



**Reformed Presbyterian Church**

**9:30 am Worship Service**

**May 21, 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: Jason Rutter, Ruling Elder

Organist: Courtney Abbott-Fogie

Choir Director: Rachel Klein

**PRELUDES**

*Great is Thy Faithfulness/* arr. M. Bober

*He Leadeth Me/* arr. W. Watson

Janelle Labs, Piano

**WORDS OF GREETING**

**WE APPROACH GOD**

IN WORD

I Chronicles 16:8-11 (ESV)

Leader: Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name;

**People: Make known his deeds among the peoples!**

Leader: Sing to him, sing praises to him;

**People: Tell of all his wondrous works!**

Leader: Glory in his holy name;

**People: Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!**

Leader: Seek the Lord and his strength;

**People: Seek his presence continually!**

IN PRAYER

**\*WE PRAISE OUR GOD**

HYMN OF PRAISE 76 *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*

**\*WE CONFESS OUR SIN**

Leader: We come together to worship our God who is holy and merciful. Let us humbly confess our sins.

People: **Almighty God, we acknowledge and confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; we have not loved you with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. Deepen within us our sorrow for the wrong we have done, and the good we have left undone. Lord, you are full of compassion and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy; there is always forgiveness with you! Restore to us the joy of your salvation; bind up that which is broken, give light to our minds, strength to our wills, and rest to our souls. Speak to each of us, and let your word abide with us until it has wrought in us your holy will. Amen.**

**\*WE EXALT OUR LORD**

WORSHIP SONGS

*The Lord's Prayer*  
*Build My Life*  
*Let the Peace of God Reign*

**MISSION MOMENT**

Matt & Jenn Irvine, video

**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/ CHORAL OFFERTORY

*Rock of Ages/ J. Ward*

**WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

SCRIPTURE READING

Nehemiah 13 (ESV)

**SERMON**

***Rebuilding...***  
Dr. Tim Witmer

**\*WE GO FORTH TO SERVE**

HYMN OF RESPONSE 296 *All Hail the Power of Jesus'*  
*Name*

\*WORDS OF PEACE

DISMISSAL OF CHILDREN TO MUSIC ROOM AND SUNDAY SCHOOL  
HOUR

(4 years through 5th grade)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

**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)"
May 14	Nehemiah 12	"...With Celebration"
Today	Nehemiah 13	

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

### 76 *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,  
To his feet your tribute bring;  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
Who like me his praise should sing?  
Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him,  
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favor  
To our fathers in distress;  
Praise him still the same forever,  
Slow to chide, and swift to bless:  
Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him,  
Glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like, he tends and spares us,  
Well our feeble frame he knows;  
In his hands he gently bears us,  
Rescues us from all our foes:  
Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him,  
Widely as his mercy goes.

Angels, help us to adore him;  
You behold him face to face;  
Sun and moon, bow down before him,  
Dwellers all in time and space:  
Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him,  
Praise with us the God of grace.

*The Lord's Prayer*

Father in heaven, All praise be to your name  
Father in heaven, All praise be to your name

Your kingdom come, Your will be done  
on the earth as it is in heaven  
Yours is the kingdom, Yours is the power,  
Yours is the glory, Forever and ever  
Yours is the kingdom, Yours is the power,  
Yours in the glory, Forever and ever Amen

Father in heaven, All praise be to your name.  
Father in heaven, All praise be to your name.  
Give us today our daily bread  
and forgive us, Lord as we forgive.

Yours is the kingdom, Yours is the power,  
Yours is the glory, Forever and ever  
Yours is the kingdom, Yours is the power,  
Yours in the glory, Forever and ever Amen

Lead us not into temptation  
But from evil, Lord set us free

Yours is the kingdom, Yours is the power,  
Yours is the glory, Forever and ever  
Yours is the kingdom, Yours is the power,  
Yours in the glory, Forever and ever Amen

### ***Build My Life***

Worthy of ev'ry song we could ever sing  
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring  
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe, We live for You

Jesus the name above ev'ry other name  
Jesus the only one who could ever save  
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe  
We live for You, We live for You

Holy there is no one like You, There is none beside You  
Open up my eyes in wonder and show me who You are  
And fill me with Your heart, And lead me in Your love to those around me

Worthy of ev'ry song we could ever sing  
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring  
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe, We live for You

Jesus the name above ev'ry other name  
Jesus the only one who could ever save  
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe  
We live for You, We live for You

Holy, there is no one like You, There is none beside You  
Open up my eyes in wonder and show me who You are  
And fill me with Your heart, And lead me in Your love to those around me

I will build my life upon Your love, It is a firm foundation  
I will put my trust in You alone, And I will not be shaken  
I will build my life upon Your love, It is a firm foundation  
I will put my trust in You alone, And I will not be shaken

Holy there is no one like You, There is none beside You  
Open up my eyes in wonder and show me who You are  
And fill me with Your heart, And lead me in Your love to those around me

CCLI Song # 7070345 Brett Younker | Karl Martin | Kirby Kaple | Matt Redman | Pat Barrett

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***Let the Peace of God Reign***

Father of life, draw me closer, Lord, my heart is set on You;  
Let me run the race of time, with Your life enfolding mine,  
And let the peace of God, let it reign.

O, Holy Spirit, You're my comfort,  
strengthen me, hold my head up high;  
And I'll stand upon Your truth, bringing glory unto You,  
And let the peace of God, let it reign.

O Lord, I hunger for more of You,  
Rise up within me let me know Your truth;  
O, Holy Spirit, saturate my soul,

And let the life of God fill me now,  
Let Your healing pow'r bring life and make me whole,  
And let the peace of God, let it reign.

Father of life, draw me closer, Lord, my heart is set on You;  
Let me run the race of time, with Your life enfolding mine,  
And let the peace of God, let it reign.

O Lord, I hunger for more of You,  
Rise up within me let me know Your truth;  
O, Holy Spirit, saturate my soul,

And let the life of God fill me now,  
Let Your healing pow'r bring life and make me whole,  
And let the peace of God, let it reign.

**296 *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name***

All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;  
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all.  
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all.

Crown Him, ye martyrs of your God, who from His altar call;  
Extol the Stem of Jesse's rod, and crown Him Lord of all.  
Extol the Stem of Jesse's rod, and crown Him Lord of all.

Ye seed of Israel's chosen race, ye ransomed of the fall,  
Hail Him Who saves you by His grace, and crown Him Lord of all.  
Hail Him Who saves you by His grace, and crown Him Lord of all.

Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget the wormwood and the gall,  
Go spread your trophies at His feet, and crown Him Lord of all.  
Go spread your trophies at His feet, and crown Him Lord of all.

Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe, on this terrestrial ball,  
to him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all;  
to him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all.

O that with yonder sacred throng we at His feet may fall;  
we'll join the everlasting song, and crown Him Lord of all;  
we'll join the everlasting song, and crown Him Lord of all.

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!*, Words by John Rippon, Music by Oliver Holden,  
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## SCRIPTURE READING

### Nehemiah 13 (ESV)

On that day they read from the Book of Moses in the hearing of the people. And in it was found written that no Ammonite or Moabite should ever enter the assembly of God, <sup>2</sup> for they did not meet the people of Israel with bread and water, but hired Balaam against them to curse them—yet our God turned the curse into a blessing. <sup>3</sup> As soon as the people heard the law, they separated from Israel all those of foreign descent.

<sup>4</sup> Now before this, Eliashib the priest, who was appointed over the chambers of the house of our God, and who was related to Tobiah, <sup>5</sup> prepared for Tobiah a large chamber where they had previously put the grain offering, the frankincense, the vessels, and the tithes of grain, wine, and oil, which were given by commandment to the Levites, singers, and gatekeepers, and the contributions for the priests. <sup>6</sup> While this was taking place, I was not in Jerusalem, for in the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon I went to the king. And after some time I asked leave of the king <sup>7</sup> and came to Jerusalem, and I then discovered the evil that Eliashib had done for Tobiah, preparing for him a chamber in the courts of the house of God. <sup>8</sup> And I was very angry, and I threw all the household furniture of Tobiah out of the chamber. <sup>9</sup> Then I gave orders, and they cleansed the chambers, and I brought back there the vessels of the house of God, with the grain offering and the frankincense.

<sup>10</sup> I also found out that the portions of the Levites had not been given to them, so that the Levites and the singers, who did the work, had fled each to his field. <sup>11</sup> So I confronted the officials and said, “Why is the house of God forsaken?” And I gathered them together and set them in their stations. <sup>12</sup> Then all Judah brought the tithe of the grain, wine, and oil into the storehouses. <sup>13</sup> And I appointed as treasurers over the storehouses Shelemiah the priest, Zadok the scribe, and Pedaiah of the Levites, and as their assistant Hanan the son of Zaccur, son of Mattaniah, for they were considered reliable, and their duty was to distribute to their brothers. <sup>14</sup> Remember me, O my God, concerning this, and do not wipe out my good deeds that I have done for the house of my God and for his service.

<sup>15</sup> In those days I saw in Judah people treading winepresses on the Sabbath, and bringing in heaps of grain and loading them on donkeys, and also wine, grapes, figs, and all kinds of loads, which they brought into Jerusalem on the Sabbath day. And I warned them on the day when they sold food. <sup>16</sup> Tyrians also, who lived in the city, brought in fish and all kinds of goods and sold them on the Sabbath to the people of Judah, in Jerusalem itself! <sup>17</sup> Then I confronted the nobles of Judah and said to them, “What is this evil thing that you are doing, profaning the Sabbath day? <sup>18</sup> Did not your fathers act in this way, and did not our God bring all this

disaster on us and on this city? Now you are bringing more wrath on Israel by profaning the Sabbath.”

<sup>19</sup> As soon as it began to grow dark at the gates of Jerusalem before the Sabbath, I commanded that the doors should be shut and gave orders that they should not be opened until after the Sabbath. And I stationed some of my servants at the gates, that no load might be brought in on the Sabbath day. <sup>20</sup> Then the merchants and sellers of all kinds of wares lodged outside Jerusalem once or twice. <sup>21</sup> But I warned them and said to them, “Why do you lodge outside the wall? If you do so again, I will lay hands on you.” From that time on they did not come on the Sabbath. <sup>22</sup> Then I commanded the Levites that they should purify themselves and come and guard the gates, to keep the Sabbath day holy. Remember this also in my favor, O my God, and spare me according to the greatness of your steadfast love.

<sup>23</sup> In those days also I saw the Jews who had married women of Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab. <sup>24</sup> And half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod, and they could not speak the language of Judah, but only the language of each people. <sup>25</sup> And I confronted them and cursed them and beat some of them and pulled out their hair. And I made them take an oath in the name of God, saying, “You shall not give your daughters to their sons, or take their daughters for your sons or for yourselves. <sup>26</sup> Did not Solomon king of Israel sin on account of such women? Among the many nations there was no king like him, and he was beloved by his God, and God made him king over all Israel. Nevertheless, foreign women made even him to sin. <sup>27</sup> Shall we then listen to you and do all this great evil and act treacherously against our God by marrying foreign women?”

<sup>28</sup> And one of the sons of Jehoiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, was the son-in-law of Sanballat the Horonite. Therefore I chased him from me. <sup>29</sup> Remember them, O my God, because they have desecrated the priesthood and the covenant of the priesthood and the Levites.

<sup>30</sup> Thus I cleansed them from everything foreign, and I established the duties of the priests and Levites, each in his work; <sup>31</sup> and I provided for the wood offering at appointed times, and for the firstfruits.

Remember me, O my God, for good.