

VERITAS REFORMED CHURCH

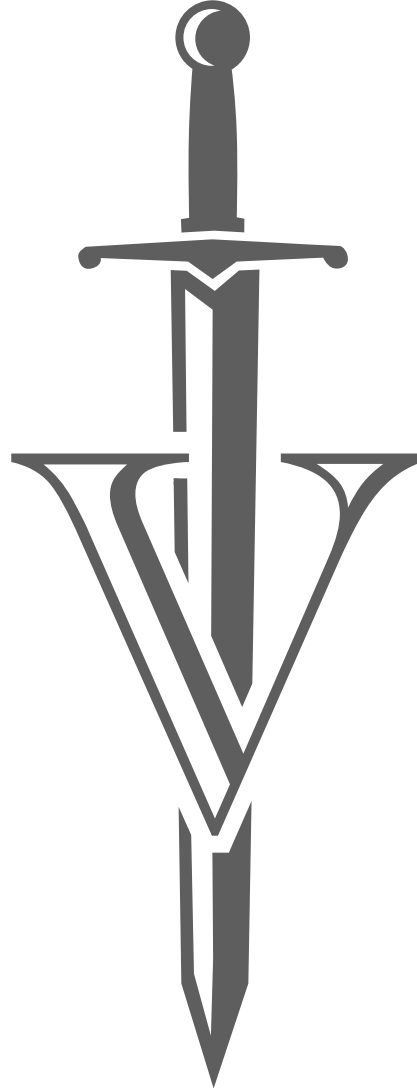
Sunday Liturgy

July 2

Anno Domini 2023

*Jimmy Hopper,
Leading Elder*

*The Fifth 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

We worship God because God created us to worship Him. Worship is at the center of our existence, at the heart of our reason for being. God created us to be His image—an image that would reflect his glory. In fact the whole creation was brought into existence to reflect the divine glory. The psalmist tells us that “the heavens are telling of the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims His handiwork.”

Hughes Oliphant Old

In worship it is important for both men and women to be their truly created selves, to honor God by being what they are and not blurring the lines by pretending to be something else. One of the unspoken clues to this passage may be Paul’s assumption that in worship the creation is being restored, or perhaps that in worship we are anticipating its eventual restoration.

N.T. Wright

God is glorified not only by His glory being seen, but by it being rejoiced in.

Jonathan Edwards, from “Miscellanies,” in
The Works of Jonathan Edwards

Jesus invites His saints
To meet around His board;
Here pardoned rebels sit, and hold
Communion with their Lord.
For food He gives His flesh,
He bids us drink His blood,
Amazing favor! Matchless grace
Of our descending God!

Isaac Watts, 1707

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*

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Call to Worship from Zephaniah 3:17

Leader: The Lord your God is in your midst,
a mighty One who will save;

All: **He will rejoice over you with gladness
He will quiet you by his love;**

Leader: He will exult over you with loud singing.
Come and let us worship Him!

Hymn of Praise: Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

The musical score is written for piano in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of five systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

Ho - ly God, we praise Thy name; Lord of all, we
Ho - ly Fa - ther, ho - ly Son, ho - ly Spir - it,
Spare Thy peo - ple, Lord, we pray, by a thou - sand
Hark, the loud ce - les - tial hymn, an - gel cho - irs a -
Lo, the a - po - sto - lic train join Thy sa - cred

7
bow be - fore You; All on earth Thy scep - ter claim,
three we name You; while in in - ence on - ly One,
snares sur - roun - ded. Keep us free from sin to - day;
bove are rais - ing; cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim
name to hal - low; pro - phets swell the glad re - frain,

13
all in hea - ven a - bove a - dore You. In - fin - ite Thy
un - div i - ded God, we claim You, and, a - dor - ing we
ne - ver let us be con - foun - ded. All my trust - I
in un - ceas - ing chor - us prais - ing, fill the heav - ens with
and the white - robed mar - tyrs fol - low; and from morn - to

19
vast do - main, e - ver - last - ing is Thy reign.
bend the knee while we sing this mys - ter y.
place in Thee. Ne - ver, Lord, a - ban - don me.
sweet ac - cord: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!"
set of sun, through the church this song goes on:

Ending refrain:
25
"Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!"

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Prayer of Praise and the Lord's Prayer

Confession of Sin

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 18:20-22

The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not suffer for the iniquity of the father, nor the father suffer for the iniquity of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself. But if a wicked person turns away from all his sins that he has committed and keeps all my statutes and does what is just and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die. None of the transgressions that he has committed shall be remembered against him; for the righteousness that he has done he shall live.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Corporate Confession of Sin

Heavenly Father, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have tried to save ourselves rather than following your Son. We have been misled by our own pride. We see ourselves as pure when we are stained and great when we are small. We have failed to love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Silent Reflection and Confession

Assurance of Pardon and the Peace of God: from Hebrews 10:12,14

But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God. ... For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. Only in Jesus can we find redemption and peace.

Leader: May the peace of God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Collection of Tithes & Offerings

And Hymn of Response: Jesus My Great High Priest

(Music on next page)

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Jesus, My Great High Priest

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1. Je - sus, my great High Priest, of - fered his blood and died;
2. To this dear Sure - ty's hand will I com - mit my cause;
3. My Ad - vo - cate ap - pears for my de - fense on high;
4. Should all the hosts of death and pow'rs of hell un - known

my guilt - y con - science seeks no sac - ri - fice be - side. His
he an - swers and ful - fills his Fa - ther's bro - ken laws. Be -
the Fa - ther bows his ears and lays his thun - der by. Not
put their most dread - ful forms of rage and mis - chief on, I

pow'r - ful blood did once a - tone, and now it pleads be - fore the throne.
hold my soul at free - dom set, my Sure - ty paid the dread - ful debt.
all that hell or sin can say shall turn his heart, his love, a - way.
shall be safe, for Christ dis - plays his con - qu'ring pow'r and guard - ian grace.

Presentation of Tithes and Offertory Prayer

Hymn: Doxology

Affirmation of Faith: On The Preeminence Of Christ Colossians 1:15-30

Leader: What do we believe about the Preeminence of 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

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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: For Your Gift of God the Spirit

For Your Gift of God the Spirit

For Your gift of God the Spir - it, pow'r to make our lives a -
He who in cre - a - tion's dawn - ing brood - ed on the life - less
He, Him - self the liv - ing Au - thor, wakes to life the sa - cred
He, the might - y God, in - dwells us; His to strength - en, help, em -
Fa - ther, grant Your Ho - ly Spir - it in our hearts may rule to -
4
new, pledge of life and hope of glo - ry, Sav - ior,
deep, still a - cross our na - ture's dark - ness moves to
Word, reads with us its ho - ly pa - ges and re -
pow'r; His to o - ver - come the tempt - er, ours to
day, grieved not, quenched not, but un - hind - ered, work in
7
we would wor - ship You, Crown - ing gift of res - ur -
wake our souls from sleep, moves to stir, to draw, to
veals our ris - en Lord. He it is who works with -
call in dan - ger's hour. In His strength we dare to
us His sove - reign way. Fill us with Your ho - ly
10
rec - tion sent from Your as - cend - ed throne, full - ness
quick - en, thrusts us through with sense of sin; brings to
in us, teach - ing reb - el hearts to pray, He whos
bat - tle all the rag - ing hosts of sin, and by
full - ness, God the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son; in us,
13
of the ver - y God - head, come to make Your life our
birth and selas and fills us, sav - ing Ad - vo - cate with -
ho - ly in - ter - ces - sions rise for us both night and
Him a - lone we con - quer foes with - out and foes with -
through us, then, for - e - ver, shall Your per - fect will be
16
own.
in.
day.
in.
done.

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The Preaching of the Word

Scripture: Ephesians 3:20-21

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. Amen.

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

Sermon: Power and Glory Rev. Rob Looper

Closing Hymn: Rejoice the Lord is King

Charles Wesley, 1746

John Darwall, 1770

1. Re - jice the Lord is King; your Lord and King a - dore! Re -
2. Je - sus, the Sav - ior reigns, the God of truth and love; when
3. His king - dom can - not fail, he rules o'er earth and heav'n; the
4. He sits at God's right hand till all his foes sub - mit, and
5. Re - jice in glo - rious hope! Our Lord, the Judge, shall come, and

joice, give thanks and sing and tri - umph e - ver - more.
he had purged our stains he took his seat a - bove.
keys of death and hell are to our Je - sus giv'n.
bow to his com - mand, and fall be - neath his feet.
take his ser - vants up to their e - ter - nal home.

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Re -

joice, a - gain I say re - jice!

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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