

# VERITAS REFORMED CHURCH

Allen Powers,  
Leading Elder

Sunday Liturgy  
May 28  
Anno Domini 2023

The Day of  
Pentecost

## Reflections

There once was in man a true happiness of which now remain to him only the mark and empty trace, which he in vain tries to fill from all his surroundings, seeking from the things absent the help he does not obtain in things present. But these are all inadequate, because the infinite abyss can only be filled by an infinite and immutable object, that is to say, only by God himself.

Blaise Pascal (1623-1662)  
from *Pensées*

There is no other way to the happiness for which we were made. Good things as well as bad are caught by a kind of infection. If you want to get warm you must stand near the fire: if you want to be wet you must get into the water. If you want joy, power, peace, eternal life, you must get close to, or even into, the thing that has them. They are not a sort of prize which God could, if he chose, just hand out to anyone. They are a great fountain of energy and beauty spurting up at the very center of reality. If you are close to it, the spray will wet you: if you are not, you will remain dry. Once a man is united to God, how could he not live forever? Once a man is separated from God, what can he do but wither and die?

C. S. Lewis  
from *Mere Christianity*

Here are two facts, two pieces of critical data. Both are equally solid. First, that no thing in this universe is solid, stable, absolute and unchanging, least of all ourselves. Second, that we scream for that solidity. We yearn, we demand, we act like babies deprived of milk, fish of water, birds of air. We act like land creatures sucked from their home by a tidal wave in a past so remote and forgotten that we seem to have been drifting always. But all driftwood originally came from a tree, with roots. The deep inner wisdom of our "inclinations," our innate desire for eternity and absoluteness, leads us back to God, our true home, "the fixed point of the turning world."

Peter Kreeft  
from *Christianity for Modern Pagans:  
Pascal's Pensées*

The Lord is the giver of our songs; he breathes the music into the hearts of his people; he is the creator of their joy.

Charles Spurgeon

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**Call to Worship** from Hebrews 12:28-29

Leader: Let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken.

People: **And let us thus offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.**

Leader: Come and worship!

**Hymn of Praise:** Jesus Where'er Your People Meet

## Jesus, Where'er Your People Meet

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*Where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them. Matt. 18:20*

1. Je - sus, where - e'er your peo - ple meet, there they be -  
2. For you, with - in no walls con - fined, are dwell - ing  
3. Dear Shep - herd of your cho - sen few, your for - mer  
4. Here may we prove the pow'r of prayer to strength - en  
5. Lord, we are few, but you are near; nor short your

hold your mer - cy seat; where - e'er they seek you, you are  
in the hum - ble mind; such ev - er bring you where they  
• mer - cies here re - new; here to our wait - ing hearts pro -  
faith and sweet - en care, to teach our faint de - sires to  
arm, nor deaf your ear; O rend the heav'ns, come quick - ly

found, and ev - 'ry place is hal - lowed ground.  
come, and go - ing, take you to their home.  
• claim the sweet - ness of your sav - ing name.  
rise, and bring all heav'n be - fore our eyes.  
down, and make a thou - sand hearts your own.

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

### **Confession of Sin**

Scripture Reading: Mark 9:33-37

And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you discussing on the way?" But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, "If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all." And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### **Corporate Confession of Sin**

**Father, in our sin we also seek to be first, to receive acclaim, to be the one among many. Not being first is odious to us and being last and serving is a fate we do not easily accept. We live in a sinful age, in an age where the individual is everything, an age in which our "rights" are paramount and in which "we deserve" is a common cry. In our sin, this detracts from our ability not only to love our neighbors, but even to tolerate them. We read the words of Jesus and sanctimoniously nod assent but our hearts are far from being a servant to our neighbor.**

**Forgive us, Lord. Bring us back to the reality of Jesus, who became a man and a servant and sacrificed himself for us. Teach us that His way is the true way and that everything else is empty. Cause our belief to increase and our love for God and for others to grow and flourish so that we may walk in His paths and be known as children of God. Amen.**

### **Silent Reflection and Confession**

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**Assurance of Pardon and the Peace of God:** Isaiah 53:4-6

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

**Leader:** Only through the death and resurrection of Jesus can we come before God. Christians, we come today in His name alone, knowing that we are redeemed and are at peace with God.

**People:** **Blessed is the name of Jesus.**

**Leader:** The peace of Christ be with you all.

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

**Hymn of Response:** Jesus What a Friend for Sinners

1. Je - sus! what a Friend for sin - ners! Je - sus! lov - er of my soul;  
2. Je - sus! what a strength in weak - ness! Let me hide my - self in him;  
3. Je - sus! what a help in sor - row! While the bil - lows o'er me roll,  
4. Je - sus! what a guide and keep - er! While the tem - pest still is high,  
5. Je - sus! I do now re - ceive him, more than all in him I find;

friends may fail me, foes as - sail me, he, my Sav - ior, makes me whole.  
tempt - ed, tried, and some - times fail - ing, he, my strength, my vic - t'ry wins.  
e - ven when my heart is break - ing, he, my com - fort, helps my soul.  
storms a - bout me, night o'er - takes me, he, my pi - lot, hears my cry.  
he hath grant - ed me for - give - ness, I am his, and he is mine.

**REFRAIN**  
Hal - le - lu - jah! what a Sav - ior! Hal - le - lu - jah! what a Friend!

Sav - ing, help - ing, keep - ing, lov - ing, he is with me to the end.

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**Collection of Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory Prayer**

Tom Arnold

**Hymn:** Doxology

**Affirmation of Faith**

***Westminster Confession of Faith***  
Chapter X - "Of Effectual Calling"

**Leader:** All those who God has predestinated unto life, and those only, He is pleased, in His appointed time, effectually to call, by His Word and Spirit,

**People:** **out of that state of sin and death, in which they are by nature, to grace and salvation, by Jesus Christ; enlightening their minds to understand the things of God.**

**Leader:** This effectual call is of God's free and special grace alone, not from anything at all foreseen in man, who is altogether passive, until, being quickened and renewed by the Holy Spirit,

**People:** **he is enabled to answer this call, and to embrace the grace offered and conveyed in it.**

**Leader:** What do the Scriptures say?

**People:** **All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out**

**Hymn:** Gloria Patri

**Prayer of Intercession**

**Hymn:** With Grateful Heart My Thanks I Bring

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## With Grateful Heart My Thanks I Bring

*I will praise you, O LORD, with all my heart; before the "gods" I will sing your praise.*  
Ps. 138:1

Capo 1: ♯ (A) (D) (A) (E) (A) (E<sup>7</sup>) (A) 7 (D) (A)

1. With grate - ful heart my thanks I bring, be - fore the great thy  
2. I cried to thee and thou didst save, thy word of grace new  
3. O Lord, en - throned in glo - ry bright, thou reign - est in the  
4. Thou wilt stretch forth thy might - y arm to save me when my

(E<sup>7</sup>) (A) (E) (A) (D) (A) (E) (A) (E<sup>7</sup>) (A)

praise I sing; I wor - ship in thy ho - ly place and  
cour - age gave; the kings of earth shall thank thee, Lord, for  
heav'n - ly height; the proud in vain thy fa - vor seek, but  
foes a - larm; the work thou hast for me be - gun shall

(D) (A) (E<sup>7</sup>) (A) (E) (E<sup>7</sup>) (A)

praise thee for thy truth and grace; for truth and grace to -  
they have heard thy won - drous word; yea, they shall come with  
thou hast mer - cy for the meek; through trou - ble though my  
by thy grace be ful - ly done; for - ev - er mer - cy

(E<sup>7</sup>) (A) (E) ♯ (E<sup>7</sup>) (F♯m) (A) (D) (A<sup>7</sup>) (Bm) (F♯m<sup>7</sup>) (E<sup>7</sup>) (A) 7

geth - er shine in thy most ho - ly word di - vine.  
songs of praise, for great and glo - rious are thy ways.  
path - way be, thou wilt re - vive and strength - en me.  
dwells with thee; O Lord, my Mak - er, think on me.

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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 II - "Happy God, Happy Saints)**

**Rev. Rich Lusk**

**Prayer**

**Closing Hymn** All Hail the King of Heaven  
  
(Music on the Next Page)

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[www.gettymusic.com](http://www.gettymusic.com)

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## All Hail the King of Heaven

Words and Music by  
Matt Boswell and Matt Papa

Triumphant ♩ = 123

G G D/F# Em D G G

1. All hail the King of hea-ven, Christ the Lord of all; Whom thun-d'ring an-gels  
2. All Hail the great Re-deem-er, Who so hum-bly came; the Lamb of our sal-  
3. Let praise of na-tions rise now as a sym-pho-ny, to sound the end-less

G D/F# Em D G D G/B

cir-cle 'round, a-blaze with awe. Let now the hal-le-lu-jah of  
va-tion O for sin-ners slain. Let now the loud ho-san-na re-  
won-ders of His ma-jes-ty. Let ev-ery heart a-dore Him, the

C Em Am7 G/B C G/D D

Earth in glad re-frain as-cend the throne; to Him be-longs im-mor-tal  
sound from shore to shore. You na-tions say, "His king-dom reigns, for-e-ver  
great and small the same. Through gen-er-a-tions e-ver let His an-them

G<sup>sus</sup> G Refrain D G<sup>sus</sup> G D G<sup>sus</sup> G

praise... } All hail the King of hea-ven; Cre-a-tion join to-geth-er. Let  
more!" } ring!

C G/B D Em C C/E D

end-less prais-es crown His name: All hail the King of hea-ven.

G C G

2. All hea-ven.  
3. Let



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**Benediction:**

Jude 24-35

Leader:

Now unto him who is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Father, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever.

And God's people said:

**All:**

**Amen!**