

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

Lord's Day 17

April 26, 2026

Pascha: The Fourth Sunday of the Resurrection

“Blessed Are Those Who Believe”



The Martyrdom of St. Thomas

Rubens (1638)

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & EVENTS

THIS LORD'S DAY

- 9:55 Announcements & Prelude
- 10:00 Morning Worship: Word, Sacrament, & Prayer**
- 11:15 Fellowship: Coffee, Tea, and Snacks
- 11:45 Sunday School: All Ages
- 5:00 Evening Worship: Word, Sacrament, & Prayer**

THIS WEEK

Ladies' Night – Wednesday, April 29th at 6:00 PM at the church. Sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

Pub Trivia Benefit – Friday, May 1st at Verona Hills Gold Club at 6:00 PM. Sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. We need to beat the Methodists this year! Also, have fun.

Theology Thursday: Presbyterianism 101 – Join us on Thursday in the Lounge at 6:00 PM for our Theology Thursday class on Presbyterianism. This week's topic: Presbyterianism & the Christian Life.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Courtney Manor – Our Courtney Manor service will be next Sunday, May 3rd at 1:00 PM.

Ascension Feast – Thursday, May 14th at 7:00 PM following our 6:00 PM Ascension Thursday Service. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

Backyard BBQ and Worship Service – Our first Backyard BBQ and Worship Service is on Sunday, May 17th at the McDermand's. Food and fellowship starts at 1:00, followed by the worship service is at 3:00.

*If you have a nice big backyard and are interested in hosting one of our Sunday BBQs and outdoor worship services in April through September, you can find the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

Pentecost Feast – Sunday, May 24th following our AM Worship Service.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH IN NEED OF PRAYER: Ann Armstrong, Mark & Michelle Green, Julia Mayes, Lisa Schember, and the family of Kurt 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 Columbia), 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 Syria.

PRELUDE & SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

1177

Slane | *Piano, Brynne McCrea*

Almighty God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the Upper Room: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, together with the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

The Collect | *Fourth Sunday of Pascha*

Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel.

The Westminster Divines | WSC 86, "What is Faith in Jesus Christ?"

It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man. It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes. Out of my distress I called on the LORD; the LORD answered me and set me free. The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?

The Psalmist | *From Psalm 118*

He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence...For this light momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen...For we walk by faith, not by sight.

St. Paul | *2 Corinthians 4:14, 17; 5:7*

Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

St. John | *John 20:26–29*

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

The Preacher | *Hebrews 11:1*

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame... for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." For faith comes through hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ.

St. Paul | *Romans 10:10–13, 17*

Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

St. Peter | *1 Peter 1:8*

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

St. Paul | *Ephesians 2:8–10*

It is not I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

St. Paul | *Galatians 2:20*

Good works, done in obedience to God's commandments, are the fruits and evidences of a true and lively faith; and by them believers manifest their thankfulness, strengthen assurance, edify their brethren, adorn their profession of the gospel, stop the mouths of adversaries, and glorify God, whose workmanship they are, created in Christ Jesus thereunto, that, having their fruit unto holiness, they may have the end, eternal life.

~ THE DIVINE SERVICE ~

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

*GOD'S GREETING

Revelation

1:4b-5a

*CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm

118

*HYMN OF ENTRANCE

Next Page – Jesus is Risen! Let Us

Sing!

*RESPONSORIAL

from Psalm

118

Minister: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!

†Congregation: **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!
We bless you from the house of the LORD.**

Minister: It is better to take refuge in the LORD,
than to trust in man.
It is better to take refuge in the LORD,
than to trust in princes.

†Congregation: **Out of my distress I called on the LORD;
the LORD answered my and set me free.**

Minister: Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.

†Congregation: **This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.**

Minister: Christ is risen!

†Congregation: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

*PRAYER OF ENTRANCE

JESUS IS RISEN! LET US SING!

Jesus is risen! Let us sing!

Praise to the ever-living King!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise him in song, ye Seraphim!

Praise him with joy, ye Cherubim!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

On this most holy day of days,

Let us together sing his praise!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Raise joyful voices to the sky!

Sing out, ye heavens, in reply:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

To God the Father let us sing,

To God the Son, our risen King!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

And equally let us adore

The Holy Spirit evermore!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

READING OF THE LAW

2 Corinthians

4:13–5:10

Minister: The Word of God is living and active.

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

EXPOSITION OF THE LAW

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

Romans 4:25;

8:1

*HYMN OF ASSURANCE

In Christ

Alone



OUR OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Ruling Elder, Mr.

Wayne Copeland

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 WEEKLY OFFERING

2 Corinthians

9:6–7

Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

*THE OFFERING OF PRAISE

Doxology



THE SERMON

*PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SERMON TEXT

John

20:24–31

Minister: The grass withers, the flower fades,

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

SERMON

*The Gospel According to John: Passion, Pascha,
Pentecost*

Pascha: Blessed Are Those Who Believe

SERMON NOTES

THE CHALLENGE OF THOMAS

THE CONFESSION OF FAITH

THE BLESSING OF JESUS

THE FRUIT OF FAITH

PRAYER OF APPLICATION

*HYMN OF APPLICATION

272 – O Sons and

Daughters

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

378 – Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face

to Face

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

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia!

Hearts to heav’n and voices raise:
sing to God a hymn of gladness,
sing to God a hymn of praise.
He, who on the cross a victim
for the world’s salvation bled,
Jesus Christ, the King of glory,
now is risen from the dead.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory be to God on high!
Alleluia! to the Savior
who has gained the victory!
Alleluia! to the Spirit,
Fount of love and sanctity!

Alleluia, alleluia
to the Triune Majesty!

*BENEDICTION

Hebrews

13:20–21

*POSTLUDE

EVENING WORSHIP CATECHETICAL SERVICE

PRELUDE

“Before the Throne of God Above”
Throne

Before the

Sovereign Grace (1997)

Under the New Testament the liberty of Christians is further enlarged in their freedom from the yoke of the ceremonial law, to which the Jewish Church was subjected; and in greater boldness of access to the throne of grace, and in fuller communications of the free Spirit of God, than believers under the law did ordinarily partake of.

The Westminster Divines | *WCF 20.1, Of Christian Liberty*

The heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary

principles of the world. But when the fulness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father! So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

St. Paul | *Galatians 4:1-7*

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

The Preacher | *Hebrews 4:14-16*

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*GREETING

Galatians

1:3-5

*CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm

103

*PSALM OF PRAISE

53 – *Praise to the Lord,*

the Almighty

*PRAYER OF ENTRANCE

WESTMINSTER CONFSSION

Page 23

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Leviticus

16

PSALM OF RESPONSE

242 – *Not All the*

Blood of Beasts

21

PASTORAL PRAYER

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Hebrews

10:1–25

SERMON

Of Christian

Liberty, and of Liberty of Conscience:

Liberty in the Old vs. the New Covenant

1) CHRISTIAN LIBERTY

2) LIVING UNDER THE YOKE OF THE CEREMONIAL LAW

3) GREATER FREEDOM IN THE NEW COVENANT

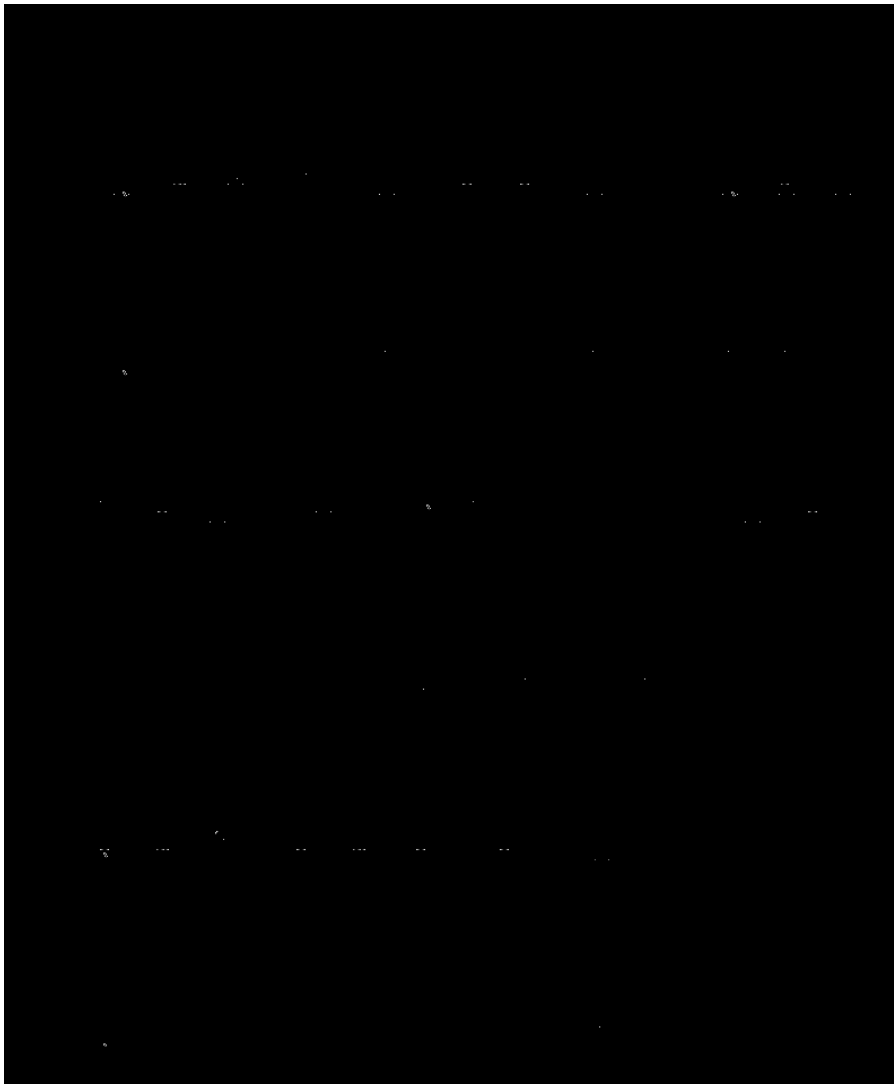
4) APPLICATION: MAKE USE OF THE BENEFITS!

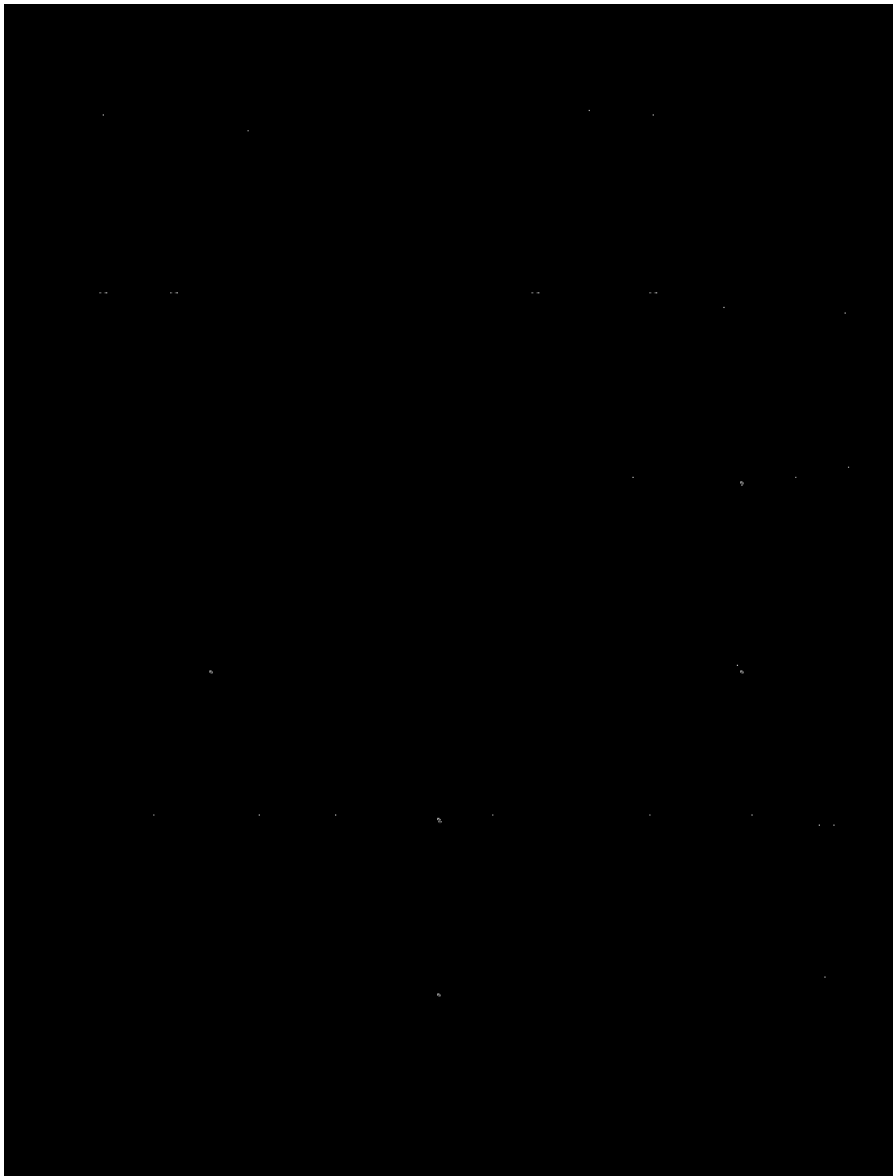
PRAYER OF APPLICATION

*HYMN OF APPLICATION

Before the Throne of God

Above





~ WESTMINSTER CONFSSION OF FAITH ~

CHAPTER 20, PARAGRAPH 1

OF CHRISTIAN LIBERTY & LIBERTY OF CONSCIENCE

THE LIBERTY which Christ has purchased for believers under the gospel, consists in their freedom from the guilt of sin, from the condemning wrath of God, and from the curse of the moral law; and in their being delivered from this present evil world, from bondage to Satan and dominion of sin, from the evil of afflictions, from the sting of death, from the victory of the grave, and from everlasting damnation; as also, in their free access to God, and their yielding obedience unto him, not out of slavish fear, but a child-like love and willing mind.

All which were common also to believers under the law; but under the New Testament, the liberty of Christians is further enlarged in their freedom from the yoke of the ceremonial law, to which the Jewish Church was subjected; and in greater boldness and access to the throne of grace, and in fuller communications of the free Spirit of God, than believers under the law did ordinarily partake of.

THE LITURGY OF THE UPPER ROOM

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Apostles'

Creed

LORD'S SUPPER PREFACE

COMMUNION HYMN

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Sursum

Corda

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

1 Corinthians

11:23–26

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, 'This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

PRAYER OF APPLICATION

*DOXOLOGY

11 – Now Blessed Be the Lord Our God

(1, 2)

*BENEDICTION

Numbers

6:24–26

~ DAILY LITURGY ~

(FOR FAMILY OR PERSONAL DEVOTION)

*“His delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law he meditates day and night.”*

(Psalm 1:2)

GLORIA PATRI

OPENING PSALM

OPENING PRAYER

CONFESSION OF SIN

CONFESSION OF FAITH

OLD TESTAMENT READING

APPLICATION

HYMN OR PSALM

NEW TESTAMENT READING

APPLICATION

HYMN OR PSALM

PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

28

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 the public worship on the Lord’s Day for his glory and their edification.

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, Regan Hobkirk, and Hailee McLeod; 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); Linda Dumaw (Bonnie Perry, Judy Stokan, and Sharon Carpenter's friend); Tom Fata (Annette Knapp's brother: colon cancer); Virginia Gembariski (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, Detroit MI – TE Jon (Vanessa) Saunders, Asst. Pastor Jonathan (Kara) Lacy – Pray for: 1) Windsor Ontario right across the Detroit River where Rev. Kingsley Lai has received a call to plant Redeemer Windsor. He will be coming from Grace PCA Toronto. Please be praying for all that goes into a scratch plant—fundraising, finding a home, meeting key contacts, etc. 2) We have all the finances in place for plant/revitalization in Northville which is wealthy suburb outside of Detroit. Please pray for the right pastor to come and lead this work. 3) Redeemer Detroit is in the third year of starting at Classical Christian School in the heart of the city—Detroit Christian. We are about to begin an aggressive capital campaign for a permanent building.

Christ Church, Ann Arbor MI – Pray for a smooth transition for Steve Gonzales and his family as they become a part of the church life in Ann Arbor. Pray that his ministry, through the power of the Holy Spirit, would bear much fruit for the kingdom of God and that God would receive all the glory in building his Church.

Pastor Daniel (Abby) Eguiluz, Missionary with Serge: Lima, Peru – Thank you for praying for our ministry of theological education to church leaders in the Spanish-speaking world. The Lord blessed our service to the communities in Iquitos, Tacna and Lima. In two weeks, we will be traveling to Spain to participate in the global conference that all Serge missionaries must attend every four years. This will be an important milestone in our current ministry as it marks the completion of our initial five-year commitment. We are seeking the Lord for discernment for future steps. Please join us in praying for clear discernment of the Lord's leading.

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 buy-in 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. That all of our leaders would bend the knee to Christ and

his Rule. 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. That he would be glorified in all of this.

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 Christians living under Islamic oppression and persecution in Syria.

INFORMATION & STATISTICS

THE SESSION

Wayne Copeland	Ruling Elder, Missions
Chris Fluegge	Ruling Elder, Trustee
Scott McDermand	Teaching Elder, Moderator
Jim Philp	Ruling Elder, Clerk, Trustee
Kim Ziel	Ruling Elder

THE DIACONATE

Bob Hobkirk	Board Member, Trustee
Allan McLeod	Board Member
Scott McDermand	Advisory Board Member, Moderator
Sharon Carpenter	Diaconal Assistant
Dan Clarkson	Diaconal Assistant
Greg Davis	Diaconal Assistant
Linda Herndon	Diaconal Assistant
Carol Holtrop	Diaconal Assistant, Secretary
Lori McLeod	Diaconal Assistant
Alex Smith	Diaconal Assistant

THE CHURCH OFFICES

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

CHURCH ATTENDANCE: APRIL 19th

AM Service	69
AM Livestream	
AM AVG. (2026)	66
AM AVG (2025)	65
PM Service	16
PM Livestream	
PM AVG. 2025	15
PM AVG. 2024	17

GENERAL FUND GIVING

April Giving	\$
April Budget	\$

