



**REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**August 24, 2025**  
**9:30 am Worship Service**

**Reformed Presbyterian Church** exists to be a stream of God's refreshing grace for people from all walks of life.

**Today's Speaker:** Dr. David Kieffer, Senior Pastor

**Worship Leader:** Rusty Rutter, Ruling Elder

**Organist:** Courtney Brooke

**PRELUDE**

*Dwell With Us, O Lord/ J. Pachelbel*  
*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing/ arr. J. Innes*

**WORDS OF GREETING**

**WE APPROACH GOD**

IN WORD

Psalm 100 (ESV)

**Leader:** Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!

**People:** Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Leader: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

People: **For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.**

IN PRAYER

**\*WE PRAISE OUR GOD**

HYMN OF PRAISE 235

*All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

**\*WE CONFESS OUR SIN**

Based on Matthew 6:22-23

Leader: The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

Unison: **Holy God, we confess that we are prone to interpret situations through a dark lens. Rather than trust You, we grumble. Rather than love others, we view them as objects. We treat people as though they exist for our consumption or like they are obstacles to our agendas. Please forgive us. Lord Jesus, you are light in the darkness. Though tempted in every way as we are, your eyes remained pure, leaving your body full of light. Then this body hung lifeless on the cross due to the darkness of our sin. We are indeed debtors to your mercy. Holy Spirit, help us to behold the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. As we look to Jesus, who gazes upon us with redeeming love, help us see ourselves and others through His eyes. Amen.**

**\*WE ARE ASSURED OF GOD'S GRACE** 2 Corin. 4:6-7 (ESV)

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

Jacob Eshbach

**\*WE EXALT OUR LORD**

WORSHIP SONGS

*Lift High the Name of Jesus  
Blessed Be Your Name  
Thank You, Jesus, for the Blood*

**WE GREET ONE ANOTHER**  
CONGREGATIONAL GREETING  
WELCOME TO VISITORS

**WE SEEK GOD'S FACE**

Prayers of God's People

**WE OFFER OUR GIFTS**

OFFERING/ OFFERTORY

*Be Thou My Vision*

Josh Falk, Tom Nicholas, Fred Thomas, Ed Voigt

**WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 4:1-34 (ESV)

Christina Martin, Reader

Again he began to teach beside the sea. And a very large crowd gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat in it on the sea, and the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. <sup>2</sup> And he was teaching them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: <sup>3</sup> "Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup> And as he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it. <sup>5</sup> Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and immediately it sprang up, since it had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup> And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away. <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. <sup>8</sup> And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold." <sup>9</sup> And he said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

<sup>10</sup> And when he was alone, those around him with the twelve asked him about the parables. <sup>11</sup> And he said to them, "To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables, <sup>12</sup> so that

"they may indeed see but not perceive,  
and may indeed hear but not understand,  
lest they should turn and be forgiven."

<sup>13</sup> And he said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? <sup>14</sup> The sower sows the word.

<sup>15</sup> And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. <sup>16</sup> And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy.

<sup>17</sup> And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. <sup>18</sup> And others are the ones sown among

thorns. They are those who hear the word,<sup>19</sup> but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.<sup>20</sup> But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.”

<sup>21</sup> And he said to them, “Is a lamp brought in to be put under a basket, or under a bed, and not on a stand?<sup>22</sup> For nothing is hidden except to be made manifest; nor is anything secret except to come to light.<sup>23</sup> If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.”<sup>24</sup> And he said to them, “Pay attention to what you hear: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you.<sup>25</sup> For to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.”

<sup>26</sup> And he said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground.<sup>27</sup> He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how.<sup>28</sup> The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear.<sup>29</sup> But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”

<sup>30</sup> And he said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it?<sup>31</sup> It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth,<sup>32</sup> yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

<sup>33</sup> With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it.<sup>34</sup> He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

SERMON

*The Parables of Jesus*  
The Gospel of Mark Series  
Dr. David Kieffer

**\*WE GO FORTH TO SERVE**

HYMN OF RESPONSE **455**

\*WORDS OF PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

*And Can It Be That I Should Gain*

## SONG LYRICS

### ***235 All Glory, Laud and Honor***

All glory, laud, and honor, to thee, Redeemer, King,  
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!  
Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal Son,  
who in the Lord's name comest, the King and blessed One!

The people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went;  
our praise and prayer and anthems before thee we present.  
To thee, before thy passion, they sang their hymns of praise;  
to thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise.

Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring,  
who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King!  
All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King,  
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!

*All Glory, Laud and Honor*, Words by Theodulph of Orleans, Trad. by John Mason Neale, Music by  
Melchior Teschner © Public Domain CCLI License # 79597

***Lift High the Name of Jesus***

Lift high the name of Jesus Of Jesus our King  
Make known the power of His grace The beauty of His peace  
Remember how His mercy reached And we cried out to Him  
He lifted us to solid ground To freedom from our sin

Oh sing my soul And tell all He's done  
'Til the earth and heavens are filled with His glory

Lift high the name of Jesus Of Jesus our Lord  
His pow'r in us is greater than Is greater than this world  
To share the reason for our hope To serve with love and grace  
That all who see Him shine through us Might bring the Father praise

Oh sing my soul And tell all He's done  
'Til the earth and heavens are filled with His glory

Lift high the name of Jesus Of Jesus our Light  
No other name on earth can save Can raise a soul to life  
He opens up our eyes to see The harvest He has grown  
We labor in His fields of grace As He leads sinners home

Oh sing my soul And tell all He's done  
'Til the earth and heavens are filled with His glory

***Blessed Be Your Name***

Blessed Be Your Name In the land that is plentiful  
Where Your streams of abundance flow  
Blessed be Your name

Blessed Be Your name When I'm found in the desert place  
Though I walk through the wilderness  
Blessed Be Your name

Every blessing You pour out, I'll Turn back to praise  
When the darkness closes in, Lord Still I will say

Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be Your name  
Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be Your glorious name

Blessed be Your name When the sun's shining down on me  
When the world's 'all as it should be' Blessed be Your name

Blessed be Your name On the road marked with suffering  
Though there's pain in the offering Blessed be Your name

Every blessing You pour out I'll Turn back to praise  
When the darkness closes in, Lord Still I will say

Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be Your name  
Blessed be the name of the Lord  
Blessed be Your glorious name

You give and take away, You give and take away  
My heart will choose to say Lord, blessed be Your name

God you give and take away Oh you give and take away  
My heart will choose to say Lord, blessed be Your name

Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be Your name  
Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be Your glorious name

You give and take away God give and take away  
My heart will choose to say Lord, blessed be Your name

Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be Your name  
Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be Your glorious name, oh

Songwriters: Beth Redman / Matt Redman Blessed Be Your Name lyrics © Capitol Christian Music Group

***Thank You, Jesus, for the Blood***

I was a wretch; I remember who I was.  
I was lost, I was blind, I was running out of time.

Sin separated, the breach was far too wide,  
but from the far side of the chasm,  
You held me in your sight.

So You made a way across the great divide,  
Left behind Heaven's throne to build it here inside.

There at the cross You paid the debt I owed.  
Broke my chains, freed my soul,  
For the first time I had hope.

Thank you, Jesus, for the blood applied.  
Thank you, Jesus, it has washed me white.  
Thank you, Jesus, You have saved my life,  
brought me from the darkness into glorious light.

You took my place, laid inside my tomb of sin.  
You were buried for three days,  
but then You walked right out again.

And now death has no sting and life has no end  
for I have been transformed by the blood of the Lamb.

Thank you, Jesus, for the blood applied.  
Thank you, Jesus, it has washed me white.  
Thank you, Jesus, You have saved my life,  
brought me from the darkness into glorious light.

There is nothing stronger than the wonder working power of the blood,  
the blood  
that calls us sons and daughters.  
We are ransomed by our Father through the blood,  
the blood (repeat)

Thank you, Jesus, for the blood applied.  
Thank you, Jesus, it has washed me white.  
Thank you, Jesus, You have saved my life,  
brought me from the darkness into glorious light.



**455 *And Can It Be That I Should Gain***

And can it be that I should gain  
An int'rest 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?

'Tis mystery all! Th'Immortal dies:  
who can explore His strange design?  
In vain the firstborn seraph tries to sound the depths of love divine.  
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,  
let angel minds inquire no more.  
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 quick'ning 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 th'eternal throne,  
and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.  
Amazing love! how can it be  
That thou, my God, shouldst die for me!

*And Can It Be That I Should Gain*, Words by Charles Wesley, Music by Thomas Campbell ©Public Domain CCLI License # 79597