

ORDER FOR THE PUBLIC WORSHIP of GOD

March 6, 2016



Welcome to Second Presbyterian Church

May our worship open our hearts to God's love, our eyes to God's beauty, our minds to God's truth, and our will to God's service.

Preparation for Worship

As you enter the Sanctuary, please prepare your heart for worship and silence your mobile devices.

We worship our God today for He transforms sadness into joy. The ultimate demonstration of this is our Lord's resurrection which we celebrate every Sunday. Yet, God's people have celebrated through the centuries that sorrow and suffering never have the last word in their lives. For example, reflect on Psalm 30 in our liturgy this morning.

A Psalm like this provides us with a spiritual cardiovascular workout. What do we mean by this? When we lift weights physically to strengthen our bodies, we push and pull against a force that resists us. The Psalms force us to pray when we don't feel like it and to pray in ways that seem contrary to our feelings. Praying the praise Psalms on days when we feel sad and gloomy seems counterintuitive. Praying the lament Psalms feels cruel when joy pervades our lives.

The praise Psalms remind us that all sadness will end one day and we will experience joy in God's presence forever. The lament Psalms remind us that this world is not our permanent home. Suffering is real. Devastating things can and do happen to God's people. Thus, praying the Psalms helps us to persevere and prevents our emotions and circumstances from dictating to us.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, in his *Psalms: The Prayer Book of the Bible*, concurs: "If we want to read and pray the prayers of the Bible and especially the Psalms, we must not ask first what they have to do with us, but what they have to do with Jesus Christ... It does not depend on whether the Psalms express adequately that which we feel at a given moment in our hearts. If we are to pray aright, perhaps it is quite necessary that we pray contrary to our own hearts."

REJOICE IN GLORIOUS HOPE

I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up and have not let my foes rejoice over me.

O Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.

O Lord, you have brought up my soul from Sheol; you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.

Sing praises to the Lord, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name.

For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime.

Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved."

By your favor, O Lord, you made my mountain stand strong; you hid your face; I was dismayed.

To you, O Lord, I cry, and to the Lord I plead for mercy:

"What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the pit?

Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?

Hear, O Lord, and be merciful to me! O Lord, be my helper!"

You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent.

O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever!

♦CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE.....

..... DARWALL

Rejoice in glorious hope! Our Lord, the Judge, shall come, And take His servants up to their eternal home. Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

†PRAYER OF ADORATION

REST IN PARDONING GRACE

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy Father,
one glimpse of our glorious and gracious King Jesus
turns sorrow into joy.
Forgive us for allowing pain and disappointments
to cloud our vision of Him and to unhinge our devotion to Him.
Pardon us for fixating on the things
that are seen rather than unseen.
You hid Your face from Your beloved Son
so that we might know Your forgiveness and smile.
As You clothed our dying Savior with the garments of gladness
when He rose on Easter morning,
so clothe us again with the joy of our salvation.
For we make our prayer in His matchless name, Amen.

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON

♦HYMN OF ASSURANCE: No. 188 "Jesus, I Am Resting, Resting" TRANQUILLITY

stanza 1: Choir; stanzas 2-3: Congregation

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS..... L. Brett Wynne

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" . . . English Folk Hymn

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died, My richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the cross of Christ my God: All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down! Did e're such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small; Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

Daniel Pollorena, Music Intern, conducting

Ever lift Thy face upon me as I work and wait for Thee; Resting 'neath Thy smile, Lord Jesus, earth's dark shadows flee. Brightness of my Father's glory, sunshine of my Father's face, Keep me ever trusting, resting, fill me with Thy grace. Jesus, I am resting, resting in the joy of what Thou art; I am finding out the greatness of Thy loving heart.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

RECEIVE THE PROMISED PEACE

†GREETINGS

A WORD TO THE CHILDREN (8:15) W. Brian Lewis

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (11:00)

Becki and Mike Albert, Rachel and Chad Bennett, Norri and Alvin Bonner, Larry Clark, Stephen Copeland, Mac Cross, Kendall Crouther, Josie Hammons, Rachel and Calvin Harris, Erica Henderson, Sam Jones, Brian Kelsey, Kyle King, Tory Lang, Aimee and Kendall Magana, Delaney McReynolds, Katy and Patrick O'Connor, Katherine and Will Rote, *Patrick Spicer, Will Stevens, Emy Ufot, Grace Ufot, Betsy Wepfer, Virginia and Daniel Wynn

*to be baptized

MEMBERSHIP VOWS

Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God and without hope for your salvation except in His sovereign mercy?

Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and depend upon Him alone for your salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?

Do you now promise and resolve, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?

Do you promise to serve Christ in His church by supporting and participating with this congregation in its service of God and its ministry to others to the best of your ability?

Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and to the spiritual oversight of this church session, and do you promise to promote the unity, purity, and peace of the church?

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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. Amen.

All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field;

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God will stand forever. Amen. (Isaiah 40:6b, 8)

SERMON Sorrow Turned to Joy Sanders L. Willson

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

♦HYMN OF CHRIST'S PEACE: No. 691 "It Is Well with My Soul" VILLE DU HAVRE

†BENEDICTION

†CONGREGATIONAL THREE-FOLD AMEN

♦Indicates congregation standing

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