



Christ Presbyterian Church in The Hill

Our Gathered Order of Service

January 3, 2021 Pastor Chip Anderson (203) 450-2299 / Email: ChipCPCtheHill@gmail.com

Imagine — This God—his way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him (Psalm 18:30).

I. Rediscover God's Glory

Call to Worship — adapted from Psalm 19

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Let the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer.

Let us sing a song of adoration and offer up praise to our Ascended King.

II. Rediscover God's Grace

Almighty and most merciful Father, we are thankful that your mercy is higher than the heavens, wider than our wanderings, deeper than all our sin. Forgive our careless attitudes toward your purposes, our refusal to relieve the suffering of others, our envy of those who have more than we have, our obsession with creating a life of constant pleasure, our indifference to the treasures of heaven, our neglect of your wise and gracious law. Help us to change our way of life so that we may desire what is good, love what you love, and do what you command, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bow your heads, take the time to offer your own confession of sins

The Word assures us of God's forgiveness:

"I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins" (Isaiah 43:25).

III. Renewal in Christ, Our King's Word

OT Reading—Isaiah 55:1-13

NT Readings—Matthew 7:24-27 // 2 Timothy 3:10-17

*The Word of the Lord . . . **Everyone:** Thanks be to God.*

Sermon: On Reading the Bible: Building a More Solid House

VI. Renewal of Christ's Presence

Sharing our prayer requests and bringing them before our Father

Prayers for our children

Our profession of our faith together

Church, how is the Word of God to be read and heard?

With diligence, preparation, and prayer; so that we may accept it with faith, store it in our hearts, and practice it in our lives.

Affirming Christ's Presence as we share the Lord's Supper

V. Restored in Christ's Supremacy

A Prayer and the Words of Benediction

And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true **words** of God" (Revelation 19:9).

And all God's people shout: Amen!

OT Reading—Isaiah 55:1-13

Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters;
and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.
Why spend money on what is not bread,
and your labor on what does not satisfy?
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,
and you will delight in the richest of fare.
Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live.
I will make an everlasting covenant with you,
my faithful love promised to David.
See, I have made him a witness to the peoples,
a ruler and commander of the peoples.
Surely you will summon nations you know not,
and nations you do not know will come running to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has endowed you with splendor.”

Seek the Lord while he may be found;
call on him while he is near.
Let the wicked forsake their ways
and the unrighteous their thoughts.
Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord.
As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.
As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it
without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,
so is my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.
You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and hills will burst into song before you,
and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.
Instead of the thornbush will grow the juniper,
and instead of briars the myrtle will grow.
This will be for the Lord’s renown,
for an everlasting sign, that will endure forever.”

NT Readings—Matthew 7:24-27: Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.

2 Timothy 3:10-17—You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Reader: The Word of the Lord // The people: Thanks be to God

Announcements

- ➔ **Jan 5th**— Bonfire Bible Study @ the Anderson’s out back of 122 Carlisle Street (at 6pm)— *Portraits of Jesus from the Gospel of Luke: Learning to Follow Jesus a Little Deeper*
- ➔ **Jan 6th** — **Zoom** Ladies Bible Study & Prayer @ 7:00pm. In-person Studies are the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month.
- ➔ **Jan 9th**— Maxine’s Children’s Read Aloud continues at 14 Steven’s Street, 1:00pm–3:00pm. This is for our neighborhood children to listen to a book read aloud together.
- ➔ **Jan 9th**— Saturday Sidewalk Breakfast & Sidewalk Church Service (122 Carlisle Street) Breakfast starts at 10am; church service starts at 10:20. We serve no matter the weather. Come join us!
- ➔ **Jan 10th** — Come join us again for next Sunday’s service of worship, instruction, and fellowship @ 10am (here at 158 Davenport Ave).