

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BAD AXE (EST. 1878)

A CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

FAITHFUL TO THE SCRIPTURES

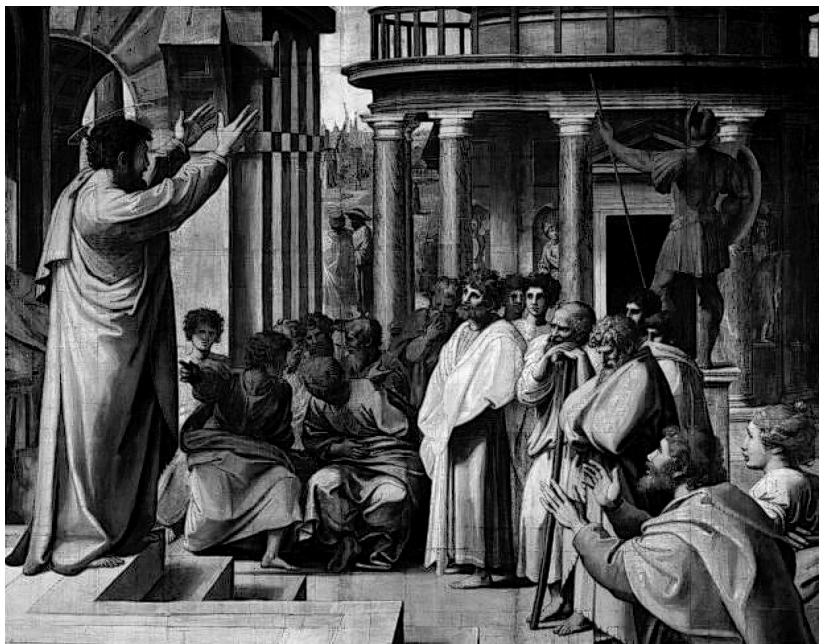
TRUE TO THE REFORMED FAITH

OBEDIENT TO THE GREAT COMMISSION

July 26th, 2026

Lord's Day 30

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost



Areopagus Sermon

Raphael (1515)

WELCOME

Grace to you and peace,

On behalf of the elders, deacons, and all the saints: Welcome to **First Presbyterian Church of Bad Axe**. We are pleased that you are here with us today to worship our Triune God. This bulletin contains a liturgy which will guide you through our worship services. We invite you to join us after the service for coffee, snacks, and fellowship. Here's a bit of info about who we are and what we believe:

We are a Christian Church: Thus, we believe in the Holy Trinity: One God, in three persons: The Eternal Father, the Eternally-Begotten Son, and the Eternally-Proceeding Holy Spirit. As Christians, we confess the faith once for all delivered to the saints (Jude 1:3) as codified in the ancient creeds and confessions of the Church: The Apostles' Creed (2nd century), the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed (AD 381), the Definition of Chalcedon (AD 451) and the Athanasian Creed (5th century).

We are a Protestant Church: As Protestants, we trace our beliefs and practices to the Apostolic Church, but we also have historical roots in the Protestant Reformation of the 16th and 17th centuries. As Protestants, we believe in the authority of the inspired Holy Scriptures over unbiblical traditions. Protestants also believe that salvation is by God's *grace alone*, through *faith alone*, in *Christ alone*, for the *glory of God alone* (Eph. 2:8–10).

We are a Reformed Church: Reformed Churches come from different regions, mostly in Western Europe, during the Protestant Reformation. These churches believe and confess the doctrinal summaries of the Holy Scriptures that arose from that time period. Our tradition comes from the Scottish and English Reformations; thus, we believe and confess the Westminster Standards, written in England during the 1640's.

We are a Presbyterian Church: Presbyterians believe that the biblical form of Church government is through called, trained, tested, elected, and ordained elders. In the Greek New Testament, elders are called *presbyters*, which is where the name "Presbyterian" comes from. Our Teaching Elder preaches and teaches, and our Ruling Elders come alongside of him to shepherd, lead, keep the Church from false doctrine, and make decisions on her behalf. We also have called, trained, tested, elected, and ordained deacons who take care of the material needs of the Church.

Reformed Presbyterian Churches hold the public worship of God in high esteem. Thus, our **Lord's Day Worship Services** are the most important events of the week. During this time, we gather together to hear the Word of God, receive the Sacraments (Baptism and the Lord's Supper), pray, praise, and enjoy Christian fellowship. If you have any questions, feel free to connect with me, or with one of our elders or deacons.

Soli Deo Gloria,

ANNOUNCEMENTS: CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & EVENTS

THIS LORD'S DAY

- 9:55 Announcements & Prelude
- 10:00 Morning Worship: Word, Sacrament, & Prayer**
- 11:15 Fellowship: Coffee, Tea, & Snacks hosted by the McCrea's
- 5:00 Evening Worship: Word, Sacrament, & Prayer**

THIS WEEK

Thanks to the Knapps for hosting our picnic last week!

Guest Preacher - This morning, we welcome Rev. Brian Frick back to our pulpit. Brian and his wife, Heather, are both graduates of Westminster Seminary California and now live near the Grand Rapids area.

PM Service – Evening Worship is back on this week as we continue in our series in the Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 21: Of Religious Worship & the Sabbath Day.

Birthdays & Anniversaries –

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Ladies' Night –

Attic Treasure Sale – Date and times TBD based on how many donations we receive. Please bring your donations during office hours or contact someone from the Diaconate to assist you.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH IN NEED OF PRAYER: Ann Armstrong, Mark & Michelle Green, Julia Mayes, and Lisa Schember; those who serve as caretakers; all who are ill or traveling; long-term care residents: Pam Belew (Courtney Manor), Bertha McTaggart, and Ann Thaut (Meadow Lanes); expectant mother Maddie Wissner and baby, for those who have ceased attending public worship, that God would reveal to them the necessity of worship on the Lord's Day and fellowship with the saints.

OUR MISSIONARIES: Jim DeWitt (Latin America), Lynn Hacker, the Kawachis (France), the Nachtergaeles (Belgium), the Shupes (British Colombia), and the Wilsons (Middle East), as they work as ambassadors of the King for the advancement of the Gospel of his Kingdom; that we would be missionaries by sharing the gospel and inviting people to our church; that God would grant courage and the words to speak as we interact with family and friends; that we would not be ashamed of sharing the gospel, but always ready to provide a defense for the hope that is within us.

OUR CHURCH'S MINISTRIES: That the work of the Session, Diaconate, Sunday School program, Missions Committee, and of all the saints would glorify God and be Great Commission-focused; that our service would edify the church and facilitate growth; that we would remain vigilant and faithful to the Word of God and our denominational standards; that our Sunday school classrooms would be full; for the peace and purity of our church; that members would take their vows seriously and attend church regularly; that God would be glorified and we would be sanctified as we worship him.

OUR COUNTRY: That the civil magistrate would rule with justice and uphold laws; that they would protect and encourage the good and punish the evil; for our local, county, state, and federal civil servants; for the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches; that our leaders in government would come to know Christ: The King of kings and Lord of lords, and that their governance would demonstrate that knowledge; that Christians in the United States would live quiet, godly, and dignified lives; that Christians would direct others to God in the way that we live as salt and light.

THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL: That the Kingdom of God on earth would advance through the preaching of the gospel throughout the world; for Christians who are being persecuted and martyred: that they would be faithful witnesses to Jesus Christ and that their persecutors would be converted through this witness. This month we pray for Christians living under Islamic persecution in Pakistan.

PRELUDE & SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

"Prelude"

Piano, Briynne McCrea

Grant, O Lord, that we be not anxious about earthly things, but love things heavenly; even now, as we are placed among things that are passing away; pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, that we may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Opening Prayer | *For the Love of Heavenly Things*

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

St. Paul | *Colossians 2:13–14*

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

St. Paul | *Colossians 3:1–4*

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

St. Paul | *Colossians 3:15–17*

~ THE DIVINE SERVICE ~

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

*GOD'S GREETING

Galatians

1:3–5

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Exodus 15:11; Psalm

150:1–2

Minister: Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods?
Who is like you, majestic in holiness,
awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?

†Congregation: **Praise the LORD!**
Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty heavens!

All: **Praise him for his mighty deeds;**
praise him according to his excellent greatness!

*PSALM OF ENTRANCE

O

Worship the King

Minister: Our help is in the name of the LORD!

†Congregation: **Who made heaven and earth!**

*PRAYER OF ENTRANCE

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

READING OF THE LAW

Exodus

20:8–11

Minister: The Word of God is living and active.

†Congregation: **Sharper than any two-edged sword.**

EXPOSITION OF THE LAW

Westminster Larger

Catechism

Minister: What is the fourth commandment?

†Congregation: **The fourth commandment is,
Remember the Sabbath-day, to keep it holy.**

Minister: Why is the word “remember” placed at the beginning of the fourth commandment?

†Congregation: **The word “remember”
is placed at the beginning of the fourth commandment,
partly, because of the great benefit of remembering it,
as we are thereby helped in our preparation to keep it;
and, in order to keep a thankful remembrance
of the two great benefits of creation and redemption,
which contain a short summary of religion;
and also, because we are very ready to forget it,
since it cometh but once in seven days,
and much worldly business comes in between,
and too often, these take our minds from thinking of it,
either to prepare for it, or to sanctify it;
and finally, because Satan with his instruments
labors much to blot out the glory of the Lord’s Day,
and even the memory of it,
in order to bring in all irreligion and impiety.**

Minister: What is sin?

**†Congregation: Sin is any lack of conformity unto
or transgression of the law of God.**

Minister: Christian, have you kept God's law perfectly?

**†Congregation: No, for we have all sinned
and fallen short of the glory of God.**

Minister: Therefore, let us take this time to confess our sins to God.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

CORPORATE CONFESSION

Book of

Common Prayer

Almighty and most merciful Father,

We have erred and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed too much the devices and desires of our hearts.

We have offended against Your holy laws.

We have left undone things which we ought to have done;

and we have done things which we ought not to have done.

O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders.

Spare those, O God, who confess their faults.

Restore those who are penitent;

according to Your promises declared unto us in Christ Jesus.

Grant that we may hence live a godly, righteous, and sober life;

to the glory of His name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Colossians

2:13–14

*HYMN OF ASSURANCE

Love Divine, All Loves

Excelling

OUR OFFERINGS

*THE WEEKLY OFFERING

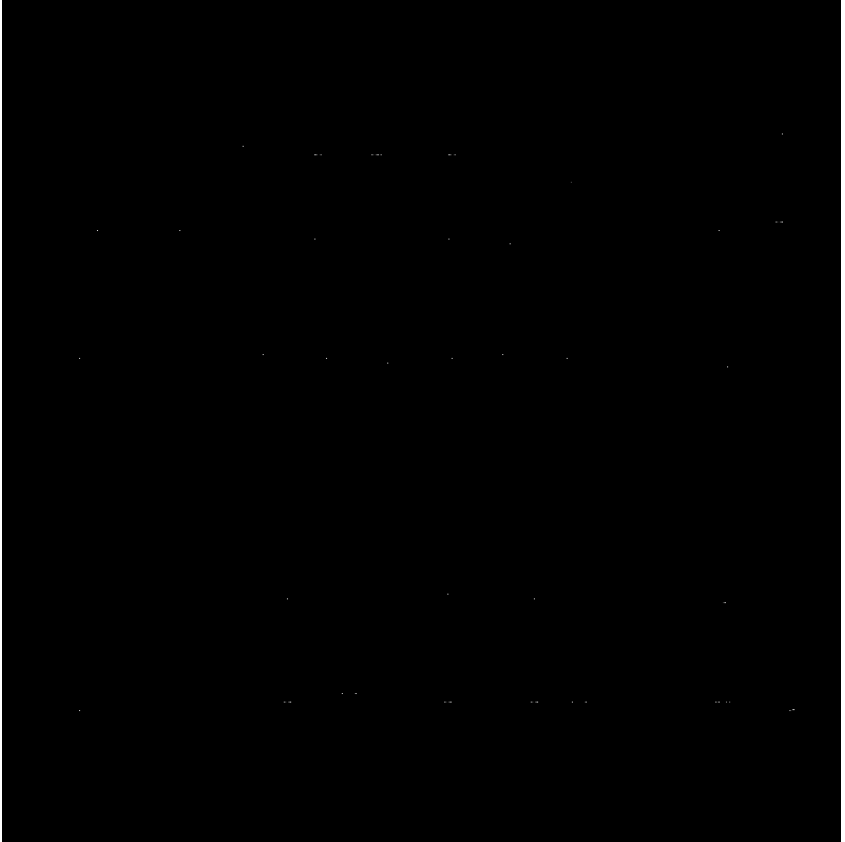
Colossians

3:1-2

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

*THE OFFERING OF PRAISE

Doxology



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Ruling Elder

Mr. Jim Philp

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, Who art in heaven

Hallowed be Thy Name.

Thy Kingdom come,

Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;

For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.

Amen.

THE SERMON

SERMON TEXT

Colossians

3:1–17

Minister: The grass withers, the flower fades,

†Congregation: **But the Word of our God stands forever!**

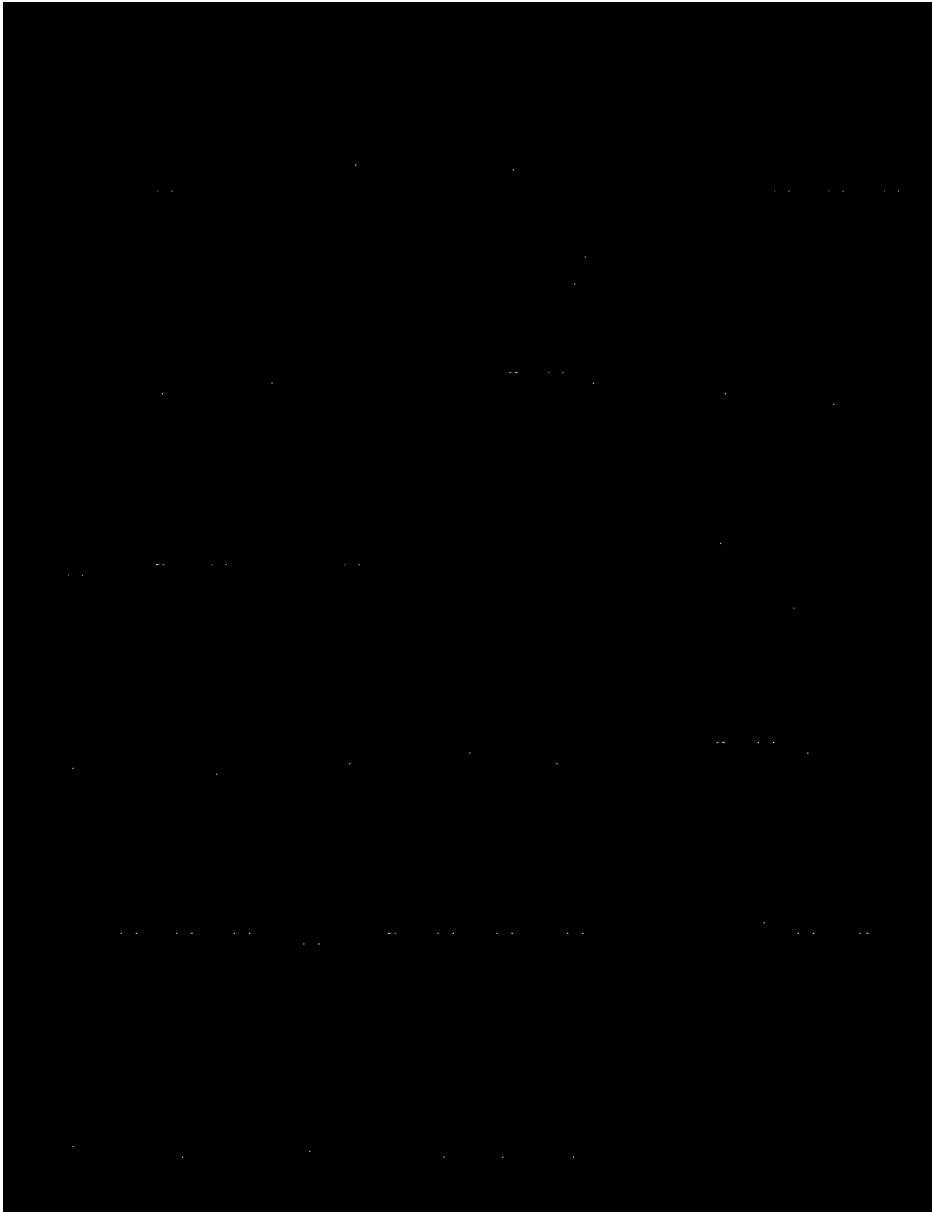
SERMON

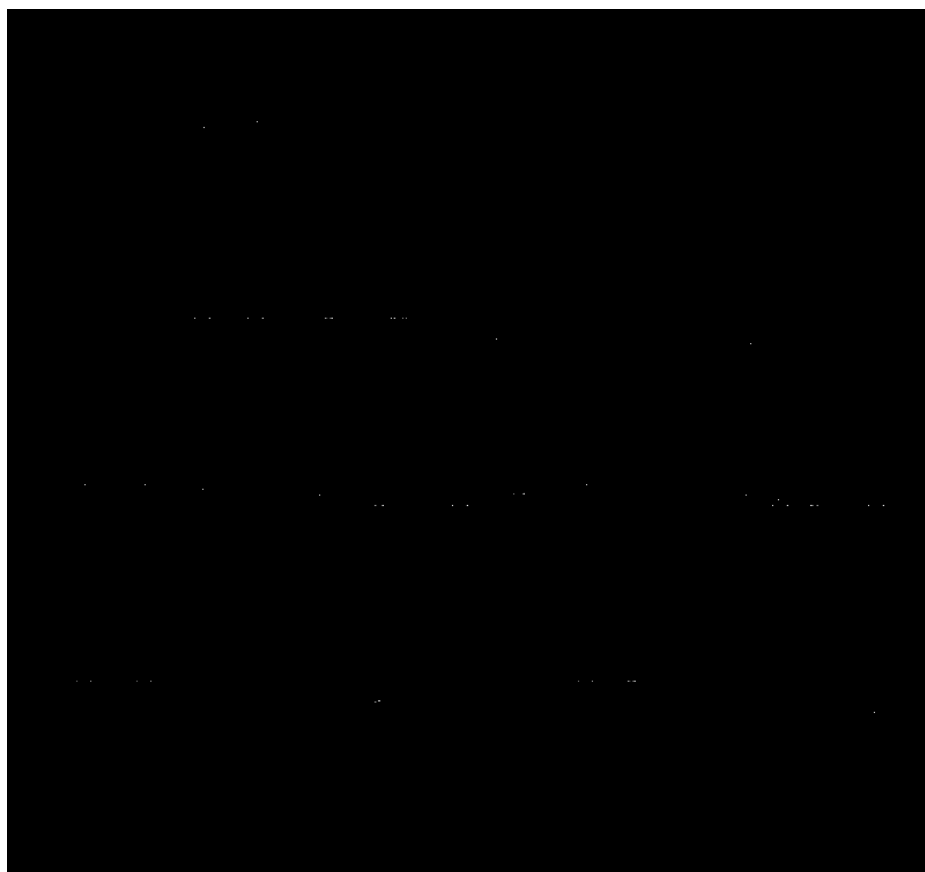
R. D. L.

PRAYER OF APPLICATION

*HYMN OF APPLICATION

A Mighty Fortress is Our God





THE LITURGY OF THE UPPER ROOM

CONFESSION OF FAITH

NICENE CREED (AD 381)

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again with glory,
to judge both the living and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified;
who spoke by the prophets;

And we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church;

we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

LORD'S SUPPER PREFACE

COMMUNION HYMN

O the Deep, Deep Love of

Jesus

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Sursum Corda (3rd

Cent.)

Minister: Peace be with you.

†Congregation: **And also, with you!**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

†Congregation: **We lift them up to the Lord!**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

†Congregation: **It is good and right for us to give thanks.**

Minister: Let us pray to the Lord.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Luke

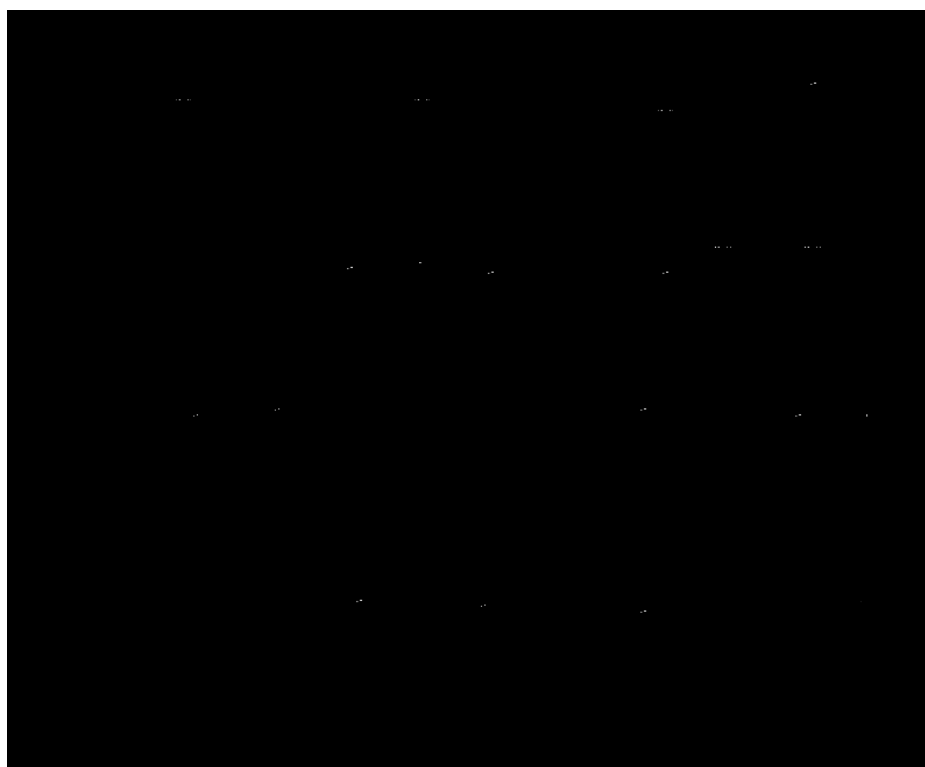
22:17–20

And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

*THE LORD'S SUPPER

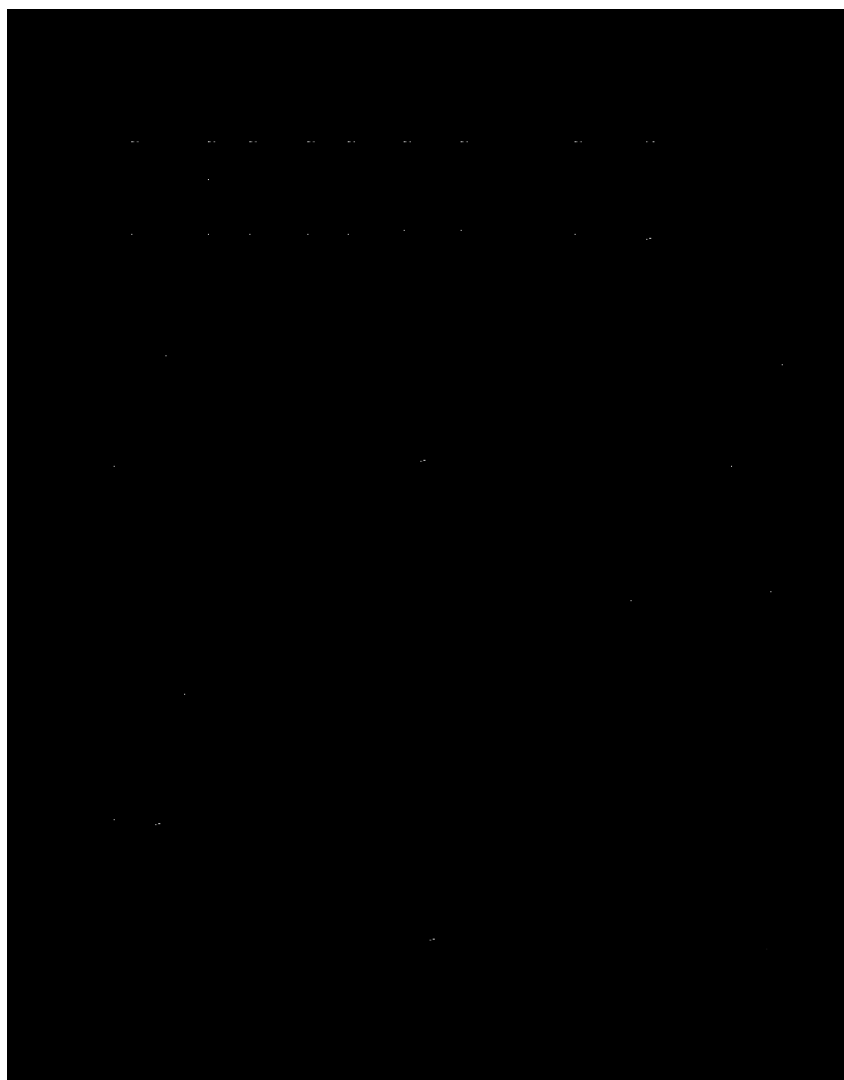
PRAYER OF APPLICATION





DOXOLOGY & BENEDICTION

*DOXOLOGY



*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

EXTENDED PRAYER LIST

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstance;

for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

(1 Thessalonians 5:16–18)

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH:

For the health of: Expectant mother Maddie Wissner and baby; Ann Armstrong (cancer), Mark & Michelle Green, Tom & Julia Mayes, Lisa Schember, and the families of Alan Moulds and Kurt Schember; for all those who serve as caretakers in our congregation; for those who are ill; and for those who are traveling. **For those living in long-term care facilities:** Pam Belew (Courtney Manor), Bertha McTaggart and Ann Thaut (Meadow Lanes); that our shut-in ministry would be fruitful and that our members would participate. **For non-attending members:** that God would reveal to them their sin and grant them an understanding of the necessity of public worship and the means of grace; that they would not forsake the communion of the saints and public worship. **For Visitors:** That God would continue to bring in families, couples, and individuals who seek to glorify him and grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ. Praise for recent visitors and that they would consider membership here in our local body of Christ. **For our Families:** that husbands would love their wives as Christ loves the Church and that wives would submit to their husbands as the Church submits to Christ. That parents would take seriously their duty to raise and train their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. That fathers would bring their families to Church. That parents would bring their children to Sunday School every Lord's Day. That children would obey their parents and show respect to authorities in the home, church, and society. **For our singles and divorced:** that they would devote themselves to the Lord and to the ministries of the Church; and that God would grant marriage to those who desire it. **For our widows:** that the Lord would provide support and fellowship through the church; that they would devote themselves to Christ and serve His body. **For our College Students:** Jackson Fluegge and Regan Hobkirk; that they would glorify God in their studies; that they would attend a local church on the Lord's Day; and that God would grant them vocational clarity. **For Family Members & Friends of our Church:** for the physical and spiritual health of: Amanda & Jack Armstrong (Ann's niece and brother: cancer); Andrea Bouverette Droulliard (Linda Herndon's friend, Beth Bouverette's daughter: learning to walk again after heart transplant); the family of Kari Campbell (Joy Gentner's friend); Linda Dumaw (Bonnie Perry, Judy Stokan, and Sharon Carpenter's friend); Tom Fata (Annette Knapp's brother: colon cancer); Virginia Gembarski (Sharon Gisel's sister: Leukemia); Libby Hill and Nancy McLeod (Allan McLeod's aunt and sister-in-law); Marge Mauer (Bonnie Perry's friend: stroke, surgery); Nicole Patterson (Gina's daughter: seizures); Cecil Shuart (friend of the McLeod's); Bob Ziel (Kim's father: Courtney Manor). **For all of our ministries:** for faithfulness in our ordained officers; Elders: the ability to lead and shepherd their flocks; Diaconate: strength and energy; Trustees: wisdom and a view for the Great Commission; Sunday

School program: faithful attendance, growth, and discipleship; Sunday School teachers: knowledge and joy; Missions Committee: participation in local missions and outreach; for a stronger local outreach; Men's and Women's ministry: better participation and being a blessing to us and to others. That those who participate in these various ministries would be blessed as they humbly serve for the glory of God; that these ministries would facilitate growth in the grace and knowledge Christ and be fruitful; that God would raise up and send more faithful men to lead and serve and act like men; that we would be faithful in obedience to the Holy Scriptures, the Westminster Standards, and the Book of Church Order; that God would continue to bless our Church with more families, couples, and individuals who desire to glorify God, grow in Christ, and serve in our Church's ministries. **For our worship services:** That the Holy Spirit would work through the Ministry of the Word, Sacraments, and prayer for the salvation, sanctification, and preservation of God's people; that through these ordinary means, we would be built up in the faith once and for all delivered to the saints; that we would worship God with all of our heart, mind, soul, and strength; that Christ and him crucified would be preached faithfully, week in and week out; that the gospel would go forth and people would be brought into this local body; that God would send or raise up more musicians and singers to serve him with their gifts, especially a second pianist so that our pianist would be able to receive days of rest; that our giving would increase and be congruent with the blessings that God blessed us with; that we would properly sanctify the Lord's Day and attend to the means of grace; that our members would have a higher view of the Lord's Day and that this would be evident in the fruit of their attendance of our AM and PM services.

OUR PRESBYTERY:

Redeemer Presbyterian, Holland, MI – Pastor (Lisa) Charles – For the Lord's continue blessing on the church, numerical growth, and an increased joy in knowing the Lord; for the Lord's blessing on our efforts to reach the over-churched in Holland with the saving gospel of Jesus Christ. **Covenant Presbyterian, Holland, MI – Pastor Ken (Laurie) Klett:** That the Lord would continue to provide a unified vision for our Kingdom work; that our committee work will prove profitable and that we would be able to staff them well; thanks for our elders who are on sabbatical, officers that recently went emeritus, and elders and deacons returning from sabbaticals; continued wisdom for our officers and that the Lord would raise up new men to serve as elders and deacons; blessings on the extensive work of our Women's Ministry; coordination as we are privileged to host Peacemakers and GLP this coming September.

OUR COMMUNITY & COUNTRY:

That in our community, we would be faithful witnesses of our Lord Jesus Christ, ready to give a defense of the gospel and the hope that is in us. (1 Peter 3:15) That we would be lights in a dark place, salt in a flavorless world, a city on a hill.

That there would be a need for church planting Reformed Churches in the Thumb; for wisdom, provision, and interest regarding the starting a Christian School. That our local, state, and federal civil magistrates would lead, rule, make and enforce laws according to Scripture; that our state and federal laws would protect rather than allow for the destruction of the unborn. For the protection of our armed forces, veterans, law enforcement, doctors, nurses, EMTs and all others serving in dangerous vocations, domestically and abroad. **That the Church in the United States** would live according to God's Word and for his glory. That Christians would live quiet, godly, and dignified lives, setting an example for non-believers and bringing glory to God. That our lives and good works would bring God glory and direct others to him and his kingdom. That we would lose influence and the ability to witness because of hypocrisy in the church. That we would all "kiss the Son, lest he be angry." (Psalm 2) That God would raise up leaders who seek to bring him glory as they serve on behalf of the community, county, state, and federal levels. For the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches in our country. For the Church's protection from government overreach and that the right to gather and worship would be protected regardless of the circumstances. That the Church in the United States would grow and thrive from a robust preaching of the Gospel and the whole counsel of God. That God would remove dead branches from the true church as well as false churches who teach things contrary to the Word of God or preach a false gospel.

OUR MISSIONARIES & THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH:

Pray for all of our missionaries: Jim DeWitt (Latin America), Lynn Hacker (Zambia), the Kawachi's (France), the Nachtergaele's (Belgium), and the Wilsons (Middle East), and the Shupes (Canada). This month, we pray in particular for the Nachtergaele's in Belgium. For our congregation: that we would be missionaries in our own contexts by inviting and bringing our family, friends, and neighbors to participate in the many opportunities for worship, fellowship, and learning that our Church offers. As Jesus said, "Lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest." That our new Missions budget would be a blessing to our foreign missionaries and facilitate more local outreach. **For persecuted Christians** throughout the world who are suffering because of the Cross. That they would be faithful witnesses to Jesus Christ, even unto death, and that their persecutors would be converted through their witness. This month we pray in particular for the 4.8 million Christians living under Islamic oppression and persecution in Pakistan (8th on the list of most persecuted countries for Christians).

INFORMATION & STATISTICS

THE SESSION

Wayne Copeland

Ruling Elder, Missions

Chris Fluegge	Ruling Elder, Trustee
Scott McDermid	Teaching Elder, Moderator
Jim Philp	Ruling Elder, Clerk, Trustee
Kim Ziel	Ruling Elder

THE DIACONATE

Bob Hobkirk	Deacon, Trustee
Allan McLeod	Deacon
Sharon Carpenter	Diaconal Assistant
Dan Clarkson	Diaconal Assistant
Linda Herndon	Diaconal Assistant
Carol Holtrop	Diaconal Assistant, Secretary
Lori McLeod	Diaconal Assistant
Alex Smith	Diaconal Assistant

CHURCH OFFICES

Church Office	M–F, 8:00–12:00
Pastor's Office	T–F, By Appointment

CHURCH ATTENDANCE: JULY 12th

AM Service	63
AM Livestream	
AM AVG. (2026)	66
AM AVG (2025)	65
PM Service	---
PM Livestream	
PM AVG. 2025	16
PM AVG. 2024	17

GENERAL FUND GIVING

July Giving	\$
July Budget	\$