

REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

EASTERTIDE

APRIL 25, 2021



Cover Art

Kipp Normand

Flower Installation

Hidi Gardner led the concept, and many in our community worked to make many, many flowers.

Tree Window Covering

Barb Knuckles and the Kyle Ragsdale Community Group

Vestments

Lauren McElhaney and Molly Kelly

Communion Set

TJ Samuels

Welcome

Call to Worship

Based on Psalm 42:1-5

Leader As when animals groan when they come to drink
but the riverbed is dry,

All **So my soul thirsts for the living God.
When shall I come and appear before God?**

Leader My tears have been my food day and night,
while they say to me all day long, “Where is your God?”

All **I remember these things and pour out my soul within me.**

Leader For I used to go over with the multitude,
and walk them to the house of God
with a voice of joy and thanksgiving —
a multitude celebrating a festival.

All **Why are you in despair, my soul?
And why are you restless within me?**

Leader Put your hope in God,
and praise him like you used to.

All **For he is our God
and there is deliverance in his presence.**

Opening Hymn

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

All

**Come, thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I’m fixed upon it,
Mount of God’s unchanging love.**

**Here I raise my Ebenezer,
Hither by thy help I’ve come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger
Wandering from the fold of God;
He to rescue me from danger
Interposed his precious blood.**

**O to grace how great a debtor,
Daily I’m constrained to be!
Let thy grace now, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here’s my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for thy courts above.**

**O that day when freed from sinning,
I shall see thy lovely face;
Clothed then in my blood washed linen,
How I’ll sing thy sovereign grace!**

words Robert Robinson, 1758; music “Nettleton” from John Wyeth, 1813

Prayer of Adoration

Prayer of Lament and Confession

Leader In this Easter season of resurrection, we lament the power of death in our midst.

All **We grieve the reality of death,
from disease and in violence.
We grieve how we die before we die:
In loneliness and isolation,
In addiction and abuse.
This world is not how it was meant to be.**

Leader The Easter season calls us into the in-between:
We have already been raised with Christ,
and yet we still wait for our resurrection at the last day.

All **We confess that we don't wait well for God.
We impatiently take matters into our own hands,
as if we can find wholeness on our own.
Distracted by the pursuits of this world,
we don't groan for Christ to come again.
We shrink back from suffering for Christ,
preferring comfort over sacrificial love for others.**

Leader God of all creation and of our hearts—Father, Son, and Spirit—
Have mercy and hear our lament and confession.

Song of Hope

"We Shall Sing"

All **Though we wait, the garden groaning,
Cut down by greed, used up, bereft.
What death has taken, or curse has ruined,
Jesus has turned, upon its head.**

Nathan Partain, 2016

Assurance of Pardon in the Gospel

Based on Romans 8

Leader Hear this command of comfort and hope, "Do not fear!"

All **Jesus has died and been raised from the dead!**

Leader Do not fear!

All **We have been crucified, buried, and raised with him.**

Leader Do not fear!

All **Christ is our head, our husband, our covering, and our hope.**

Leader Do not fear!

All **We are no longer in our sins. We have been forgiven!**

Leader Do not fear!

All **The Spirit groans in us and for us and will raise us from the dead!**

Leader Do not fear! He is risen!

All **He is risen indeed!**

Song of Hope

"We Shall Sing"

All

We shall sing with hearts on fire. Yes, we shall rise and not be ashamed.

O we shall look and all be radiant. For we shall see him face to face.

The whole world of despair is not worth being compared to what we shall see.

Nathan Partain, 2016

Song in the Gospel

"Look There! The Christ!"

All

**Look there! The Christ, our Brother, comes,
Resplendent from the cursed tree,
And what he brings in his hurt hands
Is life on life for you and me.**

**Joy! Joy!
Joy to the world and all therein.
Joy! Joy!
Joy to the world and all in this good day's dawning.**

**Good Jesus Christ, inside his pain,
Looked down Golgotha's stony slope
And let the blood flow from his flesh
To fill the springs of living hope.**

**Joy! Joy!
Joy to the world and all therein.
Joy! Joy!
Joy to the world and all in this good day's dawning.**

**Good Jesus Christ, our Brother, died
In darkest hurt upon the tree
To offer us the worlds of light
That live inside the Trinity.**

**Joy! Joy!
Joy to the world and all therein.
Joy! Joy!
Joy to the world and all in this good day's dawning.**

words John Bennett, 1920; music Nathan Partain, 2003

Prayer of Dependence

Offering of Gifts and Service

Online giving available at [redeemindy.org/give]



Scripture

Romans 8:18-23

Reader

¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies.

All

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Charles Anderson

God's Creation Groans

Community Group Questions

- 1) How do you see around you the story that says, “The world has no point, so neither does what we do”? In the media? In conversations with friends, neighbors, family? In yourself?
- 2) What are the parallels between creation’s story and believers’ story in Romans 8:18–23? What are the differences? How do the two stories intertwine?
- 3) How do you hold together and live in the tension of being called to create beauty where you are, to see what you do as meaningful and the means of God’s redeeming mission for the world and at the same time, to wait for God’s salvation and believe that only through his intervention is the world rescued?

Call to Communion

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 use the hand sanitizer. You will receive the bread into your hands and take a cup from the tray. Clear cups (located in the interior rings) contain grape juice. Red cups (exterior ring of tray) contain wine. Wait to eat the bread and drink the wine until we all do so together, once we are back in our seats. Children who have been interviewed by the elders are able to share in Communion.

Communion is a time of connection with the Lord Jesus and with each other. Feel free to sing with the band during Communion. The ministry of prayer is also a way we live together as a community of believers and seekers. Please take the time to pray on your own, or with someone else in the pews (in a socially distanced way).

Prayers

Prayer for Guidance to Truth

God, I don't know how I feel about what I have heard today but I want to trust that you are good, that you are loving, and that you are just. I want to know if you are the true God. If you are there, would you guide my soul to the truest truth. I don't want to be tricked or believe a lie. I don't want to believe in something just to make me feel better. Please God, lead me to the truth.

Prayer of Belief and Repentance

Jesus, I believe that you are who you say you are: the Son of God and the savior of broken people like me. I need forgiveness. I need to be made new and to start over again. I now turn away from all I have been doing. I turn away from my self-centered life. I turn my whole heart toward you. I believe that when you were crucified, you took all of my evil and somehow you gave me all of your beauty. I invite your Holy Spirit to live in me. I do not want to live for myself any more. I want you to lead my life. I want to know you and to receive your love for me. Please teach me and protect me and guide me. I am yours. I ask these things in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Prayer of Doubt and Faith

God, I don't really believe all of this, but there is a part of my heart that knows there is truth and goodness here. I am confused by the fact that there are so many things that I don't understand or that make me angry about you. There are also so many things that fill my heart with hope and many things that draw me to you, and I want to put my trust in you. God, you say I can come to you and ask for anything, so if you are real, please give me the faith I need to believe. Give me the desire to continue to seek after you. Keep my heart from self-deception. Protect me from any evil misleading or binding spirits. Calm my fears. Soften my cynicism. Be patient with me, and if you are God, please don't let me go, but instead let me know that you are real. I have a little faith, help me in my doubt.

Closing Hymn

"It's God Who Saves"

All

Like all God's prophets, his kings and judges,
Were thieves and killers, adulterous liars,
That he had chosen, to show his greatness.
Just like those heroes, by grace he called me,
So dead in my sin, it's him I boast in,
I breathe but only, through faith in Jesus.

And oh what joy and bliss, to enter Sabbath rest.

It's God who saves, not I, it's God who justifies.
He calls, he makes holy, it's God who saves, not I.

Christ came to me who, had hated God and
Was bent to chaos, and served destruction,
In love he died, and he paid my pardon.
And then he raised me, with him in union,
A wretch adopted, triune affection,
Eternal power, and love unyielding.

And oh what joy and bliss, to enter Sabbath rest.

It's God who saves, not I, it's God who justifies.
He calls, he makes holy, it's God who saves, not I.
It's God who saves, not I, it's God who is my life.
All I bring is nothing, it's God who saves, not I.

If my salvation, to me was trusted,
If we must hold fast, or keep love fervent,
I'm lost already, my love unsteady.
But once redemption, is won it's finished,
His sure deposit, his steadfast Spirit,
From grace beginning, to grace unending.

And oh what joy and bliss, to enter Sabbath rest.

It's God who saves, not I, it's God who justifies.
He calls, he makes holy, it's God who saves, not I.
It's God who saves, not I, it's God who is my life.
All I bring is nothing, it's God who saves, not I.

Nathan Partain, 2013

Doxology

All

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

Community Life

Officer Nominations

Men's Chili Cookoff, April 30th, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Town Hall, May 5th, 6:00 p.m., Tabernacle Presbyterian park

Benediction

Contact Us

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year to date giving:
\$527,721.96

2021 budget:
\$2,487,554

Congregational Giving

April 18 th	\$	\$10,087.12
April Total	\$	\$97,955.31
April Budget	\$	\$207,296.17

