



GRACE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)

Rules for rebuilding: A study in Nehemiah 4

Our church exists to help people **know** God's Son, **fellowship** with God's people, **worship** in God's church, **grow** in God's grace and **serve** in God's world.

The Lord's Day | July 23, 2023

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome

Please silence your electronic device before the worship service begins.

Preparation for Worship

Call to Worship

Praise the Lord! Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! Who can utter the mighty deeds of the Lord, or declare all his praise? Blessed are they who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times!

Psalm 106:1-3

Invocation

+Come, Thou Almighty King

Pastoral Prayer Followed by Lord's Prayer

All: Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come; your 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Confession of Faith

Pastor: Christian, what do you believe?

All: 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 on 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.

**universal*

+Only A God Like You

+God, the Uncreated One

Children's Moment

Children 4-8 yrs. leave for Children's Church

+Scripture Reading

Now when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he was angry and greatly enraged, and he jeered at the Jews. ²And he said in the presence of his brothers and of the army of Samaria, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore it for themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish up in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish, and burned ones at that?" ³Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, "Yes, what they are building—if a fox goes up on it he will break down their stone wall!" ⁴Hear, O our God, for we are despised. Turn back their taunt on their own heads and give them up to be plundered in a land where they are captives. ⁵Do not cover their guilt, and let not their sin be blotted out from your sight, for they have provoked you to anger in the presence of the builders.

⁶So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.

⁷But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repairing of the walls of Jerusalem was going forward and that the breaches were beginning to be closed, they were very angry. ⁸And they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it. ⁹And we prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night.

¹⁰In Judah it was said, "The strength of those who bear the burdens is failing. There is too much rubble. By ourselves we will not be able to rebuild the wall." ¹¹And our enemies said, "They will not know or see till we come among them and kill them and stop the work." ¹²At that time the Jews who lived near them came from all directions and said to us ten times, "You must return to us." ¹³So in the lowest parts of the space behind the wall, in open places, I stationed the people by their clans, with their swords, their spears, and their bows. ¹⁴And I looked and arose and said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes."

¹⁵When our enemies heard that it was known to us and that God had frustrated their plan, we all returned to the wall, each to his work. ¹⁶From that day on, half of my servants worked on construction, and half held the spears, shields, bows, and coats of mail. And the leaders stood behind the whole house of Judah, ¹⁷who were building on the wall. Those who carried burdens were loaded in such a way that each labored on the work with one hand and held his weapon with the other. ¹⁸And each of the builders had his sword strapped at his side while he built. The man who sounded the trumpet was beside me. ¹⁹And I said to the nobles and to the

officials and to the rest of the people, "The work is great and widely spread, and we are separated on the wall, far from one another. ²⁰In the place where you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us."
Nehemiah 4:1-20

Sermon Rev. Dr. Karl Dortzbach

Silent Confession

Corporate Confession

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Psalm 51

Declaration of Pardon

Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.

Psalm 32:10

+We Gather Together

+Benediction

May the LORD bless you and keep you; may the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious toward you; may the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.
Amen.

Dismissal:

Pastor: Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

People: Thanks be to God!

**If able, please stand*

Announcements

Children's Sunday School: Sunday School is working through *The Biggest Story* curriculum. *The Biggest Story Curriculum* incorporates a host of integrated print and digital components to teach children key Bible stories from Genesis to Revelation. We'll work through 104 Old and New Testament Scripture lessons which are geared to kindergarten through fifth grade, teaching material that will help children understand God's plan to redeem the world through his Son, Jesus.

Adult Sunday School: We are discussing the passages on which the Children's Sunday School is based. All are welcome to these lively, informative sessions.

South West Emergency Services current wish list: peanut butter and jelly, spaghetti and sauce, tuna fish, soups, pork and beans.

Nursery/Children's Church Rotation

TODAY: Renata, Sharon

Ministry Schedule

(Changes to the schedule will be in the Announcements)

SUNDAY

Sunday School: 8:50 – 9:45 AM

Adults in Trailer

Children 4-12 yrs. in main classroom in the church

Fellowship Time between Sunday School and Service

Worship Service: 10 AM

Nursery (infant -3yrs.) in Toddler Room during service (2nd-5th Sunday)

Children's Church (4-8 yrs.) before Pastoral Prayer in Toddler Room
(2nd-5th Sunday)

MONDAY

Women's Discipleship Group: 7 PM

2nd Monday of the Month

Meets in person and on Zoom

Contact Diane Darchicourt

WEDNESDAY

Conversational English Classes: 9:30 -11:30 AM

Meets weekly during the school year

Contact Janet Pryor

Zoom Praying Meeting: 7:30-8:30 PM

Meets weekly

Contact Jim Darchicourt

SATURDAY

Men's Discipleship Group: 7 AM

1st Saturday of each month at the church

Contact John Daniello

Thank you for worshipping with us!

If you would like to have your name added to our communication list for announcements and events, please scan the code.



Thank you for your generous giving to help us support the mission and vision of Grace Relay. You can make a one-time gift or set up regular giving. Visit grpca.org or scan the code.



Church Leadership

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