

# ORDER FOR THE PUBLIC WORSHIP of GOD

March 8, 2015



# 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.

In our corporate worship, we take seriously the command to "devote [ourselves] to the public reading of Scripture" (I Timothy 4:13). Followers of Jesus regularly give their attention to God's Word. In fact, to really profit from the public reading, we must prepare our hearts in advance to hear God's Word.

The content of our Lord's Day services proves our conviction that the Scriptures are profitable to make us "wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus." They equip us to live in a manner pleasing to our Lord (II Timothy 3:14-17).

Thus, you will observe that our Scriptural call to worship affirms God's praiseworthy character and deeds. The songs and hymns that we sing are full of the promises and truths of God's Word. Our prayers of adoration, confession, thanksgiving, intercession, and commitment are all laced with Scripture. Our assurance of pardon contains a scripture that emphasizes God's forgiveness. The sermon serves as an exposition of a specific biblical text. Lastly, the benediction contains a Scripture text that the pastor uses to call down God's blessing on His people.

Let it be said of us as it was said of John Bunyan of old: "Prick him anywhere, his blood is Bibline. The very essence of the Bible flows from him. He cannot speak without quoting a text, for his very soul is full of the Word of God."

## Exalt God's Wondrous Love

INSTRUMENTAL PRELUDE: "O For the Wings of a Dove" ..... Felix Mendelssohn

Brittney Patterson, flute

CHORAL MEDITATION: "Wondrous Love"......arr. Michael Sitton

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, What wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, To God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb, Who is the great I AM,
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
While millions join the theme, I will sing!

When I was sinking down, sinking down, when I was sinking down, sinking down, when I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown, Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul, Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be, And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on, And through eternity, I'll sing on!

The Westminster Singers (8:15), The Chancel Choir (11:00) Gabriel C. Statom, Director of Music 

 †HYMN OF CHRIST'S LOVE:
 No. 81 "O Love of God, How Strong and True".
 JERUSALEM

 †EPISTLE LESSON: Ephesians 3:14-21
 Ginni Fischer (8:15)

 Blanche Tosh (11:00)

..... David A. Bowen

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named,

that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,

so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,

and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

♦CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE ...... JERUSALEM

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. O love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and true and strong! It shall forevermore endure — the saints' and all the angels' songs.

**†PRAYER OF ADORATION** 

CALL TO WORSHIP .....

# Enjoy God's Amazing Grace

### CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and gracious Father,
the highest court in the universe
has declared us completely forgiven,
totally accepted, and forever loved.
Yet we plead Your forgiveness
for not living in the security of Your love.
We confess that too often fear and pride
drive all that we are and do.
Disappointments and difficulties
often cause us to doubt Your love and care.
Grant us renewed faith to trust Your loving heart,
for we pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON

 †HYMN OF ASSURANCE: No. 460 "Amazing Grace!"
 AMAZING GRACE

 stanzas 1-4
 AMAZING GRACE

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS . . . . . . . . . Michael G. Stokke

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: "By Gracious Powers"................. John Ferguson Text by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered, And confidently waiting come what may; We know that God is with us night and morning, And never fails to greet us each new day.

Yet is this heart by its old foe tormented, Still evil days bring burdens hard to bear; Oh, give our frightened souls the sure salvation, For which, O Lord, You taught us to prepare.

And when this cup You give is filled to brimming With bitter suffering, hard to understand, We take it thankfully and without trembling Out of so good and so beloved a hand.

Yet when again in this same world You give us The joy we had, the brightness of Your sun, We shall remember all the days we lived through And our whole life shall then be Yours alone.

By gracious powers so faithfully protected, So quietly, so wonderfully near. I'll live each day in hope, with You beside me, And go with You through every coming year.

#### \*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE AMAZING GRACE

And when this flesh and heart shall fail, and mortal life shall cease, I shall possess within the veil a life of joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we've first begun.

#### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION**

#### **†**GREETINGS

#### RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (11:00)

John Adams, Luis Aponte, Ben Beaird, Kelsey Bierman, Lee Bowen, Brandon Byrd, KayLee Carman, AJ Crowley, Mary Taylor and Michael Edwards, Amanda and Justin Farmer, Katherine Flinn, Neal Frazier, Kevin Fukala, Joel Gillihan, Hollie Gribble, Philip James, Elizabeth and Joel Jones, Jay Jones, Charity Lawrence, Nate Mahrt, Ruth Mengistu, Hunter Meriwether, Sarah and Link Mustin, Kathy Priestley, Sarah and Asa Reynolds, John Rodney, Monica Specht, Jennifer and Ross Stone, Claire Warlick, Elizabeth Webb, Ryan Williams, Marilee and Cliff Williams

#### 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.

# EMBRACE GOD'S FINAL PROPHET

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 There Is a Boy Here Sanders L. Willson

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

♦SENDING HYMN: No. 598 "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"..... CWM RHONDDA

**†BENEDICTION** 

*<b>¢CONGREGATIONAL THREE-FOLD AMEN* 

♦ Indicates congregation standing CCLI License #252778