heart with your heart;
Into your death, my death, and from your light all my life.

From the garden of our first days,
To the hour we sought to hide from your gaze,
No longer naked, but wrapped in our own shameful ways.
Lost among every image I see, lost to the glory that's mended into me;
Found for the hope that's longing to heal me.

So fill my hands with your hands, fill my heart with your heart;
Into your death, my death, and from your light all my life.

From the tears of my last stand, to the idols broken by your loving hand,
Turn me to worship the one true God, "I AM".
From the hate of my deepest sin, to the grace that purifies the depths within,
Lord, turn me to repent what I can never mend.

So fill my hands with your hands, fill my heart with your heart;
Into your death, my death, and from your light all my life.

So fill my hands with your hands, fill my heart with your heart;
Into your death, my death, and from your light all my life.

Bruce Benedict, 2001

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.

Offering of Gifts and Service

Community Groups Leader Commission Service **RYAN & MELODI MILLER**

Leader

Our Father in heaven, we praise you for raising up these community group leaders to shepherd your flock. We pray for them in the powerful name of Jesus Christ.

All

Father in heaven, we thank you for the way that you have woven us together into a community of grace.

We thank you for our community group leaders.

Lord, we ask that you give them courage

To challenge us in our sin,

To comfort us in our sorrows,

To celebrate with us in our victories and joys.

We pray specifically for these leaders that you would give them

A vision for their group that is centered on the gospel of Jesus Christ,

An urgency and responsibility to pray,

A deep desire for your truth laid out before us in your Holy Word

And a burning desire for lost souls to know true life in Jesus Christ.

In Jesus name, Amen.

Scripture
I PETER 1:10-12

Reader

¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, ¹¹ inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. ¹² It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

Congregational Response

Reader

This is the Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

MARK VANEST

“THE PRIVILEGE OF THE GOSPEL”

Community Groups Questions

1. Talk about a time recently when you felt discouraged, where life didn't seem to be working out so well. To what or to whom did you find yourself comparing your circumstances? How do comparisons to others help you (as a means of coping) or hurt you (pull you further down?)
2. Why does Peter draw comparisons with our circumstances as believers in the gospel (who are also suffering) to the prophets of the Old Testament? To the angels? What glories does he hope to help us see?
3. How could you apply the privilege of the gospel to an area you feel discouraged about in your life?

Pastoral Prayer

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
"JESUS LIVES AND SO SHALL I"

Leader

Jesus lives and so shall I.
Death, thy sting is gone forever:
He, who deigned for me to die,
Lives, the bands of death to sever.
He shall raise me with the just;
Jesus is my Hope and Trust.
He shall raise me with the just.

Jesus lives and reigns supreme;
And, his kingdom still remaining,
I shall also be with him,
Ever living, ever reigning.
God has promised; be it must:
Jesus is my Hope and Trust.
God has promised; be it must.

Jesus lives and by his grace,
Vict'ry o'er my passions giving,
Pow'r to cleanse my heart and ways,
Ever to his glory living.
The weak he raises from the dust;
Jesus is my Hope and Trust.
The weak he raises from the dust.
The weak he raises from the dust.

Jesus lives and death is now
But my entrance into glory.
Courage! then, my soul, for thou
Hast a crown of life before thee;
Thou shalt find thy hopes were just—
Jesus is the Christian's Trust.
Thou shalt find thy hopes were just.
Thou shalt find thy hopes were just.

words: Christian F. Gellert, 1744; music: Nathan Partain, 2003

Song of Celebration
"IN THE SECRET OF HIS PRESENCE"

Leader

In the secret of his presence, how my soul delights to hide!
Oh, how precious are the lessons, which I learn at Jesus' side!
Earthly cares do ever vex me, and my trials lay me low;
But when Satan comes to tempt me, to the secret place I go,
To the secret place I go.

When my soul is faint and thirsty, 'neath the shadow of his wing,
There is cool and pleasant shelter, and a fresh and crystal spring;
There my Savior rests beside me, and we hold communion sweet:
If I tried, I could not utter what he says when there we meet,
What he says when there we meet.

Only this I know: I tell him all my doubts, my griefs, and fears;
Oh, how patiently he listens! and my sorrowed soul he cheers:
Do you think he ne'er reproves me? What a false friend he would be,
If he never, never told me of the sins which he must see,
Of the sins which he must see.

And when'er I leave the silence of that happy meeting place,
I must bring and bear the image of my Master in my face,
Of my Master in my face.

Words: Ellen L. Goreh, 1883 Music: Chris Minor, 2004

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
"BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD ABOVE"

All

Before the throne of God above, I have a strong and perfect plea,
A great High Priest whose name is "Love," who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on his hands, my name is written on his heart;
I know that while in heav'n he stands, no tongue can bid me thence depart.
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair and tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see him there, who made an end to all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free;
For God, the Just, is satisfied to look on him and pardon me.
To look on him and pardon me.

Behold him there! the risen Lamb, my perfect, spotless Righteousness,
The great unchangeable I Am, the King of glory and of grace!
One with himself, I cannot die, my soul is purchased by his blood;
My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ, my Savior and my God,
With Christ, my Savior and my God.

One with himself, I cannot die, my soul is purchased by his blood;
My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ, my Savior and my God,
With Christ, my Savior and my God.

words Charitie L. Bancroft, 1863; music Vikki Cook, 1997