

Christ Presbyterian Church in The Hill "Scattered Church" Order of Service

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Imagine — **Psalm 31:1-2** (someone read): In you, O Lord, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me! Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily! Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me!

I. Rediscover God's Glory

Call to Worship—Lamentations 3:19-24 (read aloud together)

Remember my affliction and my wanderings, the wormwood and the gall! My soul continually remembers it and is bowed down within me. But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul,

"therefore I will hope in him."

Take some time to offer up praise to our Resurrected King

II. Rediscover God's Grace

Someone read: God through Christ is always ready to forgive those who come to him by faith, trusting that the cross is sufficient for our sins. Entering into His presence, albeit, scattered and temporarily separated from each other, we know God is holy and cannot abide sin. Yet, He Himself has made a remedy through the death of His Son, Messiah Jesus. So now we come because we know where we must go for the offenses, the distrust in God we too often show, for the forgiveness we need. None of us can live far without offending God, denying Jesus, turning on a neighbor, hurting a loved one, even from harboring evil will toward an enemy. Now we come back to Jesus to confess our sins.

Bow your heads, take the time to confess your sins

The Word assures us of God's forgiveness (someone read)

For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you (Acts 86:5).

III. Renewal in Christ, Qur King's Word

OT Reading—Turn to Psalm 137:1-9 and someone read

NT Reading—Turn to Acts 8:1-4 & 1 Peter 1:1-2 and someone read

The Word of the Lord

Everyone: Thanks be to God.

A message on the "Scattered Church"

VI. Renewal of Christ's Presence in Prayer

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

*Remembering & the longing for gathering around the Table of the Lord

V. Restored in Christ's Supremacy

Words of benediction (someone read the following text)

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:31-39).

And all God's People said: Amen!