

VERITAS REFORMED CHURCH

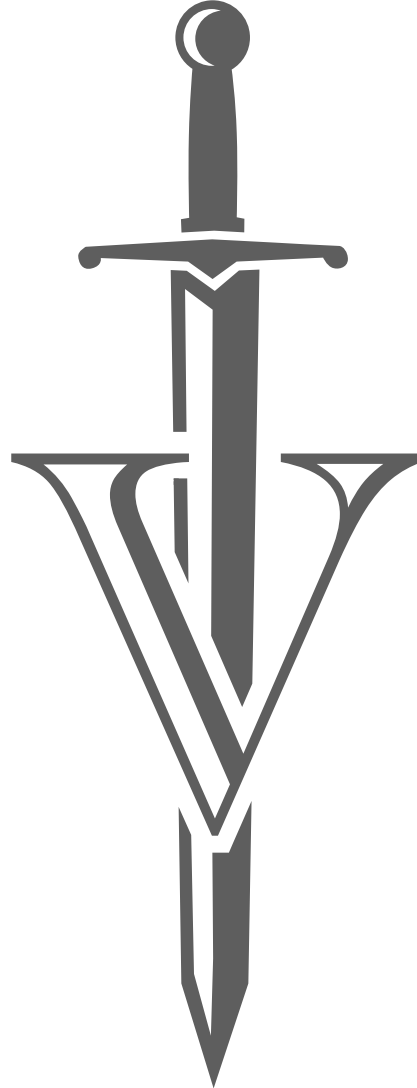
Sunday Liturgy

June 18

Anno Domini 2023

*Clay Staggs,
Leading Elder*

*The Fourth Sunday
After Pentecost*



For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12

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Reflections

To be in Christ, then, is to possess what is often spoken of as full salvation: everything necessary to our past, present, future and eternal welfare has been stored up in Christ for us to share and enjoy. But it is not only benefits and blessings that are in Christ; we are in him ourselves. Full salvation belongs to us as a matter of objective fact, but it is through union with our living Savior that we experience its warmth and personal reality.

Alec Motyer

In themselves believers have no life, or strength, or spiritual power. All that they have of vital religion comes from Christ . . . Their root is Christ, and all that there is in the root is for the benefit of the branches. Because he lives, they shall also live.

J. C. Ryle

Jesus, thou joy of loving hearts,
thou fount of life, thou light of men,
from the best bliss that earth imparts
we turn unfilled to thee again.

Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153)

(The priest Tikhon speaks) . . . there are no words or thoughts in human language to express all the ways and reason of the Lamb “until His ways are openly revealed to us.” Who can embrace Him who is unembraceable, who can grasp the whole of Him who is infinite?

Fyodor Dostoevsky
from *Demons*

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Call to Worship from Psalm 95

Leader: Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

People: **Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

Leader: For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.
Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

People: **For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.**

Hymn of Praise: All Praise to God Who Reigns Above

1. All praise to God, who reigns a - bove, The God of all cre -
2. What God's al - might - y pow'r hath made His gra - cious mer - cy
3. I cried to him in time of need: Lord God, O, hear my
4. The Lord for - sak - eth not his flock, His cho - sen gen - er -
5. Ye who con - fess Christ's ho - ly Name, To God give praise and
6. Then come be - fore his pres - ence now And ban - ish fear and

a - tion, The God of won - ders, pow'r, and love, The God of
keep - eth; By morn - ing dawn or eve - ning shade His watch - ful
call - ing! For death he gave me life in - deed And kept my
a - tion; He is their Ref - uge and their Rock, Their Peace and
glo - ry! Ye who the Fa - ther's pow'r pro - claim, To God give
sad - ness; To your Re - deem - er pay your vow And sing with

our sal - va - tion! With heal - ing balm my soul he fills, The God who
eye ne'er sleep - eth; With - in the king - dom of his might, Lo, all is
feet from fall - ing. For this my thanks shall end - less be; O, thank him,
their Sal - va - tion. As with a moth - er's ten - der hand He leads his
praise and glo - ry! All i - dols un - der foot be trod, The Lord is
joy and glad - ness: Though great dis - tress my soul be - fell, The Lord, my

ev - 'ry sor - row stills, To God all praise and glo - ry!
just and all is right, To God all praise and glo - ry!
thank our God, with me, To God all praise and glo - ry!
own, his cho - sen hand, To God all praise and glo - ry!
God! The Lord is God! To God all praise and glo - ry!
God, did all things well, To God all praise and glo - ry! A - MEN.

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Prayer of Praise and the Lord's Prayer

Confession of Sin

Scripture Reading: James 1:19-27

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Corporate Confession of Sin

Holy and merciful Father: We consider these words in stunned silence. We read and know that we fall desperately short. We do not listen to others. Instead, we make sure others hear us. We are not slow to anger. Our anger fires at every small spark of word or deed. We don't put away the filthiness of the world as children of God. Instead we embrace it as children of men. We hear the Word but avoid doing, knowing all the time that we build houses on a foundation of sand. We run from ministries and from those hurting, in need and in pain. Your perfect law is abhorrent to us and in our eyes is a law of prison rather than liberty.

Forgive us, Lord. In this time of confession, take us once again to the cross of Jesus, to the wondrous Gospel, and forgive us in His holy name. Through the Holy Spirit, strengthen our hearts and wills, and keep us focused on Jesus, our hope and only redeemer. Amen.

Silent Reflection and Confession

Assurance of Pardon and the Peace of God: 1 John 1: 8-19

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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Leader: People of God: We stand before Him clothed in the perfect righteousness of Christ our Lord. In Him and Him alone, we find grace, redemption and peace. May that peace, the peace of God, always go with you.

People: And also with you.

Collections of Tithes & Offerings

Hymn of Response: Lord With Glowing Heart I'd Praise Thee

Lord, with Glowing Heart I'd Praise Thee

"To the praise of His glorious grace, which He has freely given us in the One He loves." Eph. 1:6

to the tune of 'Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!'

Francis Scott Key



Lord, with glow - ing heart I'd praise Thee for the bliss Thy
Praise, my soul, the God that sought me wretch - ed wan - d'r'er
Praise the Sav - ior God that drew me to that cross, new
Lord, this bo - som's ar - dent feel - ing vain - ly would my
love be - stowes, for the par - d'ning grace that saves me,
far a - stray; found me lost, and kind - ly brought me
life to give, held a blood - sealed par - don to me,
lips ex - press: low be - fore Thy foot - stool kneel - ing,
and the peace that frome it flows. Help, O God, my
from the paths of death a - way. Praise, with love's de -
bade me look to Him and live. Praise the grace whose
deign Thy sup - pliant's pray'r to bless. Let Thy love, my
weak en - deav - or; this dull soul to rap - ture raise:
vout - est feel - ing, Him who saw my guilt - born fear,
threats a - larmed me, roused me from my fa - tal ease;
soul's chief trea - sure, love's pure flame with - in me raise;
Thou must light the flame or nev - er can my heart be
and the light of hope re - veal - ing, bade the blood - stained
praisie the grace whose prom - ise warmed me, praise the grace that
and since words can nev - er mea - sure, let my life show
warmed cross to ap - praise.
whis - - - pered - - - pear.
forth Thy praise. praise.

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Offertory Prayer Jeremy Jones

Hymn: Doxology

Affirmation of Faith from Colossians 1:15-20

Leader: What do you believe about the Lord Jesus Christ?

People: **He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.**

Hymn: Gloria Patri

Prayer of Intercession

Hymn of Preparation: Before the Throne of God Above

(Music on Next Page)

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BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD ABOVE

as performed by Keith and Kristyn Getty

Words by Charitie Lees Bancroft
Alt. Words and Music by Vikki Cook

♩ = 76

C F/C C

1. Be - fore the throne of God a - bove, I have a strong and per - fect
tempts me to des - pair, and tells me of the guilt with -
there, the ris - en Lamb! My per - fect, spot - less right - eous -

5 Em F Am F

plea a great High Priest whose name is Love, who ev - er lives and pleads for
in, up - ward I look and see Him there, who made an end to all my
ness. The great un - change - a - ble I AM, the King of Glo - ry and of

9 C F G F (Dm7)

me. My name is grav - en on His hands. My name is writ - ten on His
sin. Be - cause the sin - less Sav - ior died, my sin - ful soul is count - ed
Grace. One with Him self, I can - not die. My soul is pur - chased by His

13 Am (C/E) F Am F G

heart. I know that while in heav'n He stands, no tongue can bid me thence de -
free. For God, the Just, is sat - is - fied to look on Him and par - don
blood. My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ, my Sav - ior and my

17 1. 3. Am F G C G Am F C G Am F

part, no tongue can bid me thence de - part. 2. When Sat - an
me, to look on Him and par - don
God, with Christ, my Sav - ior and my God.

23 2. Bb Am Bb F G

me. 3. Be - hold Him

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The Preaching of the Word

Scripture: Ephesians 1

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades,

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

Sermon: **Why Should I Gain from His Reward?**

Rev. Joel Gibson

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Sermon Points:

- I. Rewards in Christ (1-8)
- II. All Things United in Christ (9-12)
- III. The Kingdom of Christ (13-23)

Prayer

Preparatory Hymn

A Parting Hymn We Sing (v. 1, 2)

A Parting Hymn We Sing

for Piano

Arranged by [Arranger]

A part - ing hymn we sing a -
Here we seen Your face and
We're pur - chased by Your blood, by
In self - for - get - ting love be

4
round Your ta - ble, Lord; a - gain our grate - ful
felt Your pres - ence here; so may the sa - vor
sin no lon - ger led; the path our dear Re -
our com - mu - nion shown, un - til we join the

7
trib - ute bring, our sol - emn vows re - cord.
of Your grace in word and life ap - pear.
deem - er trod may we re - joic - ing tread.
church a - bove, and know as we are known.

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The Sacrament of Communion

Pastor: Now in our worship, the table has been set. Now as we prepare to feast together at this table that the Lord Jesus Christ has provided for us, where He gives Himself to us, that we might receive Him by faith—that we might be strengthened and nourished by Him in every way. This table is a gift of God for the covenant community—the people of God. Let us give thanks!

Prayer

Pastor: These are the Words of Institution: As they were eating, Jesus took bread, and having blessed it, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “Take and eat; this is My body given for you.”

And as we share this Bread, let us pray and give thanks.

Prayer

Distribution of the Bread

Pastor: The Bread is communion to the body of Christ; let us eat together!

Pastor: And again, let us give thanks!

Prayer

Pastor: Thank you that Jesus drank a cup of wrath, that we might drink a cup of blessing; a cup of life and joy; a cup of covenant renewal. We give you thanks and praise.

As the wine flows out, again, let us pray and give thanks.

Distribution of Wine

Pastor: These are the Words of Institution: Then He took the cup, after supper, saying this is the New Covenant in My blood. Do this, as often as you drink of it, as my memorial.

May the peace of Christ be with you!

People: And also with you.

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Closing Hymn: A Parting Hymn We Sing (v. 3, 4)

Benediction: Ephesians 3:20-21

Pastor: 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!**