



# Proclamation

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 5, 2017

PRAISE GOD   LOVE PEOPLE   PROCLAIM CHRIST   PRAY IN THE SPIRIT

A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

**NURSERY:** We welcome and encourage all children to participate with their families in our gathered worship service. We also provide two separate nurseries staffed by loving volunteers. Infants (NB–24 Mos.) are in the nursery adjacent to the sanctuary lobby, and Toddlers (Ages 2–3) are downstairs in Room 107. This room is also open to older children of our guests as needed.

**LARGER PRINT BULLETINS** and **HEARING AID DEVICES** are available as needed at the sound board in the back of the sanctuary.

*Announcements continued on page 16.*

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Our pastoral intern, Andy Styer, will preach this morning.

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## REFLECTIONS

For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. –Galatians 3:26–29

But the Gentiles, who have believed on Him, and have repented of the sins which they have committed, they shall receive the inheritance along with the patriarchs and the prophets, and the just men who are descended from Jacob, even although they neither keep the (Jewish) Sabbath, nor are circumcised, nor observe the feasts.

Assuredly they shall receive the holy inheritance of God. –Justin Martyr

“Father Abraham had many sons, many sons had father Abraham. I am one of them and so are you...,” so the old children’s song goes.

Although it’s a silly song that requires the raising of arms, legs, and the nodding of heads, the song’s theology is unquestionably biblical.

In Romans 4:1–16, the Apostle Paul explains that Abraham is “the father of us all.” –Burk Parsons

Paul affirms that in Christ Jew and Gentile have been reconciled both to God and to each other (Ephesians 2:11–22). What God has joined together, we may no longer separate. –Gary Roest

*Reflections continued on page 22.*

(The inclusion of quotes does not mean we endorse a person's entire theological outlook.)

March 5, 2017

▲ Those who are willing and able, please stand.

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PRELUDE

WELCOME

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**G O D I S H O L Y**

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▲ DOXOLOGY:

SILENT PRAYER OF PREPARATION

*Almighty God, you are the rock of our salvation. Let us come into your presence with thanksgiving and worship and bow down before you, the LORD our Maker. May your Spirit open our eyes to the glory of Jesus, that we might not harden our hearts, but receive the Word of God with meekness. In Jesus name, Amen..*

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Psalm 95:1-7

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

**Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;**

**let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

For the LORD is a great God,

**and a great King above all gods.**

In his hand are the depths of the earth;

**the heights of the mountains are his also.**

The sea is his, for he made it,

**and his hands formed the dry land.**

Oh come, let us worship and bow down;

**let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!**

For he is our God,

**and we are the people of his pasture,**

**and the sheep of his hand.**



## THE PEACE OF GOD

1 Peter 2:9–10

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

## OFFERING HYMN: **Be Thou My Vision** (Stanza 4)

*Using your personal, numbered giving envelopes makes the recording process much easier for our volunteers. You may request a set of envelopes using the tear-off portion of this bulletin. These requests will not be taken as a commitment of any kind.*

## PRAYERS FOR HEARERS / MINISTRY OF THE WORD

### ▲ SCRIPTURE READING: Ephesians 2:11–22

<sup>11</sup> Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—<sup>12</sup> remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup> For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility <sup>15</sup> by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, <sup>16</sup> and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. <sup>17</sup> And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup> For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. <sup>19</sup> So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

### SERMON *Nearness to God in a New Community*

#9 in a series on the Book of Ephesians: *To the Praise of His Glory*

## PASTORAL PRAYER

### ▲ HYMN: **We Are God's People**

————— J E S U S S E N D S U S —————

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

*In keeping with Christ's command we celebrate the Lord's Supper today; this helps to keep our eyes firmly focused on Christ, who is our only hope. As redeemed sinners who are weak and needy, we need constantly to be reminded of the gospel, and the Lord's Supper makes the gospel message visible and tangible to those who receive it by faith in Christ. It communicates to us afresh the cost of our sin and the glory of our salvation, nourishing us spiritually and reminding us that the death of Jesus assures us of God's love for us as individuals, and binding us together in a new community, as we wait for the coming of our Lord.*

*The Lord's Supper is a family meal for Christians. We invite to partake of this sacrament: all who receive and rest upon Jesus Christ alone for salvation, who are baptized members of a congregation which proclaims the gospel, who are at peace with God and with their neighbor, and who seek the grace of the Holy Spirit to walk worthy of the gospel. Baptized children are welcome to share in this meal when they have been confirmed in their faith. If you are not able to partake of the Lord's Supper, please use this time to meditate on the person and work of Christ displayed in this sacrament and one of the prayers on page 19.*

### DISTRIBUTION OF THE BREAD (gluten free)

**HYMN (Stanza 1):            O Sacred Head Now Wounded**  
(On Next Page)

### DISTRIBUTION OF THE CUP

**HYMN (Stanzas 2–3):      O Sacred Head Now Wounded**

### ▲ CONFESSION OF FAITH: (Unison)

Colossians 1:15–20

**I believe Jesus Christ 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 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.**

**Amen.**

▲ SONG OF THANKSGIVING: **Give Praise to God**

(Stanza 4)

▲ BENEDICTION

▲ DISMISSAL

Leader: Let us prayerfully go forth as one body to praise God, love people, and proclaim the risen Christ until He comes.

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE:

————— **J E S U S I S C O M I N G F O R U S** —————

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FELLOWSHIP TIME:** following **Sunday School** and prior to gathered worship, all are invited for light refreshments in the gym, as we continue to welcome and get to know one another.

**NEW ADDRESS DIRECTORY:** We hope to update and issue a new address directory this month. If you wish to be published in the updated directory, or if you have any changes to your address, phone, email, or family, since our last edition in 2015, **please complete the tear-off portion of this bulletin with your current information and place it in the offering plate.** Directories are shared only with those who are listed in the directory.

**BABY SHOWER FOR MEGAN MOTT:** The Elizabethtown Community Group invites the women of Proclamation to a baby shower for Megan Mott **next Saturday, March 18, 2pm** at Amy De Bruin's home (745 Pinkerton Rd, Mount Joy). RSVP to Emily Sirinides (454-8149 / esirinides@gmail.com) or click on the link sent in the church email. If you are interested in contributing to a group gift, please contact Stephanie Kimble.

**MEMBERSHIP AT PROCLAMATION:** We plan to receive new members on **Sunday, March 19**. If you are interested in becoming a member of Proclamation please contact Troy or let us know using the tear-off portion of the bulletin.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Florin has scheduled the main floor classrooms and library for renovation the first full week in March. Volunteers are needed **tomorrow Monday, March 6** to pack boxes and empty these rooms before renovation begins. There is a special need to box up books and other items in the library. Volunteers are needed again **Saturday, March 11** to return these items to their proper rooms after renovations are complete. If you are able to help, please contact Florin member, Bob Myers (371-1135).

### **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL:**

#### **1. Glad News of Deliverance**

Have you heard this great news? Do you know how to tell this great news? God repeatedly calls His people to remember His work in their lives and proclaim it to others. In this class we'll learn how to share the glad news of God's work in our lives in a way that magnifies Christ and makes the gospel clear. We'll also enjoy getting to know other people at Proclamation as we hear testimonies from elders, deacons, and other members of our church. Troy De Bruin will lead this class in the **conference room** (by the portico entrance).

#### **2. The Westminster Standards**

This new series will explore the core doctrines of our Reformed/Presbyterian heritage, and give opportunity for questions and discussion in hopes of connecting these doctrines to the life, work, and worship of Proclamation Presbyterian Church. This class is for youth and any interested adults. Andy Styer and Matt Henny will co-teach this class in the **gym**.

## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

### Community Groups meet this week.

#### TODAY, MARCH 5

- 9:30 am Sunday School for all ages
- 10:30 am Coffee & refreshments in the gym until 10:45am
- 10:40 am All are invited to pray with pastor De Bruin in the prayer room adjacent to the lobby
- 11:00 am Worship with Communion

#### TUESDAY, MARCH 7

- 7–9 pm Men's basketball in the gym

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 10

- 6:45 am Men's prayer meeting at the church office (81 E. Main St, Mount Joy)  
*Women's retreat with Trinity PCA and Hershey PCA at Kenbrook Bible Camp*

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 11

*Women's retreat with Trinity PCA and Hershey PCA at Kenbrook Bible Camp*

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 12 *Daylight Saving Time begins—turn clocks ahead one hour*

- 9:30 am Sunday School for all ages
- 10:30 am Coffee & refreshments in the gym until 10:45am
- 10:40 am All are invited to pray with pastor De Bruin in the prayer room adjacent to the lobby
- 11:00 am Worship with Communion  
*Women's retreat with Trinity PCA and Hershey PCA at Kenbrook Bible Camp*

#### UPCOMING DATES:

- March 15, 9:30 am: Morning Women's Bible Study at Melissa Groff's home
- March 15, 6:30 pm: Evening Women's Bible Study & Youth Group at Florin COB
- March 18: Baby Shower for Megan Mott at Amy De Bruin's home (745 Pinkerton Rd, MJ)

**COMMUNITY GROUPS** meet semi-monthly on the **weeks following the first and third SUNDAYS of each month**. All members are encouraged to be involved in our geographically-based small group ministry. If you would like to participate in this small group ministry but do not yet have a group, contact Troy ([debruin@proclamationpca.com](mailto:debruin@proclamationpca.com) or 203-9675).

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY and YOUTH GROUP** meet semi-monthly through the school year on the **Wednesdays after the 2nd and 4th SUNDAYS** of each month (alternating with community groups).

## Why Weekly Communion?

At Proclamation we partake of the Lord's Supper each week as an important part of our gathered worship service. A few brief reasons<sup>a</sup> why we do this:

- **Jesus commands his people to partake of the Lord's Supper.**  
The Lord's supper is a sacrament instituted by Christ himself. We partake in obedience to his command (Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–26).
- **The Lord's Supper is an ordinary means of grace which God has provided for the nourishment of our faith.**  
“Ordinary means of grace” are those provisions God has given us in his Word that are the main ways his people grow in Christ. There are many real and supernatural<sup>b</sup> benefits<sup>c</sup> to partaking of the Lord's Supper, not the least of which is the nourishment and strengthening of our faith. Why would we not want to do this as often as we could? Why would you want us to keep this benefit from you?
- **The Lord's Supper illustrates and proclaims the gospel.**  
It points us and our guests to Christ and his saving work each week.
- **The Lord's Supper encourages patterns of repentance and faith in our lives.**  
Repentance and faith are to be a daily part of every Christian's life. Right preparation<sup>d</sup> and participation in the Lord's Supper encourages this.
- **The Lord's Supper encourages unity in the church.**  
Proper partaking of the supper includes seeking reconciliation with brothers and sisters in Christ. This encourages a constant attitude of humble confession and repentance and loving forgiveness toward one another. Not only is this necessary for a God-glorifying display of the work of the gospel, but it also is essential to the health and growth of our young church.
- **The Lord's Supper was an important part of the life and worship of the early Church.**  
The pattern from the Bible and early Church history seems to indicate a weekly celebration of the Lord's Supper.

For Further Reading: (these resources are available online)

*Grow in Grace at the Table*

*Why Weekly Communion* by T. David Gordon

*Westminster Confession of Faith & Catechisms*

*Considerations Regarding Weekly Communion*, T. David Gordon

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- This list is neither exhaustive nor necessarily listed in order of importance.
  - Supernatural in the sense that God himself works in our lives by His Spirit through the partaking of the Lord's Supper; not that the elements are transformed in any supernatural way.
  - See *The Westminster Confession of Faith* chapter 29 and *Larger Catechism* Q & A 168–175 for a fuller explanation of these benefits.
  - See the *Westminster Larger Catechism* Q & A 171–172.

## PRAYERS FOR THOSE NOT TAKING THE LORD'S SUPPER

### *Prayer for Covenant Children Not Yet Confirmed*

Lord Jesus, thank you for placing me inside your family, the church. Help me daily to trust in you alone for salvation, to see you more clearly, to love you more dearly, and to follow you more nearly. Amen.

### *Prayer for the Unconvinced or Those Searching for the Truth*

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are and the necessity of what this sacrament represents. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you, as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

### *Prayer for Belief \**

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but, through you and your work displayed in this sacrament, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing the punishment for my sin on the cross and offering me complete forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead and will come again, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

### *Prayer for Those Struggling to Repent of Sin*

Lord Jesus, grant that I may taste and see that you are good and there is no need to look elsewhere, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking only to you, the one who loved me and gave himself for me, and is coming again. Amen.

### *Prayer of Commitment*

Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship through membership in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.

\* (If you are saying *Prayer for Belief* for the first time today, please share with a member of Proclamation, a church leader up front, or let the pastor know.)

## Treasuring God's Truth in Your Heart (TGTYP)

Scripture memorization plants God's truth in your heart, giving you nourishment for your soul, encouragement for your faith, and defense against temptation.

Last week's memory verse:

**John 10:9**

*I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.*

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This week's memory verse:

**John 10:11**

*I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.*

## REFLECTIONS

The Bible teaches that there is but one people of God and only one way of salvation. In 1 Peter 2:9, Peter calls his mostly Gentile audience "a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and a people for his own possession." These are all terms used for the nation of Israel in the Old Testament (Exodus 19:5-6; Isaiah 43:20-21), and Peter applies them to the church because the church is the true Israel of God. The biblical view (which is sometimes mistakenly called "replacement theology") does not say that the church "replaces" Israel. Rather, it affirms that true Israel always was, always is, and always will be comprised of those who trust in Christ alone for salvation. This is plain from 1 Peter 2:10. The Gentiles, who were formerly not God's people, are now God's people because they have trusted in the Messiah and because they worship Israel's true King.

Old covenant believers were likewise able to be the people of God because they were in Christ. Though they lived before the Son became incarnate, they looked forward to the day in which He would come, and they trusted in Him (John 8:56). Their example likewise shows us that the true Israel of God has always been comprised of those who love and serve the Messiah.     -RC Sproul

## PROCLAMATION MISSION STATEMENT

*Prayerfully dependent on and empowered by the Spirit in all of life, we will: joyfully praise God; sacrificially love all people in deed and truth; and faithfully proclaim Christ, to the glory of God and for the good of our neighbors.*

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If you do not want to keep your bulletin we welcome you to place it in our basket to be recycled following the service.

## NAME TAGS

Please write your first and last name as you would like it to appear on your nametag:

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## PRAYER REQUEST

I would like the prayer team to pray for the following need or concern:

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I would like to speak with someone about this prayer request or other spiritual concern. Please have someone contact me at:

Daytime     Evening

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## COMMENTS

We welcome your feedback and suggestions. Use the space below and place in the offering plate:

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Fold and detach along perforation.

