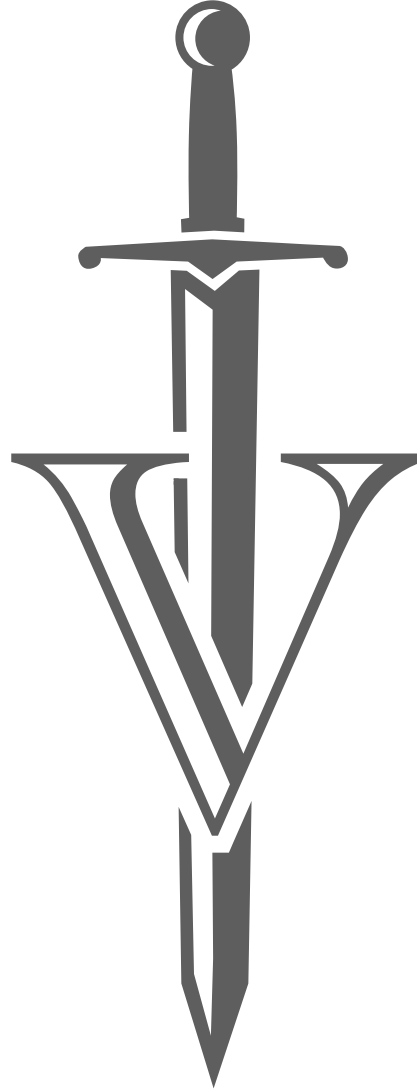


VERITAS REFORMED CHURCH

*Allen Powers,
Leading Elder*

*Sunday Liturgy
August 20
Anno Domini 2023*

*The Twelfth
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

Modern man cannot talk about the object of his faith, only about faith itself...Modern man's faith turns inward. In Christianity the value of faith depends upon the object towards which the faith is directed. So it looks outward to the God who is there, and to Christ who in history died upon the cross once for all, finished the work of atonement, and on the third day rose again in space and in time. This makes Christian faith open to discussion and verification.

Francis Schaeffer
from *The God Who is There*

What will matter is our relationship to the Lord Jesus, individually and then corporately, at this existential moment. What counts, as men look upon us individually and corporately, is whether we are exhibiting God and his character now. The Christian position is not static but it is living.

Francis Schaeffer
from *The God Who is There*

Union with Christ means we are part of a larger family, a broader mission, a longer story, a bigger world, and a deeper love.

Rankin Wilbourne

Redemption is meaningless unless there is a cause for it in the actual life we live, I see from the standpoint of Christian orthodoxy. This means that for me the meaning of life is centered in our redemption by Christ and what I see in the world I see in its relation to that.

Flannery O'Connor

Peter's declaration of our 'peoplehood' in Christ has vast consequences for the life of the church of Christ. The church is not just a religious association formed by saved individuals to give united expression to their faith. Church fellowship is not an optional advantage, to be chosen or ignored, like membership in a social club. It is the calling of every Christian. There is a spiritual 'ethnicity' to the church of Christ; Christians are blood relatives, joined by the blood of Jesus Christ.

Ed Clowney

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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. Let us worship Him!

Hymn of Praise: O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing



O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise, the
On this glad day the glor-ious Son of righ-teous-ness a - rose. On
His love my heart has cap - tive made, His cap - tive would I be, for
My gra-cious Mas - ter and my God, ass - ist me to pro - claim, to

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glo - ries of my God and King, the_ tri-umphs of His grace.
my be - night - ed soul He shone and_ filled it with re - pose.
He was bound, and scorged, and died, my_ cap - tive soul to free.
spread thro' all the earth a-broad the_ hon - ors of Your name.

5. Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease,
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life and health and peace.

6. He breaks the power of reigning sin,
He sets the prisoner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean;
His blood availed for me.

7. He speaks and, list'ning to His voice,
New life the dead receive;
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice;
The humble poor believe.

8. Glory to God, and praise, and love
Be now and ever given
By saints below and saints above,
The Church in earth and heaven.

Prayer of Praise and the Lord's Prayer

Confession of Sin

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Scripture Reading: Psalm 103:1-6

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,

Who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,

Who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

Who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The Lord works righteousness
and justice for all who are oppressed.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Corporate Confession of Sin

A Prayer of St. Anselm (1033-1109)

O Almighty God and merciful Father, you who pour your benefits upon us – forgive our ingratitude which is due your goodness. We have cherished before you dead and senseless hearts. Turn us, O merciful Father, and so shall we be turned. Make us with whole heart to hunger and thirst after you, so that with all our longing we would desire you above all. Amen.

Silent Reflection and Confession

Assurance of Pardon and the Peace of God: Psalm 103:11-13

For as the heavens are high 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 he removes our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion for his children, so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.

Leader: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

**Collection of Tithes & Offerings
And Hymn of Response:**

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

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O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities. Is. 53:5

1. O sa - cred Head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down;
2. What thou, my Lord, hast suf - fered was all for sin - ners' gain:
3. What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est Friend,

now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;
mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.
for this, thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?

O sa - cred Head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!
Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve thy place;
O make me thine for - ev - er; and should I faint - ing be,

Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.
look on me with thy fa - vor, vouch - safe to me thy grace.
Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.

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Presentation of Tithes and Offertory Prayer

Hymn: Doxology

Affirmation of Faith: *The Westminster Confession of Faith* Chapter XXV: The Church, Pts. 1-4

Leader: Christian, what do you believe concerning God's Church?

People: **The catholic or universal church is invisible and consists of all the elect who have been, are, or ever will be gathered into one under Christ, the head. The church is his body and spouse, the fullness of God, who fills all in all.**

The visible church is also catholic or universal under the gospel, that is, it is not confined to one nation as previously under the Mosaic Law. It consists of everyone in the world who professes the true religion together with their children. The visible church is the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ and the house and family of God, outside of which people cannot ordinarily be saved.

In order to gather and perfect the saints in this life until the end of the world Christ has given the ministry, Scriptures, and ordinances of God to this universal visible church, and by his own presence and Spirit he enables the church to function in this way according to his promise.

This universal church has been sometimes more and sometimes less visible. Particular churches, which are members of it, are also more or less pure, depending on how the gospel is accepted and taught, how the ordinances of God are administered, and how public worship is performed.

Hymn of Response: Gloria Patri

Prayer of Intercession

Hymn of Preparation: We Are God's People

(Music on next page.)

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We Are God's People

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We are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Ps. 100:3

Unison

1. We are God's peo - ple, the cho - sen of the Lord, born of his
2. We are God's loved ones, the Bride of Christ our Lord, for we have
3. We are the Bod - y of which the Lord is Head, called to o -
4. We are a tem - ple, the Spir - it's dwell - ing place, formed in great

Spir - it, es - tab - lished by his Word; our cor - ner - stone is
known it, the love of God out - poured; now let us learn how
bey him, now ris - en from the dead; he wills us be a
weak - ness, a cup to hold God's grace; we die a - lone, for

Christ a - lone, and strong in him we stand: O let us live trans -
to re - turn the gift of love once giv'n: O let us share each
fam - i - ly, di - verse yet tru - ly one: O let us give our
on its own each mem - ber los - es fire: yet joined in one the

par - ent - ly, and walk heart to heart and hand in hand.
joy and care, and live with a zeal that pleas - es heav'n.
gifts to God, and so shall his work on earth be done.
flame burns on to give warmth and light, and to in - spire.

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The Preaching of the Word

Scripture: Ephesians 4:1-16

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it says,

“When he ascended on high he led a host of captives,
and he gave gifts to men.”

(In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

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

Sermon: The Church Unified Rev. Joel Gibson

- I. A Reason for Unity (v. 1-3)
- II. One Faith, One Spirit, One Baptism (v. 4-6)
- III. Unity Attained and Maintained (v. 7-16)

The Sacrament of Communion

Distribution of the Bread

Prayer

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Distribution of Wine

Prayer

The Giving of Peace

Pastor: May the peace of Christ be with you!
People: **And also with you!**

Closing Hymn: Crown Him With Many Crowns

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Crown Him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on His throne; hark!
Crown Him the Son of God be - fore the worlds be - gan. And

5
how the heav'n - ly an - them_drowns all mu - sic but its own: a -
ye, who tread where He hath_ trod, crown Him the Son of Man. Who

9
wake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee, and
ev - 'ry grief hath known that wrings the hu - man breast, and

13
hail Him as thy match-less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
takes and bears them for His own, that all in Him may rest.

3. Crown Him the Lord of life,
Who triumphed o'er the grave,
And rose victorious in the strife
For those He came to save;
His glories now we sing
Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring,
And lives that death may die.

5. Crown Him the Lord of love;
Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above,
In beauty glorified;
No angels in the sky
Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends their burning eye
At mysteries so bright.

4. Crown Him the Lord of Heav'n
Enthroned in worlds above
Crown Him the King to whom is giv'n
The wondrous name of love.
Crown Him with many crowns
As thrones before Him fall
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns
For He is king of all.

6. Crown Him the Lord of years,
The potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres,
Ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For Thou hast died for me;
Thy praise shall never, never fail
Throughout eternity.

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Benediction: Ephesians 3:30-21

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