



Christ
Presbyterian
Church

May 22, 2022

Welcome

If you're visiting us for the first time, thank you for taking the risk to come to a new place and meet new people. If you have elementary age children, they will be invited to instructional time tailored to their ages prior to the sermon. At the conclusion of the service, please join us for a time of refreshments. We look forward to meeting you.

Reflection

Marx famously said, "Religion is the opiate of the people." What he meant was that religion was a tool of those with power to keep the underclass subservient. No doubt religion has been used that way in history, but the argument cuts both ways. Today we might say, "Skepticism is the opiate of the people." If I refuse to acknowledge God's existence, then I don't have to acknowledge His authority.

Honestly, what is more difficult, skepticism that doesn't challenge the way that I live or faith with obedience?

– A CPC Member

Call to Worship – Galatians 4

Liturgist: But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law.

ALL: In order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.

Liturgist: And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

ALL: We are no longer slaves but children. Since we are children, we are coheirs with Christ.

Prayer of Adoration (Concluded by the Lord's Prayer)

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Father Long Before Creation

Father, long before creation, Thou hadst chosen us in love,
And that love so deep, so moving, draws us close to Christ above.
Still it keeps us, still it keeps us, firmly fixed in Christ alone.

Though the world may change its fashion, yet our God is e'er the same;
His compassion and His covenant, through all ages will remain.
God's own children, God's own children, must forever praise His name.

God's compassion is my story, is my boasting all the day;
Mercy free and never failing, moves my will, directs my way.
God so loved us, God so loved us, that His only Son He gave.

Loving Father now before Thee, we will ever praise Thy love,
And our songs will sound unceasing, 'til we reach our home above,
Giving glory, giving glory, to our God and to the Lamb;
Giving glory, giving glory, to our God and to the Lamb.

Text: Chinese Hymn, Translated Francis Johnson, 1953
Music: Andrew Osenga, 2005 © 2005 The Velvet Eagle Sings

The Love of God

The love of God is greater far, than tongue or pen can ever tell,
It goes beyond the highest star, and reaches to the lowest hell;
The guilty pair, bowed down with care, God gave His Son to win;
His erring child, He reconciled, and pardoned from his sin.

Refrain

Oh love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure, the saints' and angels' song.

When years of time shall pass away, and earthly thrones and kingdoms fall;
When men who here refuse to pray, on rocks and hills and mountains call;
God's love, so sure, shall still endure, all measureless and strong;
Redeeming grace to Adam's race— the saints' and angels' song.

Could we with ink the ocean fill, and were the skies of parchment made;
Were every stalk on earth a quill and every man a scribe by trade;
To write the love of God above, would drain the ocean dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the whole, tho' stretched from sky to sky. (*Refrain*)

Music and Lyrics: Frederick Martin Lehman, 1917. Public Domain

Scripture Reading – John 5:24-29

²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

²⁵ “Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. ²⁶ For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. ²⁷ And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. ²⁸ Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice ²⁹ and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

Confession of Sin

Liturgist: Merciful Father, with our lips we confess that we believe in the resurrection, but our persistent fears betray our unbelief.

ALL: We say that in Christ we have everything we need for life and death, yet when our possessions, health, reputations, jobs, or families are threatened with loss or danger, we fret and fall apart.

Liturgist: We know we will one day have new, glorious bodies, but we are quickly undone when our early bodies fail us. Father, forgive our unbelief.

ALL: Holy Spirit, strengthen our faith and help us rest in the perfection of Jesus on our behalf.

Liturgist: In all our trials and difficulties, fix our eyes on our heavenly inheritance, which is stored up for us in Christ in a place where no power can touch it.

ALL: Come quickly, Lord Jesus! We long to be free from our sin and to enjoy you forever. Amen!

Private Confession

Words of Encouragement- Romans 8:11

The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.

Come Behold The Wondrous Mystery

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry in the dawning of the King;
He the theme of heaven's praises robed in frail humanity.
In our longing in our darkness, now the light of life has come.
Look to Christ who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry: He the perfect Son of Man;
In His living in His suff'ring, never trace nor stain of sin.
See the true and better Adam come to save the hell-bound man;
Christ the great and sure fulfillment of the law, in Him we stand

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry: Christ the Lord upon the tree;
In the stead of ruined sinners, hangs the Lamb in victory.
See the price of our redemption; see the Father's plan unfold;
Bringing many sons to glory, grace unmeasured love untold.

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry: slain by death the God of life
But no grave could e'er restrain Him; praise the Lord He is alive!
What a foretaste of deliv'rance, how unwavering our hope;
Christ in power resurrected, as we will be when He comes.

*Music and Lyrics: Matt Boswell, Matt Papa and Michael Bleecker
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Congregational Prayer

Scripture Reading – Mark 1:9-10

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Children's Recessional

- 2nd – 5th Grade: Mr. Hillah, Ms. Fraser, and Mr. Pickens, Room 135
- PreK- 1st: Mr. and Mrs. Ruffa, Room 178

Greeting our Neighbors

Sermon – The Love of the Triune God

Figure A.

“In my thoughts, I was looking upon the act of Creation . . . as it stated “And the spirit of God hovered over the face of the waters”, like a dove hovering over its young without touching them.”

Chagigah 15a (200 BC) *The William Davidson Talmud*

Outline:

1. Created by the Triune God
2. Re-created by the Triune God
3. Awestruck by the Triune God

Figure B.

John 17:26 [Father,] I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.

John 14:23 If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

John 15:9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.

Figure C.

“The Father loved the Son before the creation of the world, and the reason the Father sends him is so that the Father’s love for him might be in others also. That is why the Son goes out from the Father, in both creation and salvation: that the love of the Father for the Son might be shared.”

Michael Reeves, *Delighting in the Trinity* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2012), p. 44

Figure D.

‘Let me put blood together, and make bones too.

Let me set up primeval man: Man shall be his name.

Let me create a primeval man.

The work of the gods shall be imposed [on man], and so they [the gods] shall be at leisure.’

Enuma Elish (1800 BC) translated by Stephanie Dalley, *Myths from Mesopotamia*, Oxford 2000, 260-261

Figure E.

“If this world was made by a triune God, relationships of love are what life is really all about.”

Tim Keller, *Jesus the King: Understanding the Life and Death of the Son of God*, (New York: Penguin).

Figure F.

“Close relationships, more than money or fame, are what keep people happy throughout their lives, the study revealed. Those ties protect people from life’s disappointments, help to delay mental and physical decline, and are better predictors of long and happy lives than social class, IQ, or even genes.”

The Harvard Gazette, “Good genes are nice, but joy is better” April 11, 2017

Figure G.

“Solitude is being with God and God alone. Is there any space for that in your life?

Why is it so important that you are with God and God alone on the mountain top? It’s important because it’s the place in which you can listen to the voice of the One who calls you the beloved. To pray is to listen to the One who calls you “my beloved daughter,” “my beloved son,” “my beloved child.” To pray is to let that voice speak to the center of your being, to your guts, and let that voice resound in your whole being.”

Henri Nouwen, *Moving from Solitude to Community to Ministry* (Leadership Magazine, Spring 1995)

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

Christ Presbyterian Church welcomes all baptized Christians who actively trust in Jesus Christ for salvation, who are willing to forsake their sin, and who are members of congregations that proclaim the gospel, to receive the Holy Communion with us. Baptized children are welcome to receive Communion after they profess faith and are received as communicant members.

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heav'n, to earth come down;
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, all Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion; pure, un-bound-ed love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy sal-va-tion, enter ev'ry trembling, ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit, let us find that promised rest.
Take away our bent to sinning, Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty, at liberty.

Come, almighty to deliver, let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing, glory in Thy perfect love, Thy perfect love.

Finish then Thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation perfectly restored in Thee.
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, lost in wonder, love in wonder, love and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1747, Music: Kevin Twit, 2015, © 2015 Kevin Twit Music

Benediction – 2 Corinthians 13:14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Announcements

Angel Tree Summer Camps

In addition to helping at Christmastime, Angel Tree Ministries also helps kids with incarcerated parents attend summer camps. A few of CPC's Angel Tree families have expressed interest in sending their kids to these camps. GCOM is trying to raise money to pay the \$100 registration fee required for each child who attends. After they've registered, we can help the families through the Angel Tree scholarship process which should cover all or most of the cost of these amazing camps. If you are interested in supporting these efforts please consider donating! Donations can be made through check (written out to GCOM) or through paypal (GCOM@christ-pca.org). Please contact Katherine Routenberg at katherineroutenberg@yahoo.com with questions.

Service Calendar

Two deacons are teaching Covenant Kids this summer and there is a need for other members to serve in taking down and setting up the worship service. Yesterday, the deacons sent an email to the congregation asking members to consider serving in this way. If you did not receive the email, then please feel free to contact the deacons at deacons@christ-pca.org.

Congregational Prayer

Pastor Matt is facilitating a prayer gathering this Wednesday at 8:00pm. The purpose is to pray for our personal needs, our church, our community, and our world. If you would like to join him, then please use the Zoom information below:

Meeting ID: 810 8143 5054

Passcode: 396100

The nursery will restart on Sunday, June 5

The nursery is for children ages 6 months through 3 years old. Once a child turns 4, they're invited to the preschool class.

Welcome Lunch

Pastor Matt and Katy host lunches on Sunday afternoons for newcomers. Their home is within walking distance to Gibbs. If you would like to come, please chat with Matt or Katy after the service.

Upcoming Events

- The Olney Community Group will meet on June 3
- The Gaithersburg Community Group will meet on May 22
- The Youth Group will meet on May 22, June 5, 12.
- Service of Praise and Prayer, Sunday, July 17

Corporate Prayer This Week

- Deacon Prayer, Wednesday, 6:30am via Zoom
- Elder Prayer, Sunday, 7:30am via Zoom