

Announcements

Check out our website (cpcsb.org) to see our calendar and events.

Romans: An Introduction and Overview of Paul's Letter—January 11th

Perhaps no book has influenced Church history more than Paul's letter to the Romans. There is a timeless quality to the letter. As such, people in every century have taken a great interest in it. But like every book in the New Testament, Romans is also rooted in history. It was written to a particular people facing particular circumstances. In order to understand its message, we need to pay attention to the specific circumstances out of which it was written.

Starting January the 11th, instead of meeting as small groups, we are going to gather for four weeks as a church on Wednesday evenings from 6:30–8:00PM to get acquainted with this book. Nursery care is provided for infants through 3 years old. There will be special activities for older children. Feel free to bring a friend.

Project Chile 2012—Short-Term Missions Opportunity

Tom Beveridge, one of our deacons, will be leading a construction/community outreach team from CPC to Quillota, Chile from March 9th–25th. Two other teams from PCA congregations in Philadelphia and Virginia will be working there too, one before and one after our team. The teams are returning to Quillota in order to complete **Renacer** (rebirth in Spanish), a vitally important and strategically placed facility ministering to at risk children and families in one of the poorest sections of this beautiful city. In 2006 and 2007 teams from PCA congregations constructed a meeting space, classrooms, and office space. This year teams will construct a dining facility, restrooms and a kitchen.

Interested in being part of the CPC team? Neither construction experience nor Spanish speaking skills are necessary...only a willing heart and desire to serve. Costs are approximately \$2300. Some assistance from CPC is available. Talk to Tom Beveridge, Richard Jacobsen or Isabel Beveridge by **January 22**.

Interested in giving to Project Chile 2012? Make your check out to Christ Presbyterian Church and include "Chile 2012" on the memo line.

Service of Worship January 1, 2012 First Sunday after Christmas

A word about our worship: We believe that in worship we actually meet with God. Therefore, our services are interactive and dynamic, retelling the gospel through a five-act drama: Approach, Renewal, (re)Commitment, Communion, and Commissioning. In this drama, we all have a part. In each act, we are placed in dialogue with God himself: He speaks and we respond. In our liturgy (script), you will find your lines designated in **bold**.

PREPARATION AND REFLECTION

From now on, we are enemies, You and I! Because You will not enter me, with all my need for you; because You scorn my attempts at virtue; because You choose for Your instrument a boastful, lustful, smutty infantile boy and give me for reward only the ability to recognize the Incarnation; because You are unjust, unfair, unkind, I will block You! I swear it! I will hinder and harm Your creature on earth as far as I am able. I will ruin Your Incarnation.

—Antonio Salieri, from the movie *Amadeus*

The yearning for God that is implanted in us as creatures is not an instigation to strive after a deity who refuses to be caught; rather, the Creator in whom we find our "rest" is only all too eager to welcome us into communion. Like the father of the prodigal son who daily ventured to the end of the lane, looking for the wayward one to return, embracing him upon arrival, so God calls us and welcomes us at the very beginning of worship.

—James K.A. Smith, *Desiring the Kingdom*

ACT 1: APPROACH

CALL TO WORSHIP: *God summons us.*

From Psalm 99:1–3

The Lord reigns; he sits enthroned between the cherubim!

Great is the Lord; he is exalted over all the nations!

Praise the great and awesome name of the Lord!

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Charles Wesley | Felix Mendelssohn

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King:
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th’angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Chorus: Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ, by highest heave’n adored, Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th’incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Chorus

Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris’n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die.
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.

Chorus

© Public Domain

ACT 5: COMMISSIONING***Joy to the World***

Isaac Watts | George Frederick Handel

Joy to the world! The Lord has come: let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room, and heav’n and nature sing,
And heav’n and nature sing, and heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns: let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

© Public Domain

BENEDICTION: *God sends us out in His power.*

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
 Come, peasant, king, to own him;
 The King of kings salvation brings,
 Let loving hearts enthrone him.
 Raise, raise the song on high,
 The virgin sings her lullaby:
 Joy, joy for Christ is born,
 The babe, the son of Mary.

© Public Domain

PRAYERS FOR THOSE NOT COMMUNING

Prayer for those searching for truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer of belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayer for those struggling with sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may I turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the pioneer and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

Prayer of commitment

Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.

Let Us Adore

Reuben Morgan

The heavens declare the glory of God,
 And all of the world will join the praise,
 His wonders proclaim.

The oceans and skies lift up their voice,
 And all he has made will rise to bless
 The King of all kings.

Chorus Let us adore him,
 Let us adore him,
 Jesus Christ is the Lord.
 Come and behold him,
 Bow down before him,
 Jesus Christ is the Lord.

Eternity's King is coming to reign.
 When all of the curse is wiped away,
 His truth will remain.

Chorus

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
 You are worthy of all praise.

CCLI Song No. 4437846

INVOCATION: *We ask God to meet us.*

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 41:8–14

⁸ But you, Israel, my servant,
 Jacob, whom I have chosen,
 the offspring of Abraham, my friend;
⁹ you whom I took from the ends of the earth,
 and called from its farthest corners,
 saying to you, “You are my servant,
 I have chosen you and not cast you off”;
¹⁰ fear not, for I am with you;
 be not dismayed, for I am your God;
 I will strengthen you, I will help you,
 I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

¹¹ Behold, all who are incensed against you
 shall be put to shame and confounded;
 those who strive against you
 shall be as nothing and shall perish.

¹² You shall seek those who contend with you,
 but you shall not find them;
 those who war against you
 shall be as nothing at all.

¹³ For I, the LORD your God,
 hold your right hand;
 it is I who say to you, “Fear not,
 I am the one who helps you.”

¹⁴ Fear not, you worm Jacob,
 you men of Israel!
 I am the one who helps you, declares the LORD;
 your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that by your Spirit we may be nourished with Christ our Savior. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, that we may be one with all who share this feast.

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.
Hallelujah, let us keep the feast.

The gifts of God are for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

RECEIVING THE ELEMENTS

❖ Please hold the elements until we can all partake together. (For those with diet restrictions gluten-free bread is offered).

What Child Is This?

William Dix | Greensleeves

**What child is this, who, laid to rest,
 On Mary’s lap is sleeping?
 Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
 While shepherds watch are keeping?
 This, this is Christ the King,
 Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
 Haste, haste to bring him laud,
 The babe, the son of Mary.**

**Why lies he in such mean estate,
 Where ox and ass are feeding?
 Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
 The silent Word is pleading.
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through;
 The cross be borne for me, for you:
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
 The babe, the son of Mary.**

ACT 4: COMMUNION

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER: *God invites us to a meal.*

- ❖ Christ Presbyterian Church welcomes all baptized Christians who are willing to forsake their sin, trust in Jesus Christ for salvation, and who are members of congregations that proclaim the gospel, to receive the Holy Communion with us.
- ❖ If you are not sure if you should take Communion, or if you have come to believe in Jesus today, you are encouraged to meet with one of the elders who will be at the front of the sanctuary following the service.
- ❖ If you are not able to receive Communion, please use the prayers on page 14 as a guide.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord our God!

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is our deepest joy and highest privilege to give you thanks, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. And we praise you, King of Heaven, for your lowly humility and your infinite love; for you have rescued us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of Light.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Act 1: Approach

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Romans 8:28–39

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² 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? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ!

ACT 2: RENEWAL

CONFESSION OF SIN: *We own our faults.*

Based on Isaiah 40:27–31

Father, we are guilty: we refuse to believe that you are the Creator, the everlasting God.

We complain that our way is hidden from you, that our cause is disregarded by you.

Forgive us for not putting our hope in you, for not believing that you are for us.

Forgive us for relying on our own understanding and strength.

Father, restore our hope in you, that we might run and not grow weary and walk without fainting.
In Christ's name and for his sake, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Act 3: Commitment

abased in your eyes. But by the female servants of whom you have spoken, by them I shall be held in honor.”²³ And Michal the daughter of Saul had no child to the day of her death.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Sermon— “Is God With Us?”

Sermon Notes:

THE PREACHED WORD: *God brings us good news.***Reading: 2 Samuel 6**

¹ David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. ² And David arose and went with all the people who were with him from Baale-judah to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the LORD of hosts who sits enthroned on the cherubim. ³ And they carried the ark of God on a new cart and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. And Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart, ⁴ with the ark of God, and Ahio went before the ark.

⁵ And David and all the house of Israel were celebrating before the LORD, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals. ⁶ And when they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled. ⁷ And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah, and God struck him down there because of his error, and he died there beside the ark of God. ⁸ And David was angry because the LORD had broken out against Uzzah. And that place is called Perez-uzzah to this day. ⁹ And David was afraid of the LORD that day, and he said, “How can the ark of the LORD come to me?” ¹⁰ So David was not willing to take the ark of the LORD into the city of David. But David took it aside to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite. ¹¹ And the ark of the LORD remained in the house of Obed-edom the Gittite three months, and the LORD blessed Obed-edom and all his household.

¹² And it was told King David, “The LORD has blessed the household of Obed-edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God.” So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing. ¹³ And when those who bore the ark of the LORD had gone six steps, he sacrificed an ox and a fattened animal. ¹⁴ And David danced before the LORD with all his might. And David was wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁵ So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the horn.

¹⁶ As the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal the daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD, and she despised him in her heart. ¹⁷ And they brought in the ark of the LORD and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it. And David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD. ¹⁸ And when David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts ¹⁹ and distributed among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins to each one. Then all the people departed, each to his house.

²⁰ And David returned to bless his household. But Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David and said, “How the king of Israel honored himself today, uncovering himself today before the eyes of his servants' female servants, as one of the vulgar fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!” ²¹ And David said to Michal, “It was before the LORD, who chose me above your father and above all his house, to appoint me as prince over Israel, the people of the LORD—and I will celebrate before the LORD. ²² I will make myself yet more contemptible than this, and I will be

ACT 3: COMMITMENT***It Came Upon The Midnight Clear***

Edmund Hamilton Sears | Richard Storrs Willis

**It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to men,
From heaven's all gracious King”;
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.**

**And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look now! For glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing:
O rest beside the weary road
And hear the angels sing.**

**For lo, the days are hastening on,
By prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years
Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.**

© Public Domain

GIVING: We commit our resources.

- ❖ *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich (2 Corinthians 8:9). As Christians, we give because Christ gave, and because he continues to give us freely all that he is by his Spirit.*
- ❖ *If you are a visitor, please do not feel obliged to give. At this time, you may fill out the perforated form on the back of today's bulletin and place it in the offering bag. You may also use this form if you have prayer requests or praises to share with the elders, would like information about Christ Presbyterian Church or would like to update your contact information.*

MISSIONS UPDATE: RACHEL BEVERIDGE–COSTA RICA**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: We commit our concerns.**

- ❖ *I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people (1 Timothy 2:1).*

Prayer for Rachel

- For CLADE, the Fifth Latin American Congress of Evangelization; that the congress in July, and the preparation time leading up to it, would be a rich time of fellowship, honest evaluation, and call to engagement for the Latin American church.
- For the intentional community in which Rachel lives; that they would love one another and find new ways to serve the wider community around them.
- For Central America. The region is so marked by death, violence, immigration, natural disasters and poverty. Pray that the people would experience God's love, light, and presence in abundance.
- That Rachel would have wisdom and clarity in deciding whether or not to extend her time in Costa Rica beyond August.

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Words: Robert Robinson; Music: American Folk Melody

- ❖ *During the last verse of the following song, children from age three through first grade are dismissed for a time of teaching.*

**Come, thou fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise his name, I'm fixed upon it,
The name of God's redeeming love.**

**Here I raise my Ebenezer*;
Hither, by thy help, I've come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Bought me with his precious blood.**

**O, to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for thy courts above.**

Public Domain

*The term *ebenezer* is a Hebrew phrase meaning literally *stone of help*. It is taken from I Sam 7:12 when Samuel set up a large stone to remember God's delivering of Israel from Philistine captivity. For numerous years to come, this ebenezer stone served to remind God's people of the Lord's faithful help in the midst their broken world.