

# Welcome

## Call to Worship

*based on Romans 8:12-25*

*Leader* Hear the word of the King of heaven himself:

“All who are led by the Spirit of God  
are sons of God.  
For you did not receive the spirit of slavery  
to fall back into fear,  
but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons  
by whom we cry,

*All* **“Abba! Father!”**

*Leader* The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit  
that we are children of God  
and if children, then heirs—  
heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ,  
provided we suffer with him  
in order that we may also be glorified with him.”

*All* **The sufferings of this present time  
are not worth comparing with the glory  
that is to be revealed to us!  
Lord, come soon.**

# Opening Hymn

*“Just As I Am”*

*All*

**Just as I am, without one plea, but that Thy blood was shed for me,  
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee, O Lamb, I come.  
Just as I am, and waiting not, to rid my soul of one dark blot,  
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb, I come.**

**Just as I am, though tossed about, confused, conflicted, full of doubts,  
Fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb, I come.  
Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
Yea, all in Thee I need to find, O Lamb, I come.**

**Just as I am I come, receiving all you’ve done  
And covered in your blood, I’m held within your love.**

**Just as I am, Thy love unknown, hath broken every barrier down;  
Now, to be Thine and Thine alone, O Lamb, I come.  
Just as I am, Thou will receive, will welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
Because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb, I come.**

**Just as I am I come, receiving all you’ve done  
And covered in your blood, I’m held within your love.**

**Your cross erased my wretchedness, just as I am, O Lamb, I come.  
Set free from fear, I can confess, just as I am, O Lamb, I come.  
I leave my rags of righteousness, just as I am, O Lamb, I come.  
For now I wear your Holiness, just as I am, O Lamb, I come.**

**Just as I am I come, receiving all you’ve done  
And covered in your blood, I’m held within your love.**

*words: Charlotte Elliott, 1835; alt. lyrics: Nathan Partain, 2011; music: Nathan Partain, 2011*

# Prayer of Adoration

## Prayer of Confession

*drawn from 1 Peter 1-2*

- Leader*      Apart from you, Lord,  
                  our way of life seems full and right,  
                  but really, it's only empty,  
                  cut off from true light and life.
- All*             **We're like sheep going astray,  
                  who don't even know  
                  that we don't know our own way.**
- Leader*      Lord, you have called us  
                  and chosen us to be your people.
- All*             **Yet we act like you've forgotten us,  
                  that you don't know us or see us.  
We live like orphans,  
                  trying to make our own way in the world,  
                  that our lives depend on us.**
- Leader*      Your call and choice of us  
                  makes us like exiles in our own land.
- All*             **Yet we act like we're right at home.  
We try to fit in and be like everyone else:  
                  we buy and sell, we watch and we work,  
                  like everyone else.  
Even in our divisions and disputes,  
                  we sound like everyone else.  
We act like we've forgotten you.**
- Leader*      Unless you call us, God,  
                  we remain in darkness.
- All*             **Restore us to yourself,  
                  Shepherd and Guardian of our souls.**

# Assurance of Pardon in the Gospel

*drawn from 1 Peter 1-3*

*Leader* Jesus is special and dear to God.  
The Father chose him before the creation of the world  
to be the cornerstone of the new world.

*All* **Christ was revealed when he suffered for us,  
bearing our sins in his body on the cross,  
to bring us to God.**

*Leader* Put to death in the body,  
he was made alive in the Spirit.

*All* **He ascended into heaven  
where he reigns at his Father's right hand,  
over every power, authority, ideology, politics, structure, and sphere.**

*Leader* You are special and dear to God.  
God has chosen and redeemed us  
to make us his special possession  
that we would trust him and follow in Jesus's steps.

*All* **Let us walk, then, in both joy and hardship  
until Jesus is revealed in glory.**

*Leader* Once you were not a people,  
*All* **But now we are God's people!**

*Leader* Once you had not received mercy,  
*All* **But now we have received mercy!**

# Song in the Gospel

*“Psalm 130 - From the Depths”*

*All*

From depths of woe I raise to thee  
The voice of lamentation;  
Lord, turn a gracious ear to me  
And hear my supplication.  
If thou iniquities dost mark  
Our secret sins and misdeeds dark,  
O who shall stand before thee?

To wash away the crimson stain,  
Grace, grace alone availeth;  
Our works, alas! are all in vain,  
In much the best life faileth.  
No man can glory in thy sight,  
All must alike confess thy might  
And live alone by mercy.

Therefore my trust is in the Lord  
And not in mine own merit;  
On him my soul shall rest, his Word  
Upholds my fainting spirit:  
His promised mercy is my fort,  
My comfort and my sweet support;  
I wait for it with patience.

What though I wait the live-long night,  
And till the dawn appeareth  
My heart still trusteth in his might,  
It doubteth not nor feareth.  
Do thus, O ye of Israel's seed,  
Ye of the Spirit born indeed,  
And wait till God appeareth.

Though great our sins and sore our woes,  
His grace much more aboundeth;  
His helping love no limit knows,  
Our utmost need it soundeth.  
Our Shepherd, good and true is he,  
Who will at last his Israel free  
From all their sin and sorrow,  
From all their sin and sorrow.

*words and melody: Martin Luther, 1524*

## Song in the Gospel

*“Thy Mercy, My God”*

*All*

**Thy mercy, my God, is the theme of my song,  
The joy of my heart, and the boast of my tongue;  
Thy free grace alone, from the first to the last,  
Hath won my affections, and bound my soul fast.**

**Without Thy sweet mercy I could not live here;  
Sin would reduce me to utter despair;  
But, through Thy free goodness, my spirits revive,  
And He that first made me still keeps me alive.**

**Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart,  
Which wonders to feel its own hardness depart;  
Dissolved by Thy goodness, I fall to the ground,  
And weep to the praise of the mercy I’ve found.**

**Great Father of mercies, Thy goodness I own,  
And the covenant love of Thy crucified Son;  
All praise to the Spirit, Whose whisper divine,  
Seals mercy, and pardon, and righteousness mine**

**All praise to the Spirit, Whose whisper divine,  
Seals mercy, and pardon, and righteousness mine.**

**Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

*words: John Stocker, 1776; music: Sandra McCracken*

## Prayer of Dependence

## Offering of Gifts and Service

*Online giving available at [redeemindy.org/give]*



# Scripture

1 Peter 1:1-2

Reader

<sup>1</sup>Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, <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:

Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

Reader

This is the word of the Lord.

People

**Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

Charles Anderson

*"Dear Exiles,"*

## Community Group Questions

- 1) In what ways do you feel like an exile or stranger because of your Christian faith? In what ways do you not feel like an exile or stranger?
- 2) Peter starts his letter with the dual, almost paradoxical reality that believers are on the one hand exiles and strangers, and on the other hand, known and loved by God. Reflect on 1 Peter 1:2. How do the truths there tell us that we are known and loved by God?
- 3) Pick one sphere of your life (e.g., work, family, friendships). What would it look like to cultivate the identity of being a "dear exile" in that sphere? How would you pursue that sphere in the same way? How would you pursue it differently?

### *Children's questions:*

Imagine that you were far from home and actually couldn't ever go back home. What would that feel like? That's part of what it means to be a Christian, Peter tells us in 1:1. At the same time, we are chosen and loved by God. That's what 1 Peter 1:2 says. Pray that God would help you believe that you are both a stranger and his dear child.



## Notes:

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# Valediction

*from Ephesians 4:11-15*

*Leader* Jesus himself gave the apostles,  
the prophets, the evangelists,  
the pastors and teachers,  
to equip his people for works of service,  
so that the body of Christ may be built up  
until we all reach unity in the faith  
and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature,  
attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of who Jesus is.

*All* **He did this so that we would no longer be childish in our thinking,  
tossed back and forth by the waves,  
and blown here and there by every wind of teaching  
and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.**

*Leader* Instead, speaking the truth in love,  
we grow to become, in every respect, the mature body  
of him who is our whole focus, that is, Christ.

# Departing Hymn

*"Amazing Grace"*

*All* **Amazing grace! How sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear, the hour I first believed.**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;  
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years, bright, shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise, than when we've first begun.**

words: John Newton, 1779; vs. 4: Anonymous, 1829; music: James P. Carrell & David S. Clayton, 1831

# Benediction

# Song of Celebration

*“Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus”*

*All*

**'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,  
And to take him at his Word;  
Just to rest upon his promise,  
And to know, “Thus says the Lord!”**

**O how sweet to trust in Jesus,  
Just to trust his cleansing blood;  
And in simple faith to plunge me  
'Neath the healing, cleansing flood!**

**Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him! How I've proved him o'er and o'er.  
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust him more!**

**Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus,  
Just from sin and self to cease;  
Just from Jesus simply taking  
Life and rest, and joy and peace.**

**Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him! How I've proved him o'er and o'er.  
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust him more!**

**I'm so glad I learned to trust thee,  
Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;  
And I know that thou art with me,  
Wilt be with me to the end.**

**Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him! How I've proved him o'er and o'er.  
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust him more!**

*words: Louisa M. R. Stead, 1882; music: William J. Kirkpatrick*

# Song of Celebration

*“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”*

*All*

**Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,  
Pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty;  
Hold me with thy pow’rful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
Feed me till I want no more;  
Feed me till I want no more.**

**Open now the crystal fountain,  
Where the healing stream does flow;  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar  
Lead me all my journey through.  
Strong Deliv’rer, strong Deliv’rer,  
Be thou still my strength and shield;  
Be thou still my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
Bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of deaths, and hell’s destruction,  
Land me safe on Canaan’s side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises,  
I will ever give to thee;  
I will ever give to thee.**

*words: William Williams, 1745; music: John Hughes, 1907*

## Doxology

*All*

**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.**

*words: Thomas Ken, c. 1674; music: attr. to Louis Bourgeois, 1551*