



## Christ Presbyterian Church in The Hill

### Our Gathered Order of Service

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**Imagine** — For the word of the Lord is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness. He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord (Psalm 33:4-5).

### *I. Rediscover God's Glory*

#### **Call to Worship** — Psalm 57:1-5

*Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge;  
in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by.*

**I cry out to God Most High,  
to God who fulfills his purpose for me.**

*He will send from heaven and save me;  
he will put to shame him who tramples on me.*

**God will send out his steadfast love and his faithfulness!**

*My soul is in the midst of lions;  
I lie down amid fiery beasts—  
the children of man, whose teeth are spears and arrows,  
whose tongues are sharp swords.*

**Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!  
Let your glory be over all the earth!**

*Let's take some time to offer up praise to our Ascended King*

### *II. Rediscover God's Grace*

Lord Jesus, I have sinned times without number, been guilty of pride and unbelief, and of neglect to seek You in my daily life. My sins and weaknesses present me with a list of accusations, but I thank You that they will not stand against me, for all has been covered by Christ. Deliver me from every evil habit, every interest of former sins, every boast that makes my blessing greater than other, and from everything that dims the brightness of Your grace, everything that prevents me taking delight in you. Amen.

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

***The Word assures us of God's forgiveness***

“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.” (Romans 4:7-8; Psalm 32:1-2).

### *III. Renewal in Christ, Our King's Word*

**OT Reading** — Genesis 15:1-6 & Genesis 17:1-8

**NT Reading** — Romans 4:1-13

*The Word of the Lord*

**Everyone:** Thanks be to God.

**Sermon:** Romans 4:1-13: **The problem of comparison blessings: a church and missional blind-spot**

*The House-Churches in Rome are a Part of the Ancient Story of Abraham; we are the Promised New Family of God (wherever faith is found); the blessing of forgiveness is for all those who believe.*

### *VI. Renewal of Christ's Presence*

**Share prayer requests and then take some time to pray for them**

**Our profession of our faith together**

Church, what is adoption? (WSC #34)

*Adoption is an act of God's free grace by which we are received into the number of God's children and have a right to all the privileges of the sons of God.*

**Affirming Christ's Presence as we share in the Lord's Table**

### *V. Restored in Christ's Supremacy*

***A Prayer and Words of benediction***

“The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope.” May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope (Romans 15:12-13).

**And all God's people shout out: Amen!**

### ***OT Readings—Genesis 15:1-6; 17:1-8***

**Genesis 15:1-6:** After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.” And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.” And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

**Genesis 17:1-8:** When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.” Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, “Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.”

**NT Reading—Romans 4:1-13:** What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.” Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? For we say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness. How then was it counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised. He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised. For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith.

### **Announcements**

- ➔ **Aug 19<sup>th</sup>** — Our 8<sup>th</sup> and last “In His Midst” at Trowbridge Square Park. We set up at 5:00pm; our goal is to serve between 5:45pm–6:00pm as a Grab & Go. **We will pass out some school supplies this evening.** Social distancing and health protocols are still in place. Your help this Wednesday evening would be greatly appreciated.
- ➔ **Aug 21<sup>th</sup>** — Free Movie Night on Stevens Street. Starts an hour before dusk; movie starts at sunset.
- ➔ **Aug 22<sup>th</sup>** — Saturday Children’s Read Out-loud at Maxine’s on Steven’s Street, 1:00pm–3:00pm. This is for our neighborhood children to listen to a book read aloud together. A great summer-time learning event.
- ➔ Saturday Sidewalk Breakfasts & Sidewalk Church Service (122 Carlisle Street): you are invited to join us or maybe come and serve. Breakfast starts at 10am; church service starts at 10:20. We follow social distancing and health protocols at this Breakfast Grab & Go.