



**Reformed Presbyterian Church**

**9:30 am Worship Service**

**May 14, 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, Interim Pastor

Worship Leader: Donn Youndt, Ruling Elder

**PRELUDES**

*Prayer/ G. F. Handel*

*I Sing the Mighty Power of God/ arr. E. Broughton*

**WORDS OF GREETING**

**WE APPROACH GOD**

IN WORD

Psalm 150 (ESV)

Leader: Praise the Lord!

**People: Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens.**

Leader: Praise him for his acts of power;

**People: Praise him for his surpassing greatness.**

Leader: Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,

**People: Praise him with the harp and lyre,**

Leader: Praise him with timbrel and dancing,

**People: Praise him with the strings and pipe,**

Leader: Praise him with the clash of cymbals,

**People: Praise him with resounding cymbals.**

Leader: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

**People: Praise the Lord.**

#### IN PRAYER

#### **\*WE PRAISE OUR GOD**

HYMN OF PRAISE 345 *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*

#### **\*WE CONFESS OUR FAITH** Heidelberg Catechism Q.#1

Leader: What is your only comfort in life and death?

**People: That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father, not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation.**

**Therefore, by his Holy Spirit he also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for him.**

#### **\*WE EXALT OUR LORD**

WORSHIP SONGS

*May the Peoples Praise You  
Creation Sings  
Shout to the Lord*

#### **WE GREET ONE ANOTHER**

DISMISSAL OF CHILDREN TO CHILDREN'S WORSHIP  
(4 years old to 1<sup>st</sup> grade)

CONGREGATIONAL GREETING

WELCOME TO VISITORS

#### **WE SEEK GOD'S FACE**

Prayers of God's People

#### **WE OFFER OUR GIFTS**

OFFERING/ OFFERTORY *How Majestic is Your Name/ arr. L. Smith*

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Nehemiah 12 (ESV)

*SERMON*

*Rebuilding for His Glory...with Celebration*

Dr. Tim Witmer

## \*WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

HYMN OF RESPONSE **354** *Jesus Christ, Our Sure Foundation*

\*WORDS OF PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

*Praise to the Father/ F. Ritter*

### Sermon series

## “REBUILDING FOR HIS GLORY”

*A Study of the Book of Nehemiah*

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"
April 23	Nehemiah 8	"...With Truth"
April 30	Nehemiah 9	"...With Repentance (1)"
May 7	Nehemiah 10-11	"...With Repentance (2)"
Today	Nehemiah 12	"...With Celebration"
May 21	Nehemiah 13	"...With Consecration"

Our church is currently searching for a new Pastor. In the meantime, we are pleased to welcome Dr. Tim Witmer as our interim pastor and Moderator of Session. He is serving us part-time. Pastor Tim's email is: [tim@ephratarpc.com](mailto:tim@ephratarpc.com), and his phone number is 610-733-1659.

Today's speaker: **Rev. Dr. Tim Witmer, Interim Pastor.** Pastor Tim 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.

## Song Lyrics

### 345 *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*

Glorious things of Thee are spoken,  
Zion, city of our God;  
He whose word cannot be broken,  
formed Thee for His own abode.  
on the Rock of Ages founded,  
what can shake Thy sure repose?  
With salvation's walls surrounded,  
Thou may'st smile at all Thy foes.

See, the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love,  
well supply Thy sons and daughters and all fear of want remove.  
who can faint while such a river ever flows  
their thirst to assuage?  
grace, which like the Lord, the giver,  
never fails from age to age.

Round each habitation hov'ring, see the cloud and fire appear  
for a glory and a cov'ring, showing that the Lord is near.  
thus deriving from their banner light by night and shade by day,  
safe they feed upon the manna  
which He gives them when they pray.

Savior, if of Zion's city I, through grace, a member am,  
let the world deride or pity, I will glory in Thy name:  
fading is the worldling's pleasure,  
all his boasted pomp and show;  
solid joys and lasting treasure none but Zion's children know.

*Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken*, words by John Newton, music by Franz Joseph Haydn © Public Domain

*May the Peoples Praise You*

You have called us out of darkest night Into Your glorious light  
That we may sing the wonders of The risen Christ

May our every breath retell the grace That broke into our strife  
With boundless love and deepest joy With endless life

May the peoples praise You, Let the nations be glad  
All Your blessing comes That we may praise  
May praise the Name of Jesus

All the earth is Yours and all within Each harvest is Your own  
And from Your hand we give to You To make Christ known

May the seeds of mercy grow in us For those who have not heard  
May songs of praise build lives of grace To spread Your Word

May the peoples praise You, Let the nations be glad  
All Your blessing comes That we may praise  
May praise the Name of Jesus

This our holy privilege to declare Your praises and Your name  
To every nation, tribe and tongue, Your church proclaims

May the peoples praise You, Let the nations be glad  
All Your blessing comes That we may praise  
May praise the Name of Jesus

Holy, holy is the Lord Almighty  
Worthy, worthy is the Lamb Who was slain  
Holy, holy is the Lord Almighty  
All creation praise Your glorious Name

May the peoples praise You, Let the nations be glad  
All Your blessing comes That we may praise  
May praise the Name of Jesus

### ***Creation Sings***

Creation sings the Father's song He calls the sun to wake the dawn  
And run the course of day Till evening comes in crimson rays  
His fingerprints in flakes of snow His breath upon this spinning globe  
He charts the eagle's flight Commands the newborn baby's cry

Hallelujah Let all creation stand and sing  
Hallelujah Fill the earth with songs of worship  
Tell the wonders of creation's King

Creation gazed upon His face The ageless One in time's embrace  
Unveiled the Father's plan Of reconciling God and man  
A second Adam walked the earth  
Whose blameless life would break the curse  
Whose death would set us free To live with Him eternally

Hallelujah Let all creation stand and sing  
Hallelujah Fill the earth with songs of worship  
Tell the wonders of creation's King

Creation longs for His return When Christ shall reign upon the earth  
The bitter wars that rage Are birth pains of a coming age  
When He renews the land and sky All heaven will sing and earth reply  
With one resplendent theme The glory of our God and King

Hallelujah Let all creation stand and sing  
Hallelujah Fill the earth with songs of worship  
Tell the wonders of creation's King

*Shout to the Lord*

**My Jesus, My Savior, Lord, there is none like You!  
All of my days I want to praise  
The wonders of your mighty love.**

**My Comfort, My Shelter, Tower of refuge and strength.  
Let every breath, all that I am,  
Never cease to worship You!**

**Shout to the Lord all the earth, let us sing  
Power and majesty, praise to the King!**

**Mountains bow down and the seas will roar  
At the sound of Your name...I sing for joy at the work of Your hands.  
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand.  
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You!**

**My Jesus, My Savior, Lord, there is none like You!  
All of my days I want to praise The wonders of your mighty love.**

**My Comfort, My Shelter, Tower of refuge and strength.  
Let every breath, all that I am, Never cease to worship You!**

**Shout to the Lord all the earth, let us sing  
Power and majesty, praise to the King!  
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar  
At the sound of Your name...**

**I sing for joy at the work of Your hands.  
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand.  
Nothing compares to the promise I have-**

**Oh, nothing compares to the promise I have-  
Oh, nothing compares to the promise I have in You!**

**CCLI #79597**

**354 *Jesus Christ, Our Sure Foundation***

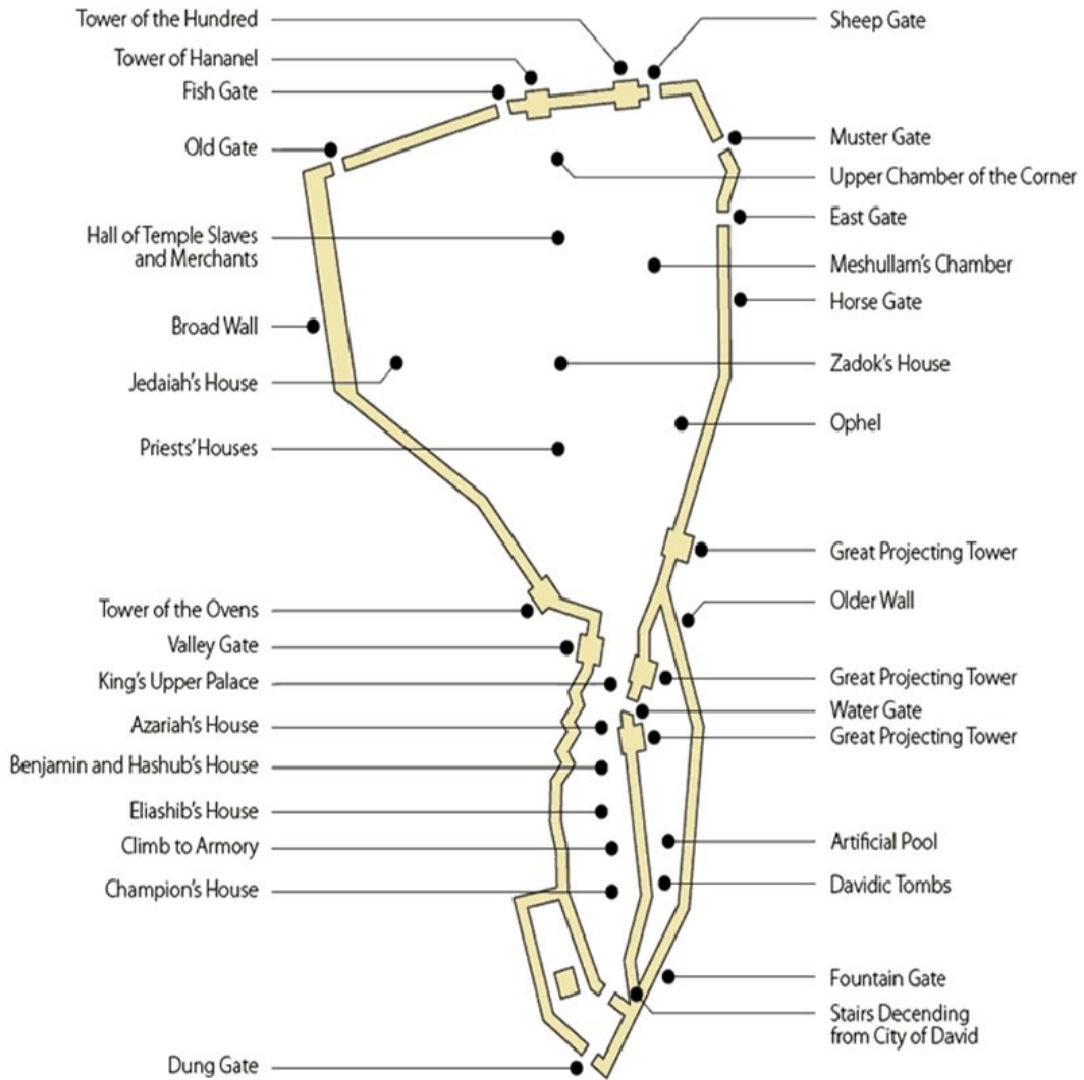
Jesus Christ, our sure foundation,  
he whose purpose stays the same,  
building for himself a nation,  
giving those he calls his name.  
Praise we now and evermore, Jesus we adore!  
God has giv'n to us salvation,  
Jesus Christ has borne our blame.

Shepherd, Guardian, he who teaches,  
on whose grace the church depends,  
tending it through hist'ry's reaches,  
and will keep it to the end.  
Praise we now and evermore, Jesus we adore!  
He who from the first did seek us,  
Savior, Ruler, Guide, and Friend.

Jesus, come, your kingdom bringing,  
how we long to see its sight!  
Ev'ry saint, Christ's praises singing,  
stands before th'eternal Light.  
Praise we now and ever more, Jesus we adore!  
Exaltation ever ringing, Christ, our King, return in might.



# Jerusalem's Wall in Nehemiah's Day



## SCRIPTURE READING

### Nehemiah 12 (ESV)

12 These are the priests and the Levites who came up with Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua: Seraiah, Jeremiah, Ezra, <sup>2</sup> Amariah, Malluch, Hattush, <sup>3</sup> Shecaniah, Rehum, Meremoth, <sup>4</sup> Iddo, Ginnethoi, Abijah, <sup>5</sup> Mijamin, Maadiah, Bilgah, <sup>6</sup> Shemaiah, Joiarib, Jedaiah, <sup>7</sup> Sallu, Amok, Hilkiyah, Jedaiah. These were the chiefs of the priests and of their brothers in the days of Jeshua.

<sup>8</sup> And the Levites: Jeshua, Binnui, Kadmiel, Sherebiah, Judah, and Mattaniah, who with his brothers was in charge of the songs of thanksgiving. <sup>9</sup> And Bakbukiah and Unni and their brothers stood opposite them in the service. <sup>10</sup> And Jeshua was the father of Joiakim, Joiakim the father of Eliashib, Eliashib the father of Joiada, <sup>11</sup> Joiada the father of Jonathan, and Jonathan the father of Jaddua.

<sup>12</sup> And in the days of Joiakim were priests, heads of fathers' houses: of Seraiah, Meraiah; of Jeremiah, Hananiah; <sup>13</sup> of Ezra, Meshullam; of Amariah, Jehohanan; <sup>14</sup> of Malluchi, Jonathan; of Shebaniah, Joseph; <sup>15</sup> of Harim, Adna; of Meraioth, Helkai; <sup>16</sup> of Iddo, Zechariah; of Ginnethon, Meshullam; <sup>17</sup> of Abijah, Zichri; of Miniamin, of Moadiah, Piltai; <sup>18</sup> of Bilgah, Shammua; of Shemaiah, Jehonathan; <sup>19</sup> of Joiarib, Mattenai; of Jedaiah, Uzzi; <sup>20</sup> of Sallai, Kallai; of Amok, Eber; <sup>21</sup> of Hilkiyah, Hashabiah; of Jedaiah, Nethanel.

<sup>22</sup> In the days of Eliashib, Joiada, Johanan, and Jaddua, the Levites were recorded as heads of fathers' houses; so too were the priests in the reign of Darius the Persian. <sup>23</sup> As for the sons of Levi, their heads of fathers' houses were written in the Book of the Chronicles until the days of Johanan the son of Eliashib. <sup>24</sup> And the chiefs of the Levites: Hashabiah, Sherebiah, and Jeshua the son of Kadmiel, with their brothers who stood opposite them, to praise and to give thanks, according to the commandment of David the man of God, watch by watch. <sup>25</sup> Mattaniah, Bakbukiah, Obadiah, Meshullam, Talmon, and Akkub were gatekeepers standing guard at the storehouses of the gates. <sup>26</sup> These were in the days of Joiakim the son of Jeshua son of Jozadak, and in the days of Nehemiah the governor and of Ezra, the priest and scribe.

<sup>27</sup> And at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought the Levites in all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem to celebrate the dedication with gladness, with thanksgivings and with singing, with cymbals, harps, and lyres. <sup>28</sup> And the sons of the singers gathered together from the district surrounding Jerusalem and from the villages of the Netophathites; <sup>29</sup> also from Beth-gilgal and from the region of Geba and Azmaveth, for the singers had built for themselves villages around Jerusalem. <sup>30</sup> And the

priests and the Levites purified themselves, and they purified the people and the gates and the wall.

<sup>31</sup> Then I brought the leaders of Judah up onto the wall and appointed two great choirs that gave thanks. One went to the south on the wall to the Dung Gate. <sup>32</sup> And after them went Hoshai and half of the leaders of Judah, <sup>33</sup> and Azariah, Ezra, Meshullam, <sup>34</sup> Judah, Benjamin, Shemaiah, and Jeremiah, <sup>35</sup> and certain of the priests' sons with trumpets: Zechariah the son of Jonathan, son of Shemaiah, son of Mattaniah, son of Micaiah, son of Zaccur, son of Asaph; <sup>36</sup> and his relatives, Shemaiah, Azarel, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethanel, Judah, and Hanani, with the musical instruments of David the man of God. And Ezra the scribe went before them. <sup>37</sup> At the Fountain Gate they went up straight before them by the stairs of the city of David, at the ascent of the wall, above the house of David, to the Water Gate on the east.

<sup>38</sup> The other choir of those who gave thanks went to the north, and I followed them with half of the people, on the wall, above the Tower of the Ovens, to the Broad Wall, <sup>39</sup> and above the Gate of Ephraim, and by the Gate of Yeshanah, and by the Fish Gate and the Tower of Hananel and the Tower of the Hundred, to the Sheep Gate; and they came to a halt at the Gate of the Guard. <sup>40</sup> So both choirs of those who gave thanks stood in the house of God, and I and half of the officials with me; <sup>41</sup> and the priests Eliakim, Maaseiah, Miniamin, Micaiah, Elioenai, Zechariah, and Hananiah, with trumpets; <sup>42</sup> and Maaseiah, Shemaiah, Eleazar, Uzzi, Jehohanan, Malchijah, Elam, and Ezer. And the singers sang with Jezrahiah as their leader. <sup>43</sup> And they offered great sacrifices that day and rejoiced, for God had made them rejoice with great joy; the women and children also rejoiced. And the joy of Jerusalem was heard far away.

<sup>44</sup> On that day men were appointed over the storerooms, the contributions, the firstfruits, and the tithes, to gather into them the portions required by the Law for the priests and for the Levites according to the fields of the towns, for Judah rejoiced over the priests and the Levites who ministered. <sup>45</sup> And they performed the service of their God and the service of purification, as did the singers and the gatekeepers, according to the command of David and his son Solomon. <sup>46</sup> For long ago in the days of David and Asaph there were directors of the singers, and there were songs of praise and thanksgiving to God. <sup>47</sup> And all Israel in the days of Zerubbabel and in the days of Nehemiah gave the daily portions for the singers and the gatekeepers; and they set apart that which was for the Levites; and the Levites set apart that which was for the sons of Aaron.