

The music in the service is found in the books in the pew racks. Songs with “(H)” are found in *The Presbyterian Hymnal* and with “(S)” in *Sing the Faith*.

THE CHURCH GATHERS

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MUSICAL GREETING 591 (H) “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

One: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

All: God’s love surrounds us every day; our God is merciful and gracious.

One: Turn your backs upon idols, worship the Holy One of Israel.

All: Blessed are all who stand in awe before God; happy are all who walk in his ways.

One: The love of God has chosen us, the love of God unites us with all his people.

All: God is our judge and our source of life; God is our comfort and our refuge.

One: Let us come together and worship our Creator.

***HYMN 220 (H)** “All People That on Earth Do Dwell”

A WORD FROM CALVIN (from Calvin’s commentary on Psalm 8)

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)**

Holy God,

Your presence is all around us:

we behold your majesty in the highest of mountains
and the smallest of creatures.

Your Divine Image is within us:

we perceive your Guiding Spirit,
steadfast and constant, throughout our lives.

You are right before our very eyes and you are deep inside us

and yet we are blinded by your magnificent light
and fail to recognize your claim on our lives.

Forgive us.

Only by knowing You can we truly know ourselves.

Only by acknowledging how we have fallen short of loving ourselves
and each other can we recognize

how profoundly and deeply we are loved.

Only by renouncing the idols that hold us captive

are we set free to live the life you have dreamed for each of us.

May our eyesight be corrected by the lenses you have given us in Scripture.

May our hearts be opened by your Incarnate Word, Christ Jesus,

Through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF GRACE** (*Institutes*, 3, iii, 9)

One: In Christ, we are restored into the righteousness of God,
from which we had fallen...

It pleases God fully to restore all who are adopted into the inheritance of life.

**All: And indeed, this restoration does not take place
in one moment or one day or one year;
but through continual, and sometimes even slow advances,**

One: God wipes out corruption, God cleanses of guilt,
God consecrates us as temples with renewed minds.

**All: The more we come to the likeness of God,
the more the image of God shines in us.**

One: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

***RESPONSE TO GRACE 2023 (S)** “How Majestic is Your Name”

HEARS GOD’S WORD

A WORD FROM CALVIN (*Institutes*, 1, iv, 1)

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING (unison)

**God of glorious majesty and light, as we hear your Holy Word read and proclaimed,
disperse our dullness, make sense out of our confusion, show us your true Self. By the power of
your Holy Spirit, help us to understand more deeply who you are, who we are, and who you call
us to be, in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Psalm 8:1-9

Jeremiah 29:11

Romans 8:28-30

A WORD FROM CALVIN (from Calvin’s commentary on Psalm 51)

SERMON

Chip Low

RESPONDS IN LOVE AND SERVICE

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (responsive) (*Institutes*, 3, vii, 1)

One: Now the great thing is this:

**All: We are consecrated and dedicated to God in order that we may thereafter
think, speak, meditate, and do nothing except to God’s glory...**

We are not our own:

One: let not our reason nor our will, therefore, sway our plans and deeds.

All: We are not our own:

One: let us therefore not set it as our goal

to seek what is expedient for us according to the flesh.

All: We are not our own:

One: Insofar as we can, let us therefore forget ourselves, and all that is ours.
Conversely,

All: We are God's:

One: let us therefore live for God and die for God.

All: We are God's:

One: let God's wisdom and will therefore rule all our actions.

All: We are God's:

One: let all the parts of our life accordingly strive toward God as our only lawful goal.

**All: The sole haven of salvation is to be wise in nothing
and to will nothing through ourselves
but to follow the leading of the Lord alone. Amen.**

*HYMN 457 (H) "I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art"

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

We pray for those we name together, those on the prayer list, and the ministries of our church.

A WORD FROM CALVIN (*Institutes*, 3, xx, 2)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (by John Calvin)

Grant, Almighty God, that since under the guidance of thy Son
we have been united together in the body of thy Church,
which has been so often scattered and torn asunder,
–O grant that we may continue in the unity of faith,
and perseveringly fight against all the temptations of this world,
and never deviate from the right course,
whatever new troubles may daily arise;
and though we are exposed to many deaths,
let us not be seized with fear,
such as may extinguish in our hearts every hope;
but may we, on the contrary, learn
to raise up our eyes and minds and all our thoughts to thy great power,
by which thou quickenest the dead,
and raisest from nothing things which are not,
so that, though we be daily exposed to ruin,
our souls may ever aspire to eternal salvation,
until thou at length really showest thyself to be the fountain of life,
when we shall enjoy that endless felicity
which has been obtained for us by the blood of thine only begotten Son our Lord,
who taught us to pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER ("forgive us our sins")

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

*RESPONSE 593 (H) “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

*PRAYER TO DEDICATE OUR LIVES

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

We greet each other with a hand-shake or embrace and say: “**The peace of Christ be with you!**” We respond to that greeting by saying: “**And also with you!**”

*HYMN 442 (H) “The Church’s One Foundation”

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

One: God sends us out with encouragement and a challenge:
Lead lives worthy of God's reign and glory.

All: We desire to live as God intends; we will work and rest in God's care.

One: Live in faithfulness to one another
and to God who calls you forth in his service.

**All: The Word of God is at work in us;
in him we witness and are more than conquerors.**

One: Blessed are all who seek their strength in God alone,
happy are they who live the gospel.

**All: May God be praised in all we do and say;
may we be gentle apostles and courageous disciples**

MUSICAL BENEDICTION 592 (H) “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

POSTLUDE

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CHORAL GREETING “Our Tribute” Latimer The Adult Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

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and never deviate from the right course,

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and though we are exposed to many deaths,

let us not be seized with fear,

such as may extinguish in our hearts every hope;

but may we, on the contrary, learn

to raise up our eyes and minds and all our thoughts to thy great power,

by which thou quickenest the dead,

and raisest from nothing things which are not,

so that, though we be daily exposed to ruin,

our souls may ever aspire to eternal salvation,

until thou at length really showest thyself to be the fountain of life,

when we shall enjoy that endless felicity

which has been obtained for us by the blood of thine only begotten Son our Lord,

who taught us to pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER (“forgive us our sins”)

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

“Your Grace Still Amazes Me”

Rob Dreher, Christie Herman, John Winget

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“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

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