



MEADOWVIEW
REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Presbyterian Church in America

“...that in all things Christ might have first place.”
Colossians 1:18

The Lord’s Day
December 12, 2021

*The mission of Meadowview Reformed Presbyterian Church
is to savor the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and to be servants of that grace locally and globally.*

Reflection Before the Service

One of the first things I learned was that religious faith (belief in God and an afterlife) does not automatically provide solace in times of crisis....Despite my rational, conscious acknowledgment that I would die someday, the shattering reality of a fatal diagnosis provoked a remarkably strong psychological denial of mortality... I found myself thinking, *What? No! I can't die. That happens to others, but not to me.* When I said these outrageous words out loud, I realized that this delusion had been the actual operating principle of my heart....

As the 16th-century Protestant theologian John Calvin wrote, "*We undertake all things as if we were establishing immortality for ourselves on earth. If we see a dead body, we may philosophize briefly about the fleeting nature of life, but the moment we turn away from the sight the thought of our own perpetuity remains fixed in our minds.*" Death is an abstraction to us, something technically true but unimaginable as a personal reality.

For the same reason, our beliefs about God and an afterlife, if we have them, are often abstractions as well. If we don't accept the reality of death, we don't need these beliefs to be anything other than mental assents. A feigned battle in a play or a movie requires only stage props. But as death, the last enemy, became real to my heart, I realized that my beliefs would have to become just as real to my heart, or I wouldn't be able to get through the day. Theoretical ideas about God's love and the future resurrection had to become life-gripping truths, or be discarded as useless....

Most particularly for me as a Christian, Jesus's costly love, death, and resurrection had become not just something I believed and filed away, but a hope that sustained me all day. I pray this prayer daily. Occasionally it electrifies, but ultimately it always calms:

And as I lay down in sleep and rose this morning only by your grace, keep me in the joyful, lively remembrance that whatever happens, I WILL someday know my final rising, because Jesus Christ lay down in death for me, and rose for my justification.

To our surprise and encouragement, Kathy and I have discovered that the less we attempt to make this world into a heaven, the more we are able to enjoy it...As God's reality dawns more on my heart, slowly and painfully and through many tears, the simplest pleasures of this world have become sources of daily happiness. It is only as I have become, for lack of a better term, more *heavenly minded* that I can see the material world for the astonishingly good divine gift that it is.

Growing My Faith in the Face of Death

Tim Keller

Today's Service

Call to Worship & Opening Prayer: *Philippians 2:5-11*

Song: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Declaration of Faith: *Advent Reading #3*

Song: *King of Kings*

Song: *Mighty to Save*

Reception of New Members & Baptisms:
Speas, Ayllon, & Livengood Families

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory (*You can give online at www.MeadowviewPCA.org*)

Sermon: *Psalm 27*

Song: *My Soul Magnifies the Lord*

Benediction

Hopeful, Joyful, Faithful Waiting on the Lord

Psalm 27

The LORD is my LIGHT and my SALVATION;

whom shall I **fear**?

(John 1:7-9, 3:19-21, 8:12,
9:5, 11:9-10, 12:35-36, 46)

The LORD is the STRONGHOLD of my life;

of whom shall I **be afraid**? (Rev 1:17, Mark 6:50)

² When evildoers assail me
to eat up my flesh,
my adversaries and foes,
it is they who stumble and fall.

³ Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not **fear**; (Matt 10:28)

though war arise against me,
yet I will be confident. (Romans 8:31)

⁴ One thing have I asked of the LORD,
that will I **seek** after:
that I may dwell in the HOUSE of the LORD (John 2:17)
all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the **BEAUTY** of the LORD
and to inquire in his TEMPLE.

⁵ For HE WILL hide me in his SHELTER
in the day of trouble;
HE WILL conceal me under the cover of his TENT;
HE WILL lift me high upon a ROCK.

⁶ And now my head shall be lifted up
above my enemies all around me,
and I WILL offer in his tent
sacrifices with **shouts of joy**;
I WILL sing and make melody to the LORD.

⁷ Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;
be gracious to me and answer me!

⁸ You have said, “**Seek my face.**” (2 Corinthians 4:6)

My heart says to you,

“Your **face**, LORD, do I **seek.**” (Numbers 6:25)

⁹ Hide not your **face** from me.

Turn not your servant away in anger,

O you who have been my help.

Cast me not off; forsake me not,

O God of my salvation!

¹⁰ **For my father and my mother have forsaken me,
but the LORD will take me in.**

¹¹ Teach me your way, O LORD,
and lead me on a level path
because of my enemies.

¹² Give me not up to the will of my adversaries;
for false witnesses have risen against me,
and they breathe out violence.

¹³ **I believe** that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD
in the land of the living!

¹⁴ **Wait for the LORD**; (Isaiah 40:31)
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the LORD!

Next Week's Sermon 12/19: Psalm 19

*Watch Past Sermons at: youtube.com/meadowviewpca
Listen to Past Sermons at: sermonaudio.com/meadowviewpca*

Member News

*Who will come from Mount Zion to rescue Israel?
When God restores His people, Jacob will shout with joy, and
Israel will rejoice.
Psalm 53:6*

Prayer Requests

Nursing Home Resident - Katherine Thompson - Lexington Health Care Center - Debbie Thompson's mother-in-law

Service Member - Warrant Officer Robert Agee - US Army - Georgia - Randy and Leesa Everhart's son-in-law

Trisha Edwards - (Sandra Edwards' daughter) - Hospitalized and on ECMO following COVID diagnosis; ongoing healing for lungs

Kent Pressley - Peace and comfort for family following sudden death of son-in-law, Kenny

Dave Wickstrom - Healing for fall injuries

Amy Steiner - Amy's mother, Jean, is being kept comfortable with medication. Pray for the Lord's perfect timing in calling her home.

Prayer Ministry

*To be included in updates on our prayer chain
or to submit a prayer request,
email Debbie Thompson at pray4meadowview@gmail.com.*

Missions		
2021 Receipts: \$72,162.00		
	Operations	Faith Promise
Giving	\$657,559.53	\$72,162.00
Expenses	\$674,367.86	\$72,125.58
Shortfall	-\$16,808.33	\$36.42
As of 11/30/2021		

Upcoming Events

Savoring the Grace of God

Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am

Nursery (birth - age 3) provided for the entire service

Children's Worship Training (ages 4-6) during sermon.

Bible Hour – Sundays at 9am

Wednesday Night Activities: Wednesdays from 5-7:15pm

12/15 Supper: chicken pie, baked beans, mac n cheese, salad,
peach cobbler

Christmas Celebration – Sunday, Dec 12 at 6pm

An evening of worship to celebrate the birth of our King!

Christmas Eve Service: Friday, December 24 @ 5pm

Living in the Grace of God

Youth: *Wednesday Nights, 5:45-7:15pm*

Senior Adults Christmas Party: *Sat, 12/18 @ 5:30pm*

Sign-up required to attend; today is the last Sunday to do so.

Church trailer for sale: contact church office prior to 12/17 for info

Ministering the Grace of God

Pastor's Pantry is collecting **dry pasta and spaghetti sauce** in December.

Family Christmas Caroling Event: Meet in the Worship Center after supper on Wed, Dec 15 (6pm). We'll break up into groups and caravan to visit some of those dear to us. Maps, carol lyrics, and carol leaders will be provided!

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