

**B**rethren, we must undergird this Church with a *great outpouring of prayer*. We know that **it is far easier to fight than it is to pray.**

Our battle, however, is “*not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*”

**Only fervent prayer will prevail...**And now we commend you to this God and the word of His grace. We devoutly pray *that the whole catholic Church may be afresh baptized with the Holy Ghost, that we may be speedily stirred to give the Lord “no rest until He establish and make Jerusalem a praise in the earth.”*

– Ruling Elder W. Jack Williamson,  
“*To the Glory of God*,” preached at the first  
General Assembly of the Presbyterian  
Church in America, December 4, 1973



Covenant Presbytery welcomes Commissioners and guests to the 50th PCA General Assembly during this 50th anniversary year. Our theme this year highlights the golden anniversary of our denomination by stressing God’s faithfulness to us. Using the words of the familiar Gospel song, “Great Is Thy Faithfulness,” the services look back to God’s faithfulness in the past, consider our present need for strengthening grace, and gaze forward to our bright hopes for what God will do with us and for us in the future.

Our preachers and their themes have been chosen with this in mind. For Tuesday night, our retiring moderator, RE John Bise, has chosen TE Randy E. Thompson (*Senior Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Tuscumbia, Alabama*) to preach in his stead; he will lead us to the familiar passage in Lamentations 3 to recount God’s steadfast love and past faithfulness to us. On Wednesday afternoon, the moderator of the 32nd General Assembly, TE J. Ligon Duncan III (*Chancellor and CEO, Reformed Theological Seminary*) will point us to God’s resurrection power at work in our present circumstances, strengthening us for today. On Thursday evening, in connection with the 50th anniversary of Reformed University Fellowship, the founding campus minister at the University of Memphis, TE Les Newsom (*Lead Pastor, Christ Presbyterian Church, Oxford, MS*) will encourage us to hope in God’s continued care for us in future days. Let’s ask God to stir our hearts to pray, to seek renewal, and to be led to holiness and love for the brothers and sisters—all for God’s glory and for the display of his faithfulness!

We encourage worshipers to participate with the Presbytery in the financial support of this General Assembly. Not only will there be a time of offering, but you can also give through “Text-to-give” by texting GIVE to (866) 870-6308 or by scanning the QR code below.



# THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Tuesday, June 13, 2023 • 6:30 p.m.

## THE CHORAL AND ORCHESTRAL PRELUDE (6:00 P.M.)

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”	arr. Arron Powell
“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”	arr. Mack Wilberg
“And Can It Be?”	Dan Forrest
“Psalm 100”	René Clausen
“Fairest Lord Jesus”	Derek Hakes/Craig Courtney
“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”	arr. Dan Forrest

## THE CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

## THE CHORAL INTROIT

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”	arr. Dan Forrest
* <i>Congregation joins on the last refrain.</i>	Words: Thomas Chisholm, 1923

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see:  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided— Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

## \* THE CALL TO WORSHIP • PSALM 90

*The Minister:* Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

*The People:* You return man to dust and say, “Return, O children of man!” For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.

*The Minister:* Teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

*The People:* Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children.

*All:* Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hand upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands! Amen! Let us worship God!

\* *Please stand as you are able.*

## \* THE HYMN OF PRAISE

“Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”

ST. ANNE

Words: Isaac Watts, 1719

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:

Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting you are God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone;  
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

The busy tribes of flesh and blood, with all their lives and cares,  
Are carried downward by your flood, and lost in foll’wing years.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all its sons away;  
They fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the op’ning day.

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come:  
O be our guard while troubles last, and our eternal home.

## \* THE PRAYER OF ADORATION

## \* THE ASCRIPTION OF PRAISE

FAITHFULNESS

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see:  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided—Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

## THE CONFESSION OF SIN

O Lord God, eternal and almighty Father, we confess and acknowledge unfeignedly before your holy majesty that we are poor sinners, conceived and born in iniquity and corruption, prone to do evil, incapable of any good, and that in our depravity we transgress your holy commandments without end or ceasing. We are grieved that we have offended you; and we condemn ourselves and our sins with true repentance, beseeching your grace to relieve our distress. O God and Father, most gracious and full of compassion, have mercy upon us in the name of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we pray, Amen. — *Communion Liturgy of John Calvin*

## THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. — *Romans 8:38-39*

## \* THE DOXOLOGY

LASST UNS ERFREUEN, arr. John Rutter

Words: St. Francis of Assisi, ca. 1225

Let all things their Creator bless, and worship him in humbleness, O praise him, alleluia!

Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, three in one,

O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

## \* THE STATEMENT OF FAITH • HEIDELBERG CATECHISM, LORD'S DAY 1

*The Minister:* What is your only comfort in life and in death?

*The People:* That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

*The Minister:* What must you know to live and die in the joy of this comfort?

*The People:* Three things: first, how great my sin and misery are; second, how I am set free from all my sins and misery; third, how I am to thank God for such deliverance.

## THE PRAYER OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. *Amen.*

# THE OFFERTORY

“Forevermore”

Dan Forrest, Quoting ST. ANNE  
Words: Susan Boersma

*Commissioned by Covenant Presbytery in honor of the 50th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA),  
Memphis, Tennessee, 2023, celebrating God’s continuing faithfulness to our denomination.*

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Word of God, the Cornerstone,  
Yesterday, today, forever, seated on his heav’nly throne.  
In this world that God created, broken by the fall of man,  
God remains the sure foundation, steadfast and unshakable, forevermore.

*Choir and Congregation:*

O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

God will not forget his promise—ever faithful to remain,  
Never to forsake or leave us, by our side both night and day.  
Our tomorrows hold no secrets that the Father does not know;  
We can trust him, ever working for his glory and our good, forevermore.

*Choir and Congregation:*

Under the shadow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Praise the author of Creation, of the world and all it holds;  
Word eternal, standing firm Our God is God forevermore.

*Choir and Congregation:*

O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,  
Be thou our guard while life shall last, and our eternal home.

Forevermore, Forevermore, Forevermore!

# THE WAYS TO GIVE

*Text GIVE to (866) 870-6308 or scan the QR code at the front of the worship booklet.*

# THE SCRIPTURE READING • LAMENTATIONS 3:19-24

*The Minister:* This is the Word of the Lord.

*The People:* Thanks be to God.

# THE SERMON • “THIS I CALL TO MIND”

Dr. Randy E. Thompson | Senior Pastor, First Presbyterian Church | Tuscumbia, Alabama

## THE CALL TO THE FEAST

“Rise Up, My Soul”

Alice Parker

Words: George Moses Horton, 1829

Hallelujah, Hallelujah! Rise up, my soul, and let us go up to the Gospel feast;  
Gird on the garment white as snow to join and be a guest.

Hallelujah, Hallelujah! Dost thou not hear the trumpet call for thee, my soul, for thee?  
Not only thee, my soul, but all may rise and enter free. Hallelujah, Hallelujah!

## THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

— *1 Corinthians 11:26*

THE ELEMENTS SERVED DURING THE LORD’S SUPPER TODAY ARE GLUTEN-FREE.

## THE MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

“There Is a Fountain (Gabriel’s Oboe)”

Karl Diggerness (Morricone)

arr. Arron Powell

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

arr. Dan Forrest

## \* THE HYMN OF RESPONSE

“For All the Saints”

SINE NOMINE

Words: William How, 1864, 1875

For all the saints who from their labors rest, who thee by faith before the world confessed,  
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might; thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;  
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light. Alleluia! Alleluia!

O may thy soldiers faithful, true, and bold, fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,  
And win with them the victor’s crown of gold. Alleluia! Alleluia!

The golden evening brightens in the west; soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest;  
Sweet is the calm of paradise the blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!

But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day; the saints triumphant rise in bright array;  
The King of glory passes on his way. Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth’s wide bounds, from ocean’s farthest coast,  
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,  
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia! Alleluia!

# THE CHORAL RESPONSE

“To the Lamb on the Throne”  
\* *Congregation joins on the last verse.*

Dan Forrest  
Words: Charles Wesley, 1744

Then let us adore and give him his right, all glory and pow’r, all wisdom and might,  
All honor and blessing with angels above, and thanks never ceasing and infinite love.

## \* THE BENEDICTION

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## WORSHIP LEADERS

Dr. Sean Michael Lucas, *Senior Pastor | Independent Presbyterian Church | Memphis, TN*  
Rev. Robert O. Browning, *Associate Pastor | Independent Presbyterian Church | Memphis, TN*  
Mr. James A. Brown, Jr., *Director of Worship and Music Ministries | Independent Presbyterian Church | Memphis, TN*  
Mrs. Jennifer P.K. Velázquez, *Interim Music Associate | Independent Presbyterian Church | Memphis, TN*  
Mr. R. Arron Powell, *Instrumental Music Coordinator | Independent Presbyterian Church | Memphis, TN*  
Mr. Thomas R. Horner, *Baritone Soloist | Independent Presbyterian Church | Memphis, TN*  
The General Assembly Choir, including members from the following PCA churches:  
Briarwood Presbyterian Church, *Birmingham, AL*  
Eastwood Presbyterian Church, *Montgomery, AL*  
Trinity Presbyterian Church, *Montgomery, AL*  
First Presbyterian Church, *Prattville, AL*  
Covenant Presbyterian Church, *Fort Smith, AR*  
Trinity Fellowship Church, *Sherwood, AR*  
Grace Presbyterian Church, *Washington, D.C.*  
Christ Covenant Church, *Hernando, MS*  
Pear Orchard Presbyterian Church, *Jackson, MS*  
Christ Presbyterian Church, *Olive Branch, MS*  
Covenant Presbyterian Church, *St. Louis, MO*  
Lookout Mountain Presbyterian Church, *Chattanooga, TN*  
Faith Presbyterian Church, *Goodlettsville, TN*  
Grace Community Church, *Memphis, TN*  
Independent Presbyterian Church, *Memphis, TN*  
Riveroaks Reformed Presbyterian Church, *Memphis, TN*  
Redeemer Fellowship Church, *Nashville, TN*  
Park Cities Presbyterian Church, *Dallas, TX*  
Denton Presbyterian Church, *Denton, TX*  
The Orchestra, including members of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra, contracted by Greg Luscombe

# THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Wednesday, June 14, 2023 • 4:45 p.m.

## \* CALL TO WORSHIP • FROM ISAIAH 40:28-31

*Leader:* Do you not know? Have you not heard?

*People:* The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth.

*Leader:* He will not grow tired or weary. And his understanding no one can fathom.

*People:* He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall.

*Leader:* But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles;

*People:* They will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. The Lord is the everlasting God, he will not grow tired or weary.

## \* INVOCATION

## \* SONG OF PRAISE

“O God beyond All Praising”

Lyrics: Michael Perry Music  
Music: Gustav Holst

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today  
And sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;  
For we can only wonder at every gift you send,  
At blessings without number and mercies without end:  
We lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,  
We honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.

Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,  
That we who know your favor may serve you as our king;  
And whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,  
We'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:  
To marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,  
And make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

For we can only wonder at every gift you send,  
At blessings without number and mercies without end:  
We lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,  
We honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.

## \* CONFESSION OF SIN • ADAPTED FROM PSALM 139

*Leader:* Father, you know us better than we know ourselves. You know when we sit down and when we get up.

*People:* You know when we go out and when we lie down to sleep. You understand our thoughts before we have them.

*Leader:* There is nowhere we can go to be apart from you. How could we hide our sin from you?

*People:* We confess that our hearts are plagued with sin. We have sought our own good over the good of others, and of your Kingdom. Forgive us.

*Leader:* We praise you, Lord, that knowing fully our sinful state you sent your Son, Jesus, to rescue us.

*People:* Amen.

## \* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. — *John 10:27-28*

## \* SONG OF ASSURANCE

“Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy”

Lyrics: Joseph Hart, 1759  
Music: Walker’s Southern Harmony

Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded, sick and sore,  
Jesus ready, stands to save you, full of pity, love and power.

Come, ye thirsty, come and welcome, God’s free bounty glorify,  
True belief and true repentance, every grace that brings you nigh.

Come, ye weary, heavy-laden, lost and ruined by the fall;  
If you tarry ‘til you’re better, you will never come at all.

*Refrain:*

I will arise and go to Jesus; he will embrace me in his arms  
In the arms of my dear Savior, oh, there are ten thousand charms.

Lo, the incarnate God ascended pleads the merit of his blood;  
Venture on him, venture wholly; let no other trust intrude.

*Refrain*

## \* SONG OF PREPARATION

“Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me”

Music and Lyrics: Jonny Robinson,  
Rich Thompson, and Michael Farren

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer. There is no more for heaven now to give.  
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom, my steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus for my life is wholly bound to his.  
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

The night is dark but I am not forsaken; for by my side, the Savior he will stay.  
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing for in my need, his power is displayed.  
To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me through the deepest valley he will lead.  
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven. The future sure, the price it has been paid;  
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon, and he was raised to overthrow the grave.

To this I hold, my sin has been defeated, Jesus now and ever is my plea.  
Oh the chains are released, I can sing: I am free! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

With every breath I long to follow Jesus, for he has said that he will bring me home;  
And day by day I know he will renew me until I stand with joy before the throne.

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus. All the glory evermore to him.  
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me! Yet not I, but through Christ in me!

## SCRIPTURE READING • EPHESIANS 1:18-23

## SERMON • “STRENGTH FOR TODAY”

Dr. J. Ligon Duncan III | CEO and Chancellor, Reformed Theological Seminary

## \* SONG OF SENDING

“Be Thou My Vision”

Ancient Irish Hymn

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; Naught be all else to me, save that thou art—  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night, Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my battle shield, sword for my fight; Be thou my dignity, thou my delight,  
Thou my soul’s shelter, thou my high tow’r: Raise thou me heav’n-ward, O Pow’r of my pow’r.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
Thou my great Father, and I thy true son; Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man’s empty praise, Thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
Thou and thou only, first in my heart, High king of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High king of heaven, my victory won, May I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heaven’s sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, Still be my vision, O ruler of all.

## \* BENEDICTION

Go now, that your walking and your waiting, your singing and suffering, the very fullness of your lives may declare the power of the King. Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen. — *from Revelation 7:12*

## WAYS TO GIVE

*Text GIVE to (866) 870-6308 or scan the QR code at the front of the worship booklet.*

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## WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Matt Howell, *Senior Pastor, Redeemer Presbyterian Church | Memphis, TN*

Dr. J. Ligon Duncan III, *CEO and Chancellor, Reformed Theological Seminary*

Rev. Ashley Dusenbery, *Senior Pastor, Grace Community Church | Cordova, TN*

Mr. Philip Himebook, *Music Director, Grace Community Church | Cordova, TN*

Mr. Stephen Gordon, *Worship Arts Director, Redeemer Presbyterian Church | Memphis, TN*

Ms. Alice Hasen, *Violin, Redeemer Presbyterian Church | Memphis, TN*

Ms. Samantha Long, *Bass Guitar, Redeemer Presbyterian Church | Memphis, TN*

Mr. Danny Banks, *Drums, Redeemer Presbyterian Church | Memphis, TN*

Mr. Tony Thomas, *Keys, Redeemer Presbyterian Church | Memphis, TN*

Ms. Whitney Winkler, *Vocals, Redeemer Presbyterian Church | Memphis, TN*

# THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Thursday, June 15, 2023 • 7:30 p.m.

## \* CALL TO WORSHIP • PSALM 145:1-7, 13

*Elder:* I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever. Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.

*People:* The Lord is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works.

*Elder:* One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

*People:* The Lord is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works.

*Elder:* They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness. They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

*All:* The Lord is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works.

## \* HYMN OF PRAISE

“And Can It Be That I Should Gain”

Lyrics: Charles Wesley  
Music: arr. Wendell Kimbrough

And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior's blood?  
Died he for me, who caused his pain! For me, who him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?  
Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me!

He left his Father's throne above, so free, so infinite his grace!  
Humbled himself, so great his love, and bled for all his chosen race.  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free; for, O my God, it found out me.  
Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me!

Long my imprisoned spirit lay fast bound in sin and nature's night;  
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray; I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;  
My chains fell off, my heart was free; I rose, went forth, and followed thee.  
Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me!

No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in him, is mine!  
Alive in him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine,  
Bold I approach the eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ, my own  
Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me!

## \* PRAYER OF ADORATION AND INVOCATION

\* Please stand as you are able.

## \* CORPORATE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH • ADAPTED FROM EPHESIANS 2:14-22

*Elder:* Church, what confidence do we have in the Lord Jesus Christ?

*All:* Jesus Christ himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. And he came and preached peace to us who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him, we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then we are no longer strangers and aliens, but we are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him, we also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

## \* HYMN

“The Church’s One Foundation”

Lyrics: Samuel J. Stone, 1866

Music: Brian Moss

The church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;  
She is his new creation by water and the Word:  
From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;  
With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

’Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,  
She waits the consummation of peace forevermore;  
Till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,  
And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Elect from every nation, yet one o’er all the earth,  
Her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
One holy Name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
And to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

Yet she on earth hath union with God, the Three in One,  
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:  
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,  
Like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

[Know] this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. They will say, “Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.” For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God... But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. — 2 Peter 3:3-5, 7

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

O God, holy is your wisdom, power, mercy, ways, works; how can I stand before you with my numberless and aggravated offenses? I have often loved darkness, observed lying vanities, forsaken your given mercies, trampled underfoot your beloved Son, mocked your providences, flattered you with my lips, and broken your covenant. It is because of your compassion that I am not consumed. Lead me to repentance and save me from despair. Let me come to you renouncing myself, but hoping in the grace that flows even to the chief of sinners. At the cross may I contemplate the evil of sin and abhor it; look on him whom I pierced as One slain for me and by me. May I never despise his death by fearing its efficacy for my salvation. May my soul rest in you, O immortal and transcendent One! Revealed are you in the person and work of your Son, the friend of sinners, our Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be his name. *Amen.*

# SILENT CONFESSION

## \* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS THROUGH CHRIST

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance... [And] according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. — *2 Peter 3:8-9, 13-14*

## \* HYMN OF REJOICING

“Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery”

Music and Lyrics: Matt Boswell,  
Matt Papa, and Michael Bleecker

Come behold the wondrous mystery 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 mystery: He, the perfect Son of Man,  
In his living, in his suffering 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 mystery, 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 mystery, 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 deliverance, how unwavering our hope.  
Christ in power resurrected as we will be when he comes.

## PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. *Amen.*

## SCRIPTURE READING • ISAIAH 28:14-22

*Elder:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God!

## SERMON • “SCOFFER AND THE STONE”

Rev. Les Newsom | Lead Pastor, Christ Presbyterian Church | Oxford, MS

### \* HYMN OF RESPONSE

“We Will Feast in the House of Zion”

Music and Lyrics: Joshua Moore  
and Sandra McCracken

*Chorus:*

We will feast in the house of Zion, we will sing with our hearts restored.  
“He has done great things,” we will say together. We will feast and weep no more.

We will not be burned by the fire; he is the Lord our God.  
We are not consumed by the flood, upheld, protected, gathered up.

*Chorus*

In the dark of night, before the dawn, my soul, be not afraid;  
For the promised morning, oh how long? Oh God of Jacob, be my strength.

*Chorus*

Every vow we’ve broken and betrayed, you are the faithful one;  
And from the garden to the grave, Bind us together, bring shalom.

*Chorus*

### \* BENEDICTION

### WAYS TO GIVE

*Text GIVE to (866) 870-6308 or scan the QR code at the front of the worship booklet.*

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### WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Les Newsom, *Lead Pastor, Christ Presbyterian Church | Oxford, MS*

Rev. Brian Sorgenfrei, *Associate Pastor, Christ Presbyterian Church | Oxford, MS*

Rev. Tyler Kenyon, *Senior Minister, Christ Presbyterian Church of Fayette County | Somerville, TN*

Mr. Randall Bryant, *Worship Arts Director, Christ Presbyterian Church | Oxford, MS*

Ms. Denease Bishop, *Vocals, Christ Presbyterian Church | Oxford, MS*

Ms. Noel Childress, *Acoustic Guitar, Christ Presbyterian Church | Oxford, MS*

Ms. Amanda Fliflet, *Percussion, Christ Presbyterian Church | Oxford, MS*

Mr. Erik Hom, *Violin, Christ Presbyterian Church | Oxford, MS*

Mr. Phil Maynard, *Bass Guitar, Christ Presbyterian Church | Oxford, MS*

Mr. Starkey Morgan, *Cello, Christ Presbyterian Church | Oxford, MS*

Ms. Molly Singletary, *Vocals, Christ Presbyterian Church | Oxford, MS*

Mr. Jonathan Watts, *Mandolin, Christ Presbyterian Church | Oxford, MS*

Mr. John Wilson, *Violin, Christ Presbyterian Church | Oxford, MS*