

VERITAS REFORMED CHURCH

Clay Staggs,
Leading Elder

Sunday Liturgy
June 11
Anno Domini 2023

The Third Sunday
After Pentecost

Reflections

The sort of men who now live cannot stand anything so strong as the Christianity of the New Testament, (they would die of it or lose their minds), just in the same sense that children cannot stand drink, for which we prepare them a little lemonade--and official Christianity is lemonade-twaddle for the sort of beings that are now called men. It is the strongest thing they stand, and this twaddle then is their language they call "Christianity," just as children call their lemonade "wine."

Søren Kierkegaard (1813-1855)
Danish Philosopher and Theologian

(*The Greek philosopher Celsus attacks the Christian church in 177 A.D.*)

"...the following are the rules laid down by them. Let no one come to us who has been instructed, or who is wise or prudent (for such qualifications are deemed evil by us); but if there be any ignorant, or unintelligent, or uninstructed, or foolish persons, let them come with confidence. By which words, acknowledging that such individuals are worthy of their God, they manifestly show that they desire and are able to gain over only the silly, and the mean, and the stupid, with women and children."

"...only foolish and low individuals, and persons devoid of perception, and slaves, and women, and children, of whom the teachers of the divine word wish to make converts."

"What is this preference of sinners over others?"

Celsus
from *The True Word*

Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important.

C. S. Lewis

Death is a thing empires worry about, not a thing resurrection people worry about. As long as there's somebody baptizing sinners, breaking the bread, drinking the wine; as long as there's people confessing their sins, healing, walking with one another through suffering, then the church is alive, and it's well.

Rachel Held Evans
from "Is Christianity Dark Enough for Millennials?"
in *The Atlantic* online April 2016

VERITAS REFORMED CHURCH

Sunday Liturgy

June 11

Anno Domini 2023

Clay Staggs,
Leading Elder

The Third Sunday
After Pentecost

Call to Worship from Psalm 122

Leader: I was glad when they said unto me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord".

All: **We stand within the gate and praise His name, we give thanks to the name of the Lord.**

Leader: We seek his grace and his peace as we come before him in worship.

All: **Come now as we worship our Lord!**

Hymn of Praise: Jesus Lives, And So Shall I

1. Je - sus lives, and so shall I. Death, thy sting is gone for -
2. Je - sus lives, though once he died. In the ground he was for -

e - ver! He who bowed his head to die, lives, the
sak - en. Yet, the stone was rolled a - side! How the

bands of death to se - ver. He shall raise me from the dust;
gates of hell were shak - en! Death o - beys him, yes, it must;

Je - sus is my Hope and Trust. Je - sus is my Hope and Trust.

3. Jesus lives and reigns supreme,
And His kingdom still remaining!
I shall also be with Him,
Ever living, ever reigning.
God has promised, so it must;
Jesus is my Hope and Trust.
Jesus is my Hope and Trust.

4. Jesus lives and by His grace,
Vict'ry o'er my passions giving.
He will cleanse my heart and ways,
Ever to His glory living.
Raises me up from the dust;
Jesus is my Hope and Trust.
Jesus is my Hope and Trust.

5. Jesus lives, I know full well.
Naught from Him my heart can sever,
Life, nor death, nor pow'rs of hell,
Joy, nor grief, henceforth forever!
None of all His saints is lost;
Jesus is my Hope and Trust.
Jesus is my Hope and Trust.

6. Jesus lives, and death is now
But my entrance into glory.
Courage for my soul; I shall
Have a crown of life before me.
I shall find my hopes were just:
Jesus is my Hope and Trust.
Jesus is my Hope and Trust.

Ending: He shall raise me from the dust;
Jesus is my Hope and Trust. Jesus is my Hope and Trust.

VERITAS REFORMED CHURCH

*Clay Staggs,
Leading Elder*

*Sunday Liturgy
June 11
Anno Domini 2023*

*The Third Sunday
After Pentecost*

Prayer of Praise and the Lord's Prayer

Confession of Sin

Scripture Reading: 1 John 1: 6, 8, 10

If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Corporate Confession of Sin

Bernard of Clarivaux

O Lord, come quickly and reign on your throne, for now often something rises up within me, and tries to take possession of your throne: pride, covetousness, uncleanness, and sloth want to be my kings, and then evil-speaking, anger, hatred, and the whole train of vices join with me in warring against myself, and try to reign over me. By your grace, let me resist and cry out against them, saying, "I have no other king than Christ." O King of peace, come and reign in me, that I may have no king but you!

Silent Reflection and Confession

Assurance of Pardon and the Peace of God:

Psalm 103: 8-12

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

Leader: Thanks be to God. May the peace of Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Hymn of Response: Gracious Spirit Dwell With Me

VERITAS REFORMED CHURCH

Sunday Liturgy

June 11

Anno Domini 2023

Clay Staggs,
Leading Elder

The Third Sunday
After Pentecost

335

Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me

I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. Ezek. 36:27

1. Gra - cious Spir - it, dwell with me: I my - self would gra - cious be;
2. Truth - ful Spir - it, dwell with me: I my - self would truth - ful be;
3. Might - y Spir - it, dwell with me: I my - self would might - y be;
4. Ho - ly Spir - it, dwell with me: I my - self would ho - ly be;

and with words that help and heal would thy life in mine re - veal;
and with wis - dom kind and clear let thy life in mine ap - pear;
might - y so as to pre - vail where un - aid - ed man must fail;
sep - a - rate from sin, I would choose and cher - ish all things good,

and with ac - tions bold and meek would for Christ my Sav - ior speak.
and with ac - tions broth - er - ly speak my Lord's sin - cer - i - ty.
ev - er by a might - y hope press - ing on and bear - ing up.
and what - ev - er I can be, give to him who gave me thee!

Collection of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Prayer

Jeremy Jones

Hymn:

Doxology

VERITAS REFORMED CHURCH

Sunday Liturgy

June 11

Anno Domini 2023

Clay Staggs,
Leading Elder

The Third Sunday
After Pentecost

Affirmation of Faith

Adapted from *The Westminster Confession*

XXV: Of the Church

Leader: What do you believe concerning the invisible church?

People: The catholic or universal Church, which is invisible, consists of the whole number of God's chosen people, who have been, are, or will be gathered into one under Christ the Head of the Church. It is the spouse, the body, and the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Leader: What do you believe concerning the visible church?

People: The visible Church, which is also catholic or universal under the Gospel (though not confined to one nation, as before under the Law), consists of all those throughout the world who profess the true religion, and their children. It is the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ, the house and family of God, outside of which there is no ordinary possibility of salvation.

Leader: What do you believe regarding Christ's gifts to the church?

People: Christ has given to this catholic, visible Church the ministry, oracles, and ordinances of God, for the gathering and perfecting of the saints in this life, up to the end of the world. He makes them effective for these purposes by his own presence and Spirit, according to his promise.

Leader: What do you believe regarding the purity of the church?

People: This catholic Church has been sometimes more and sometimes less visible. Also, particular Churches are more or less pure based on whether the doctrine of the Gospel is taught and embraced, the ordinances administered, and public worship is performed more or less purely in them.

Hymn: Gloria Patri

Prayer of Intercession

Hymn: Come We That Love The Lord

(Music on Next Page)

VERITAS REFORMED CHURCH

Sunday Liturgy

June 11

Anno Domini 2023

Clay Staggs,
Leading Elder

The Third Sunday
After Pentecost

Come, We That Love the Lord

700

Let the people of Zion be glad in their King. Ps. 149:2

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

1. Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;
2. Let those re - fuse to sing that nev - er knew our God;
3. The men of grace have found glo - ry be - gun be - low;
4. The hill of Zi - on yields a thou - sand sa - cred sweets,
5. Then let our songs a - bound, and ev - 'ry tear be dry;

join in a song with sweet ac - cord, and thus sur - round the throne.
but chil - dren of the heav'n - ly King may speak their joys a - broad,
• ce - les - tial fruits on earth - ly ground from faith and hope may grow.
be - fore we reach the heav'n - ly fields or walk the gold - en streets.
we're march - ing through Im - man - uel's ground to fair - er worlds on high.

Scripture: *Psalm 87*

On the holy mount stands the city he founded;

the Lord loves the gates of Zion

more than all the dwelling places of Jacob.

Glorious things of you are spoken,

O city of God.

Among those who know me I mention Rahab and Babylon;

behold, Philistia and Tyre, with Cush

“This one was born there,” they say.

And of Zion it shall be said,

“This one and that one were born in her”;

for the Most High himself will establish her.

VERITAS REFORMED CHURCH

Sunday Liturgy

June 11

Anno Domini 2023

*Clay Staggs,
Leading Elder*

*The Third Sunday
After Pentecost*

The Lord records as he registers the peoples,

“This one was born there.”

Singers and dancers alike say,

“All my springs are in you.”

Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades,

People: But the Word of our God will stand forever!

Sermon: **Citizens of a Surprising City**

Rev. Rob Looper

Prayer

Closing Hymn Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

(Music on the Next Page)

VERITAS REFORMED CHURCH

Sunday Liturgy

June 11

Anno Domini 2023

Clay Staggs,
Leading Elder

The Third Sunday
After Pentecost

345

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

Glorious things are said of you, O city of God. Ps. 87:3

1. Glo - rious things of thee are spo - ken, Zi - on, cit - y of our God;
2. See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring - ing from e - ter - nal love,
3. Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov - 'ring, see the cloud and fire ap - pear
4. Sav - ior, if of Zi - on's cit - y I, through grace, a mem - ber am,

he whose word can - not be bro - ken formed thee for his own a - bode:
well sup - ply thy sons and daugh - ters, and all fear of want re - move:
for a glo - ry and a cov - 'ring, show - ing that the Lord is near:
let the world de - ride or pit - y, I will glo - ry in thy name:

on the Rock of A - ges found - ed, what can shake thy sure re - pose?
who can faint, while such a riv - er ev - er flows their thirst t'as - suage?
thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner light by night and shade by day,
fad - ing is the world - ling's plea - sure, all his boast - ed pomp and show;

With sal - va - tion's walls sur - round - ed, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.
grace which, like the Lord, the giv - er, nev - er fails from age to age.
safe they feed up - on the man - na which he gives them when they pray.
sol - id joys and last - ing trea - sure none but Zi - on's chil - dren know.

VERITAS REFORMED CHURCH

Sunday Liturgy

June 11

Anno Domini 2023

*Clay Staggs,
Leading Elder*

*The Third Sunday
After Pentecost*

Benediction: Hebrews 13:20-21

Leader: Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. And God's people said:

All: Amen!