



Reformed Presbyterian Church

9:30 am Worship Service

February 5, 2023

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

TODAY'S SPEAKER: Dr. Tim Witmer

Worship Leader: Chuck Felak, Ruling Elder

Organist: Courtney Abbott-Fogie

Choir Director: Rachel Klein

PRELUDE *Praise Waits for Thee in Zion (Hymn 372)/ arr. G. Young*
Variations on "All Creatures of Our God and King" (Hymn 115)/ T. Bohlert

WORDS OF GREETING

WE APPROACH GOD

IN WORD

Psalm 24:7-10 (ESV)

Leader: Lift up your heads, O gates!

People: **And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.**

Leader: Who is this King of glory?

People: **The LORD, strong and mighty,
the LORD, mighty in battle!**

Leader: Lift up your heads, O gates!

People: **And lift them up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.**

Leader: Who is this King of glory?

People: **The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory!**

IN PRAYER

***WE PRAISE OUR GOD**

HYMN OF PRAISE 38

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

***WE CONFESS OUR FAITH**

The Apostles' Creed

Leader: Christian, what do you believe?

People: **I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered
under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died,
and was buried; he descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the
right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living
and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church, the communion of
saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection
of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

***WE EXALT OUR LORD**

WORSHIP SONGS

*Echo Holy
Father, My Shelter
Lord I Need You*

WELCOME TO ALL

CONGREGATIONAL GREETING

WELCOME TO VISITORS

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

OFFERING/ OFFERTORY

Hymnal Choir 600 *He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought!*

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Nehemiah 5 (ESV)

SERMON

Rebuilding for His Glory...With Compassion

Rebuilding for His Glory: A Study of the Book of Nehemiah

Dr. Tim Witmer

WE COME TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PREPARATION

THE INVITATION

THE BREAD AND THE CUP

How Deep the Father's Love

Please Note: An elder is available in the rear of the sanctuary during communion to pray with you regarding any needs or issues in your life.

WE REMEMBER THOSE IN NEED

THE LOVE OFFERING/CLOSING HYMN **461**

Not What My Hands Have Done

*WORDS OF PEACE

Numbers 6:24-26 (NIV)

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.

DISMISSAL OF CHILDREN TO MUSIC ROOM AND SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR (4 years through 5th grade)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

Take the Name of Jesus with You/ arr. R. Parks

Our church is currently searching for a new Pastor. In the meantime, our pulpit supply is being provided by guest ministers.

Today's speaker is: **Rev. Dr. Timothy Witmer:** Tim Witmer grew up in New Holland and served in pastoral ministry in the PCA for 42 years, most recently at St. Stephen Reformed in New Holland. He also served on the faculty at Westminster Seminary for 20 years. He is the author of three books including *The Shepherd Leader*. Tim and Barb live in Terre Hill and have three grown children and seven grandchildren.

This week

Visit our website www.ephratarpc.com

for a detailed listing and complete schedule



Today	9:30 am	Worship Service
	11:00 am	Sunday school; Adult classes, 11:10 am
Tues.	5:30 pm	Church Fellowship Night
	6:30 pm	Prayer Meeting
	6:30 pm	Youth Group
Wed.	7:00 pm	Deacon's Meeting, in the narthex classroom
	7:00 pm	Women's Bible Study, at RPC
Thurs.	9:30 am	Women's Bible Study, at Alison Carzola's house
	6:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Fri.		Church office will be closed Friday
Sat.	11:00 am	Secret Sister Reveal Potluck Brunch
Next Sun.	9:30 am	Worship Service
	11:00 am	Sunday school; Adult classes, 11:10 am

Family Matters for Prayer and Praise

Ann Steen died on Sunday January 29. A funeral service will be held on Sat., February 25 at 10:00 am. A luncheon will follow. All are invited to attend.

June Lehn is at Maple Farms for rehab following knee replacement surgery and is fighting an infection.

Vernon Sweigart is recovering from hip replacement surgery on January 12. He and Diana wish to thank everyone for the prayers, cards and calls.

Ray Weigand is home recovering from an infection and knee surgery. Ray and Shirley thank you for the continuing prayers!

Lori Weaver's father, Jim Whitacre, died on January 10. *"We are so thankful for all of the outpouring of love and support regarding my father's death through prayers, cards, and other acts of kindness that the RPC family has shown us during this very difficult time. We appreciate continued prayers in the days ahead."*

Matt Hildebrand went to the Rothman Institute on January 23. Testing will continue for another few weeks.

Announcements

Supper for Six: New groups are forming for March through May! Find out more and sign up in the narthex by February 26.

Bake Sale: Our youth raised \$400 from their Bake Sale last weekend! The cost for Breakaway Retreat is now \$65 per person instead of \$100. *Thank you!!!*

Women's Bible study: Wednesdays, 7:00 pm at RPC and Thursdays, 9:30 am at Alison Carzola's house.

2022 Giving Statements are available from the counting team in the narthex before and after the service today. Please do not file your 2022 tax returns before receiving your recorded giving statement for 2022. If you already received your statement and are missing the non-tax deductible donations, updated letters are now available from the counting team.

The 2023 Offering Envelopes have not arrived yet; please continue to use the generic envelopes found in the narthex. Include your number if you know it.



Secret Sister Reveal Potluck Brunch

February 11, 11:00 am-1:00 pm on the 3rd floor

Bring your favorite brunch item to share.

All ladies are welcome. Sign up today.

Bring your final Secret Sister gift to the reveal brunch.

Contact Amy Weaver with any questions.

*2023 Secret Sister forms are available in the narthex
and will also be available at the brunch.*



Nehemiah sermon series: “REBUILDING FOR HIS GLORY”

Jan. 8	Nehemiah 1	"...With Faith"
Jan. 15	Nehemiah 2	"...With Commitment"
Jan. 22	Nehemiah 3	"...With Unity"
Jan. 29	Nehemiah 4	"...With Courage"
Feb. 5	Nehemiah 5	"...With Compassion"
Feb. 12	Nehemiah 6-7	"...With Perseverance"

Song Lyrics

38 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great Name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise, Words by Walter Chalmers Smith, Music Traditional Welsh
hymn melody, ©Public Domain CCLI License # 79597

Echo Holy

Gathered at the highest throne, Welcomed by a melody
An anthem I have always known, A song that's always been in me
All glory and honor, dominion and power to You

A million angels fall Face down on the floor
All to echo "Holy is the Lord."
My heart can't help but sing with all of heaven roar
forever echo "Holy is the Lord." forever echo "Holy is the Lord."

Memorized by every heart, Written in eternity
Every lifted voice a part joining in the symphony
All glory and honor, dominion and power to You
All wisdom and wonder belong to no other but You

A million angels fall Face down on the floor
All to echo "Holy is the Lord."
My heart can't help but sing with all of heaven roar
forever echo "Holy is the Lord." forever echo "Holy is the Lord."
forever echo "Holy is the Lord."

Standing at the end of time, There before the throne of grace
Majesty before my eyes, I'll let it take my breath away

A million angels fall Face down on the floor
All to echo "Holy is the Lord."
My heart can't help but sing
with all of heaven roar
forever echo "Holy is the Lord."
forever echo "Holy is the Lord."

Father, My Shelter

Father, my shelter,
You are my shield in the storm
Jesus, my master,
Lead me to the rock above the flood

I will praise You, O God,
for the rest of my days
Declare Your lovingkindness
in the morning
Hear my cry, O God,
when my heart is faint,
The Rock of my strength,
my stronghold is You.

You're a tower of strength
when I face the enemy
Let me dwell in Your refuge forever
Rise above it all
in the shelter of Your wings
My hope is in You,
You have heard my cry

Tag: You are the Rock above the flood!

Lord I Need You

Lord I come, I confess
Bowing here I find my rest
And without You I fall apart
You're the one that guides my heart

Lord I need You oh I need You
Ev'ry hour I need You
My one defense my righteousness
Oh God how I need You

Where sin runs deep Your grace is more
Where grace is found is where You are
And where You are Lord I am free
Holiness is Christ in me
Where You are Lord I am free
Holiness is Christ in me

Lord I need You oh I need You
Ev'ry hour I need You
My one defense my righteousness
Oh God how I need You

So teach my song to rise to You
When temptation comes my way
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You
Jesus You're my hope and stay
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You
Jesus You're my hope and stay

Lord I need You oh I need You
Ev'ry hour I need You
My one defense my righteousness
Oh God how I need You

My one defense my righteousness
Oh God how I need You

I need Thee every hour, Most gracious Lord.
No tender voice like Thine Can peace afford

I need Thee, O I need Thee
Every hour I need Thee
O bless me now my Savior, I come to Thee

I need Thee every hour
Most gracious Lord
No tender voice like Thine
Can peace afford
I need Thee O I need Thee
Every hour I need Thee
O bless me now my Savior
I come to Thee

I need Thee every hour
In joy or pain
Come quickly and abide
Or life is vain
I need Thee O I need Thee
Every hour I need Thee
O bless me now my Savior
I come to Thee

I need Thee every hour
Most Holy One
O make me Thine indeed
Thou blessed Son
I need Thee O I need Thee
Every hour I need Thee
O bless me now my Savior
I come to Thee

How Deep the Father's Love

How deep the father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure,
That he should give his only Son,
And make a wretch his treasure.

How great the pain of searing loss,
The father turns his face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen one,
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon the cross,
My sin upon his shoulders,
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.

It was my sin that held him there
Until it was accomplished.
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast of anything
No gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.

Why should I gain from his reward?
I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart,
His wounds have paid my ransom.

461 *Not What My Hands Have Done*

Not what my hands have done can save my guilty soul;
Not what my toiling flesh has borne can make my spirit whole.
Not what I feel or do can give me peace with God;
Not all my prayers and sighs and tears can bear my awful load.

Thy work alone, O Christ, can ease this weight of sin;
Thy blood alone, O Lamb of God, can give me peace within.
Thy love to me, O God, not mine, O Lord, to Thee,
Can rid me of this dark unrest, And set my spirit free.

Thy grace alone, O God, to me can pardon speak.
Thy pow'r alone, O Son of God, can this sore bondage break. No other
work, save thine, no other blood will do; no strength, save that which is
divine, can bear me safely through.

I bless the Christ of God; I rest on love divine;
And with unfalt'ring lip and heart I call this Savior mine.
His cross dispels each doubt; I bury in His tomb
Each thought of unbelief and fear, each ling'ring shade of gloom.

I praise the God of grace; I trust His truth and might;
He calls me His, I call Him mine, My God, my joy and light.
'Tis He Who saveth me, and freely pardon gives;
I love because He loveth me, I live because He lives.

Scripture Reading

Nehemiah 5 (ESV)

Now there arose a great outcry of the people and of their wives against their Jewish brothers. ² For there were those who said, "With our sons and our daughters, we are many. So let us get grain, that we may eat and keep alive." ³ There were also those who said, "We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards, and our houses to get grain because of the famine." ⁴ And there were those who said, "We have borrowed money for the king's tax on our fields and our vineyards. ⁵ Now our flesh is as the flesh of our brothers, our children are as their children. Yet we are forcing our sons and our daughters to be slaves, and some of our daughters have already been enslaved, but it is not in our power to help it, for other men have our fields and our vineyards."

⁶ I was very angry when I heard their outcry and these words. ⁷ I took counsel with myself, and I brought charges against the nobles and the officials. I said to them, "You are exacting interest, each from his brother." And I held a great assembly against them ⁸ and said to them, "We, as far as we are able, have bought back our Jewish brothers who have been sold to the nations, but you even sell your brothers that they may be sold to us!" They were silent and could not find a word to say. ⁹ So I said, "The thing that you are doing is not good. Ought you not to walk in the fear of our God to prevent the taunts of the nations our enemies? ¹⁰ Moreover, I and my brothers and my servants are lending them money and grain. Let us abandon this exacting of interest. ¹¹ Return to them this very day their fields, their vineyards, their olive orchards, and their houses, and the percentage of money, grain, wine, and oil that you have been exacting from them." ¹² Then they said, "We will restore these and require nothing from them. We will do as you say." And I called the priests and made them swear to do as they had promised. ¹³ I also shook out the fold of my garment and said, "So may God shake out every man from his house and from his labor who does not keep this promise. So may he be shaken out and emptied." And all the assembly said "Amen" and praised the LORD. And the people did as they had promised.

¹⁴ Moreover, from the time that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year to the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes the king, twelve years, neither I nor my brothers ate the food allowance of the governor. ¹⁵ The former governors who were before me laid heavy burdens on the people and took from them for their daily ration forty shekels of silver. Even their servants lorded it over the people. But I did not do so, because of the fear of God. ¹⁶ I also persevered in the work on this wall, and we acquired no land, and all my servants were gathered there for the work. ¹⁷ Moreover, there were at my table 150 men, Jews and officials, besides those who came to us from the nations that were around us. ¹⁸ Now what was prepared at my expense for each day was one ox and six choice sheep and birds, and every ten days all kinds of wine in abundance. Yet for all this I did not demand the food allowance of the governor, because the service was too heavy on this people. ¹⁹ Remember for my good, O my God, all that I have done for this people.