



REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

40th Anniversary Celebration Service

Celebrating God's Faithfulness

Sunday, May 19, 2024

9:30 am

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

Participants in Today's Service:

Alison Carzola, Charter Member of RPC

Fred Gaston, Charter Elder and Elder Emeritus

Dr. Stephen Beck, Founding Pastor of RPC 1984-1993

Rev. Tom Nicholas, Former Pastor of RPC 1994-2022

Dr. Timothy Witmer, Interim Pastor of RPC 2023-2024

Dr. David Kieffer, Pastor-Elect of RPC 2024-

Courtney Brooke, Organist

Rachel Klein, Choir Director

PRELUDE *Partita on "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"* (Hymn 53)/
D. Freudenburg

WELCOME Dr. Timothy Witmer, RPC Interim Pastor

***WE PRAISE OUR GOD**

HYMN OF PRAISE 119

I Sing the Almighty Power of God¹

¹ Sung at the organizational service of RPC and installation of Pastor Beck on May 20, 1984.

***RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Rev. Thomas E. Nicholas

Leader: Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

People: **You, O Lord, have been a dwelling place for us and our children.**

Leader: Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

People: **You, O Lord, have been with us for these forty years!**

Leader: God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

People: **You, O Lord, have been our refuge and our strength!**

Leader: The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

People: **You, O Lord, are the eternal One and we have trusted you.**

Leader: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

People: **You, O Lord, have been faithful!**

Leader: Jesus said, "I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it!"

People: **You, O Lord, have built your church in this place and we have been blessed.**

***WE CONFESS OUR SIN**

Leader: We live in a world filled with darkness and sin. But as John wrote, Jesus came into the world but the world did not recognize him. Let us thank him for the light he brought into our lives and confess that we have failed to reflect his light to others.

People: **You are the light of the world. You have also said that *we* are the light of the world. But we have often failed to let our lights shine as they should. Too often we have looked more like the darkness of the world than the reflection of your glory. Please forgive us and fill us with your Spirit so that others will be drawn to you. Amen.**

Leader: Rejoice that the Scriptures teach that “there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”
Thanks be to God!

***WE EXALT OUR LORD**

WORSHIP SONGS

*May the Peoples Praise You
Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me
Be Exalted*

WE GREET ONE ANOTHER

DISMISSAL OF CHILDREN TO CHILDREN’S WORSHIP

(4 years old to 1st grade)

CONGREGATIONAL GREETING

WELCOME TO VISITORS

HISTORICAL REFLECTION

Alison Carzola, Charter Member

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

OFFERING/ CHORAL OFFERTORY (Adult and Children’s Choir)

Lord Most High with “Immortal, Invisible”/ arr. H. Sorenson

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Fred Gaston, Elder Emeritus

Leader: O Lord our God, for the vision of those who planted this congregation, and for the commitment and dedication of all who served together at the time of origin,

People: We give you thanks, O Lord.

Leader: For those who have served so faithfully in leadership positions as Pastors, Elders, Deacons, and Staff Members,

People: We give you thanks, O Lord.

Leader: For those who have willingly given of their efforts to teach, encourage, counsel and serve,

People: We give you thanks, O Lord.

Leader: For the ways in which we have been able to care for one another, love one another, support one another and give strength to one another on the journey of life.

People: We give you thanks, O Lord.

Leader: For baptisms we've celebrated, for professions of faith we have heard, for wedding vows we have witnessed, and for answers to prayer that we have experienced,

People: We give you thanks, O Lord.

Leader: For those who previously served in this place and now serve you in the church triumphant in heaven,

People: **We give you thanks, O Lord.**

Leader: For a congregation that has always desired to worship you faithfully and vibrantly, hearing your Word, singing your praise, and seeking your strength,

People: **We give you thanks, O Lord.**

Leader: For our pastors who have remained true to your Word in a world of confusing and conflicting voices,

People: **We give you thanks, O Lord.**

Leader: For the generosity that has enabled us to reach far beyond this community to the corners of the earth with the word and witness of the Gospel,

People: **We give you thanks, O Lord.**

Leader: For hundreds of children and youth who have been nurtured here as they were trained in the ways of the Lord and now serve you around the world,

People: **We give you thanks, O Lord.**

Leader: For a free and prosperous land that has given us opportunity to thrive and worship and serve for the sake of your Kingdom,

People: **We give you thanks, O Lord.**

***HYMN 296**

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*²

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Revelation 3:7-12 (ESV)

SERMON

A Church with an Open Door

Dr. Stephen Beck

***WE GO FORTH TO SERVE**

* HYMN OF RESPONSE **347**

The Church's One Foundation

* BENEDICTION

Dr. David Kieffer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

Crown Him With Many Crowns/ G. Elvey

² Sung at the installation of Pastor Nicholas on February 6, 1994

Song Lyrics

119 I Sing the Almighty Power of God

I sing th' almighty pow'r of God,
that made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad,
and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained
the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at His command,
and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord,
who filled the earth with food,
He formed the creatures with his Word,
and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how your wonders are displayed,
where'er I turn my eye,
If I survey the ground I tread,
or gaze upon the sky!

There's not a plant or flow'r below,
but makes your glories known;
And clouds arise, and tempests blow,
by order from your throne;
While all that borrows life from you
is ever in your care,
And everywhere that man can be,
you, God, are present there.

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

Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me

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 labor 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!
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!

Be Exalted, O God

I will give thanks to Thee,
O Lord, among the people
I will sing praises to Thee
Among the nations
For Thy steadfast love is great
Is great to the heavens
And Thy faithfulness
Thy faithfulness to the clouds

Be exalted, O God
Above the heavens
Let Thy glory be over all the earth
Be exalted, O God
Above the heavens
Let Thy glory be over all the earth!

347 *The Church's One Foundation*

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation by water and the Word.
from heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Elect from ev'ry 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 ev'ry grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder men see her sore oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up: "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

The church shall never perish! her dear Lord to defend,
to guide, sustain, and cherish, is with her to the end;
though there be those that hate her, and false sons in her pale,
against or foe or traitor she ever shall prevail.

'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.

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.

SCRIPTURE READING

Revelation 3:7-12

⁷ “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: ‘The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.

⁸ “‘I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

⁹ Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you. ¹⁰ Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I

will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. ¹¹ I am coming soon.

Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown. ¹² The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.