

WORSHIP SERVICE | May 21, 2023

PROCESSIONAL OF GRADUATES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE | *Nancy McLendon*

CALL TO WORSHIP | Psalm 40: 2-3; Proverbs 3: 5-6; Jeremiah 29: 11; 2 Corinthians 9: 8; Philippians 4: 19

Leader: For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.

People: **And my God will meet all my needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus.**

Leader: Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.

People: **He set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.**

Leader: And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

All: **Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in Him.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

HYMN OF PRAISE | *Before the Throne of God Above*

Before the throne of God above, I have a strong and perfect plea
A great High Priest whose name is Love; Whoever lives and pleads for me
My name is graven on His hands; my name is written on His heart
I know that while in heaven He stands;
No tongue can bid me thence depart
No tongue can bid me thence depart

Behold Him there the risen Lamb, my perfect spotless righteousness
The great unchangeable I Am. The King of glory and of grace
One with Himself I cannot die. My soul is purchased with His blood
My life is hid with Christ on high;
With Christ my Savior and my God
With Christ my Savior and my God

I bow before the cross of Christ and marvel at this love divine
God's perfect Son was sacrificed to make me righteous in God's eyes
This river's depths I cannot know but I can glory in its flood

The Lord most high has bowed down low
And poured on me His glorious love
And poured on me His glorious love

OUR GOD CALLS US TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN

Most holy and merciful Father, You are rich in mercy to all those who call upon You. Hear us as we come to You, humbly confessing our sins and begging for Your mercy again. Thank you for Your Son, Jesus...whose life, death and resurrection reconciled us to You. Thank You for Your Spirit...whose work seals all these blessings to us, Your people, forever. In Christ's name, Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDONING GRACE | Psalm 40: 1-3

I waited patiently for the LORD; He turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; He set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the Lord.

PRESENTATION AND CHARGE TO THE GRADUATES

Harper Thomas Shelton, The Westfield School
Benjamin Robert Tart, First Presbyterian Day School

SONG OF RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE | *In Christ Alone*

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from His hand:
Till He returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

DEDICATION OF OUR TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS | Exodus 25:2

Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering. You are to receive the offering for me from everyone whose heart prompts them to give.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF OUR OFFERINGS

SONG OF PREPARATION | *How Firm a Foundation*

How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He has said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

OUR GOD CALLS US TO HIMSELF THROUGH THE MEANS OF GRACE

SERMON – Rev John Gordy | *The Bread That Satisfies*

Mark 6: 30-44

³⁰The apostles returned to Jesus and told Him all that they had done and taught. ³¹And He said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. ³²And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves. ³³Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. ³⁴When He went ashore He saw a great crowd, and He had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And He began to teach them many things. ³⁵And when it grew late, His disciples came to Him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. ³⁶Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat." ³⁷But He answered them, "You give them something to eat." And they said to Him, "Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it them to eat?" ³⁸And He said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see." And when they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." ³⁹Then He commanded them all to sit in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties. ⁴¹And taking the five loaves and the two fish, He looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And He divided the two fish among them all. ⁴²And they all ate and were satisfied. ⁴³And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. ⁴⁴And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.

HYMN OF COMMITMENT | *Great is Thy Faithfulness*

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.
Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided –
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided –
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

GOD SENDS US OUT TO SERVE

WORD OF BLESSING | *Ephesians 3: 20-21*

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. Amen.

RECESSIONAL OF GRADUATES

CHORAL RESPONSE | *Trust and Obey*

Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, than to trust and obey.

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This morning, we welcome Rev. John Gordy to our pulpit. He currently serves as the RUF pastor at Valdosta State University. John grew up in Louisville, GA. In the fall of 2001, he began attending RUF at the University of Georgia where God used this time to reveal to him his need of Christ. He should have met his future wife (Sarah) during this time, however they did not meet until years later. John studied History while at UGA, played lots of ultimate frisbee with RUF friends, and attended many football games cheering on the Dawgs. After graduation, he worked in banking in both Athens and Augusta, GA. It was while in Augusta that John met his wife Sarah, while she working as a nurse, through some common friends that they knew from RUF. They were married in 2009. It was also during this time that John began to sense a call into vocational ministry. In 2011, the Gordys moved to St. Louis, MO where John attended Covenant Theological Seminary; he graduated with a Master of Divinity degree in 2014. John ministered to students while serving in youth ministry at churches in Decatur, AL and Rochester, MN after seminary. The Gordys have two girls, Grace and Charlotte who are always full of energy.

Unexpectedly and much to their surprise, God called the Gordys back south in the spring of 2019 to serve with RUF. He is thankful for the opportunity to give back to a ministry that has been so influential on his life. In his spare time, John enjoys listening to 80's music, reading, and watching Georgia football. Although, he is excited to serve at a campus where there is a real football national champion. Go Blazers!



Perry Presbyterian Church

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America



Perry Presbyterian Church exists to glorify God by making disciples who love God, love one another, and reach their world with the gospel of Jesus Christ!

Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

Colossians 1:28

May 21, 2023

Baccalaureate Sunday