

# VERITAS REFORMED CHURCH

Allen Powers,  
Leading Elder

Sunday Liturgy  
May 21  
Anno Domini 2023

The Seventh  
Sunday  
of Easter

## Reflections

All power structures, ancient or modern, whether political, economic, or racial, have the potential to become rivals to Christ, beckoning his followers to submit themselves to them in order to find a fuller security. The invitation is as blasphemous as it is unnecessary. Christ brooks no rivals. His people need no one but him.

N.T. Wright  
from *Colossians & Philemon*

Idols call to us, luring us with the false promises of other gods and saviors: money, sex, power, success, relationships, and fame; and in their very midst, we remember Jesus, the firstborn of the new creation, and declare that we live for another King and another kingdom.

Mike Cospers

Human history is the long terrible story of man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy.

C. S. Lewis

Because the gospel is not about choosing to follow advice, it's about being called to follow a King. Not just someone with the power and authority to tell you what needs to be done—but someone with the power and authority to do what needs to be done, and then to offer it to you as good news.

Timothy Keller

Romeo: What shall I swear by?

Juliet: Do not swear at all; or, if thou wilt, swear by thy gracious self, which is the god of my idolatry.

William Shakespeare  
from *Romeo and Juliet*, Act II, Scene II

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## Call to Worship from Isaiah 40

Leader: Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

People: **He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.**

Leader: Even youths shall faint and be weary, but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;

People: **they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.!**

## Hymn of Praise: In the Dawning of Creation

### In the Dawning of Creation

Job 38:7

Donald T. Williams

Gustav Holst

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of nine staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: In the dawn - ing of cre - a - tion the stars to - geth - er So we praise Thee, great Je - ho - vah for all that Thou hast sang; in har - mo - ni - ous e - qua - tions their sil - ver voi - ces made, from the quarks to sup - er - no - vas, be - fore our minds dis - rang; and the an - gels con - tem - pla - ted the beau - ty of the played. And You gave to us our sen - ses, which find mis - sives ev - ery - Lord seen in what He'd cre - a - ted and heard in ev - ery where, break - ing through our de - fen - ses with news that You are chord. Still the sym - pho - ny con - tin - ues its there. Thus the firm - a - ment de - clar - eth through rich and ly - ric lines now re - soun - ding in the ven - ues of all its migh - ty frame the clear mes - sage that it bear - eth: the hu - man hearts of and Thy minds. glo - ry of Thy name!

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## **Prayer of Praise and the Lord's Prayer**

### **Confession of Sin**

Scripture Reading: Romans 6:15-22

What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### **Corporate Confession of Sin**

**Father, We know that we were slaves to sin, that we were obedient slaves, that we thought only of ourselves and our own desires. We know, as the Apostle describes, that we presented our bodies, and even our hearts and minds, to the sin that was our master. We did this of ourselves, and became more and more enmeshed in our lawlessness. Now, we have been purchased from that master by Jesus and called away from that slavery by Your Holy Spirit. Now we know that we are slaves of righteousness and our master is You, the one true God.**

**And yet, the day is going away and we are still not sanctified. We are still rebellious and we suffer in our sin. Father, cause us yet again to confess and repent, and again to seek Your face. In You alone is freedom. Assure us of that freedom through the cross of Jesus Christ in whose name we pray. Amen.**

### **Silent Reflection and Confession**

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**Assurance of Pardon and the Peace of God:** Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Leader:** People of God: We stand before Him as free men and women, free from guilt, shame and pain. We stand before our Lord at peace with Him. May that peace be upon you all the days of your life.

**People:** **Praise be to God, who has given us this peace.**

**Leader:** May that peace be upon you all the days of our life.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Hymn of Response:** When All Thy Mercies, O My God

## When All Thy Mercies, O My God

for Piano

Joseph Addison, 1712

William Gardiner, 1812

Arranged by

When all thy mercies, O my God, my wak - ing  
Un - num - bered com - forts to my soul Thy ten - der  
Through worn with sick - ness, oft hast Thou with health re -  
Through ev - 'ry pass - ing phase of life Thy good - ness  
Through all e - ter - ni - ty to You, a joy - ful

6  
soul sur - veys, trans - port - ed with the view, I'm  
care be - stowed, bef - ore my in - fant heart con -  
newed my face; and, when in sins and sor - rows  
I'll pur - sue; and af - ter death, in dist - ant  
song I'll raise, but oh, e - ter - ni - ty's too

12  
lost in won - der, love and praise,  
ceived from whom those com - forts flowed,  
sunk re - vived my soul with grace,  
worlds the glo - rious theme re - new,  
short to utt - er all Thy praise.

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**Collection of Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory Prayer**

Tom Arnold

**Hymn:** Doxology

**Affirmation of Faith**

**The Heidelberg Catechism**  
Question and Answer No. 1

**Leader:** What is our only comfort in life and death?

**People:** **That I, with body and soul, both in life and death, am not my own, but belong to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ; who, with His precious blood, has fully satisfied for all my sins, and delivered me from all the power of the devil; and so preserves me that without the will of my heavenly Father, not a hair can fall from my head; yes, that all things must be subservient to my salvation, and therefore, by His Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life, and makes me sincerely willing and ready, henceforth, to live unto Him.**

**Hymn:** Gloria Patri

**Prayer of Intercession**

**Hymn:** To You, O Lord, I Fly

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## To You, O Lord, I Fly

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Keep me safe, O God, for in you I take refuge. Ps. 16:1

1. To you, O Lord, I fly and on your help de - pend;  
2. The lot to me that fell is beau - ti - ful and fair;  
3. I keep be - fore me still the Lord whom I have proved;

you are my Lord and King Most High; great God, my soul de - fend.  
the her - i - tage in which I dwell is good be - yond com - pare.  
at my right hand he guards from ill, and I shall not be moved.

A her - i - tage for me Je - ho - vah will re - main;  
I praise the Lord a - bove whose coun - sel guides a - right;  
Life's path - way you will show, to your right hand will guide,

my por - tion rich and full is he, my right he will main - tain.  
my heart in - structs me in his love in sea - sons of the night.  
where streams of plea - sure ev - er flow, and bound - less joys a - bide.

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**Scripture:** *Psalm 16*

Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.  
I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you."  
As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight.  
The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply;  
    their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out  
    or take their names on my lips.  
The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;  
    you hold my lot.  
The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;  
    indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.  
I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;  
    in the night also my heart instructs me.  
I have set the Lord always before me;  
    because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.  
Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;  
    my flesh also dwells secure.  
For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,  
    or let your holy one see corruption.  
You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy;  
    at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades,  
**People: But the Word of our God will stand forever!**

**Sermon:** **Psalm 16 (Part I)** **Rev. Rich Lusk**

**Prayer**

**Closing Hymn** Happy the Home When God Is There

(Music on the Next Page)

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## Happy the Home When God Is There

"He will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord." - Gen. 18:19

Henry Ware, Jr.

DOWN'S C.M.

Hap py the home when God is there, and love fills ev - 'ry  
Hap py the home where Je - sus' name is sweet to ev - 'ry  
Hap py the home where prayer is heard, and praise is wont to  
Lord, let us in our homes a - gree, this bless - ed peace to

4  
breast; when one their wish, and one their prayer, and  
ear; where chil - dren ear - ly lisp His fame, and  
rise, where par - ents love the sa - cred Word, that  
gain; u - nite our hearts in love to Thee, and

7  
one their heav'n - ly rest.  
par - ents hold Him dear.  
makes us tru - ly wise.  
love to all will reign.

**Benediction:** Ephesians 3:20-21

Leader: Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. And God's people said:

**All:** **Amen!**