



**THE MYSTERY  
OF CHRIST'S  
SAVING LOVE**

EPHESIANS 3:1-13

**EPHESIANS**  

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**SERIES**



**TRINITY**  
Presbyterian Church

# ORDER OF WORSHIP | Sunday, March 13, 2022

*Listening devices are available for the hearing impaired.*

*Please speak with a greeter or visit the sound booth upstairs for a listening device.*

## SONG OF GATHERING & PREPARATION

The people of God always sang as they ascended the hill in Jerusalem up to the temple to worship (see Psalms 120-134). We, as well, prepare our hearts, minds, and bodies for worship by singing about the God we serve.

No Weapon

## CALL TO WORSHIP | Colossians 1:24-27 (ESV)

We read God's Word, the Bible, together. It reveals to us who God is and what He expects of us.

Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

## PRAYER OF ADORATION & CONFESSION

We pray together praising God for who He really is (Adoration) and admitting our inability to live up to what He expects of us (Confession).

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON | Romans 8:28, 32, 35, 37-39 (ESV)

We read God's Word together and are reminded that mercy and grace are freely given to all who have faith in Jesus Christ.

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose ... 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 separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ... 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.

## WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

We respond to the good news of God's mercy and grace for us in Jesus by giving generously to the work of His church and the kingdom of God.

It Is Well

## PRAISE & CELEBRATION

Our response to God's free grace is celebratory worship. We express our praise to God for who He is and what He has done for us.

Great Are You Lord

Christ Be Magnified

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

As an expression of our faith in Jesus Christ in solidarity with his people, we declare the substance of what we believe.

From the New City Catechism:

Q. 10. What does God require in the fourth and fifth commandments?

A. Fourth, that on the Sabbath day we spend time in public and private worship of God, rest from routine employment, serve the Lord and others, and so anticipate the eternal Sabbath. Fifth, that we love and honor our father and our mother, submitting to their godly discipline and direction.

## KIDS' WORSHIP & COMMUNITY KIDS' DISMISSAL (Infants - 5th Grade)

*Please see your child's check-in name tag for class assignment.*

## GREETING

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & INTERCESSION

We express in prayer our gratitude to God for what He has done and ask Him to continue to act for our good and the good of others in our community and world.

## PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD | *Tim Rice, Lead Pastor & Director of Church Planting*

A small portion of God's Word is explained to us and applied to our lives and circumstances.

## SONG OF RESPONSE

We respond to the good news of God's mercy and grace by singing again of His goodness and greatness.

The Lion And The Lamb

## BENEDICTION

Because the hand of God's wrath was raised against Jesus, we now receive the hand of God's blessing as we are sent out to live our lives to the glory of God.

May the LORD bless you and keep you;  
the LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;  
the LORD turn His face toward you and give you His peace,  
both now and forevermore. Amen.

## SCRIPTURE PASSAGE & SERMON OUTLINE

### Proclamation of God's Word

**Text:** Ephesians 3:1-13 (ESV)

**Title:** The Mastery of Christ's Saving Love

**Teacher:** Tim Rice

<sup>1</sup> For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— <sup>2</sup> assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup> how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. <sup>4</sup> When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup> which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. <sup>7</sup> Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, <sup>10</sup> so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup> This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup> in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. <sup>13</sup> So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

**Intro:** When you hear the word "mystery" what comes to mind?

### THE RACE QUESTION

How is it a *mystery* that God's Grace would reach the nations?

## THE GRACE MIRACLE

How is it a mystery that God saves who He does?

## GOD'S MYSTERIOUS TOOL

How is it a mystery that God works the way He does?

## YOU CAN PRAY WITH US ...

1. Worship the LORD for His sovereign wisdom and power in all things. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit that He works all things together for the good of His people in keeping with His loving purposes.
2. How have you lived as if suffering ruins *everything*, even God's plans? Confess your pride and unbelief to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and to heal your perspective *to see His wisdom and love working through hardship*.
3. Give thanks to Jesus for all that He willingly (even joyfully) suffered in order to save us! Thank Him for doing what no creature (not human nor angel) could do – atoning and healing rebels like us by His death and resurrection.
4. Who do you know that is living through hardship and they're baffled? Pray for them, asking the Lord to give them vision of His power and grace to turn evil to good, and to use suffering to accomplish redemption.
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to bear in you His fruit of love and joy. Pray that He would give you ever-increasing wonder at the Mystery of Jesus' saving Grace – conquering all of your and His enemies by His loving power.

