

Gathered Worship



RESTORATION COMMUNITY CHURCH

We exist to pursue the restoration of people, communities, and cultures in the greater St. Louis area and the world through the transforming power of the Gospel.

WELCOME TO RESTORATION COMMUNITY CHURCH

We are glad that you found your way here today. We believe that corporate worship is the central event in our church's life together and that it restores and shapes our whole lives in the pattern of the gospel of Jesus Christ. In worship, God gathers us together to serve us and strengthen us, and we have the great privilege to respond to him with our praise, thanks, confession, and commitment.

*Please help us connect you by texting your name and email address to **314.722.6212***

THE SEASON OF EASTER

The journey of the church's annual season of Lent ends not at the cross on Good Friday but at the empty tomb on Easter. The origins of this celebration of Jesus' resurrection can be traced back to the second century A.D. It is the earliest and the most central festival in the church's annual calendar of special celebrations commemorating the life of Jesus Christ.

Although in a broad sense Christians gather for worship to celebrate the resurrection every Sunday (because Sunday was the day on which Jesus rose from the dead), Easter became a "big Sunday" to devote special attention to remembering and rejoicing in the Jesus' defeat of death and immortal life. Furthermore, Easter is not merely a single Sunday but rather a seven-week season.

During this season, some of our music and other prayers will help us remember and give special honor to Jesus' victory over death and his immortal life that will one day restore and remake our ruined world into a glorious new creation.

The message of Easter is that God's new world has been unveiled in Jesus Christ and that you're now invited to belong to it.

—N. T. Wright

Here are some options if you have children:

- 1. Today is a Family Worship Sunday, so we invite you to keep your children with you through the entire worship service.** If your children are a bit wiggly or make a little noise, don't worry; it will not bother us!
- 2. Leave children under age three with our capable nursery workers during all or part of the service.** We have two rooms for nursery: 23 mos. and under are in Room 107, while 24 mos. and up are in Room 102.
- 3. If you have an infant or young child, please feel free to use our Family Room.** Parents are welcome to use this room (located to the left of the sound booth) where they will be able to continue listening to the service. Please respect the privacy of nursing mothers if the "Privacy Please" sign is posted.

SONG OF PREPARATION

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne
Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee
And hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity

Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side
Rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified
No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight
But downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright

Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave
Who rose victorious from the strife for those he came to save
His glories now we sing, who died, and rose on high
Who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die

Crown him the Lord of years, the potentate of time
Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime
All hail, Redeemer, hail! for thou has died for me
Thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity

Text: st. 1-2, 4, Matthew Bridges, 1851; st. 3, Godfrey Thring, 1874, alt.; Tune: George J. Elvey, 1868

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP *from Psalm 117*

This morning's liturgy is led by Rev. Daniel Song.

Praise the LORD, all nations!
Extol him, all peoples!
For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.
Come, let us praise the LORD!

WE PRAISE GOD

Come, People of the Risen King

Come people of the Risen King who delight to bring him praise
Come all and tune your hearts to sing to the Morning Star of grace
From the shifting shadows of the earth, we will lift our eyes to him
Where steady arms of mercy reach to gather children in

CHORUS Rejoice, Rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice
 One heart, one voice; O Church of Christ, rejoice

Come those whose joy is morning sun and those weeping through the night
Come those who tell of battles won and those struggling in the fight
For his perfect love will never change and his mercies never cease
But follow us through all our days with the certain hope of peace

CHORUS

Come young and old from every land; men and women of the faith
Come those with full or empty hands find the riches of his grace
Over all the world, his people sing; shore to shore we hear them call
The Truth that cries through every age, "Our God is all in all!"

CHORUS

Text and tune: Keith and Kristyn Getty, 2008

WE PRAY FOR GOD TO HELP US WORSHIP

GOD CALLS US TO CONFESSION *from Psalm 66:16, 18-20*

Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for my soul. If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the LORD would not have listened. But truly God has listened; he has attended to my prayer. Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me!

WE CONFESS OUR SIN TOGETHER

**We confess to You, Gracious God,
That too often we look on Your law
as a burden, not a gift;
an inconvenience, not a blessing.
Rather than seeing Your love revealed,
we feel our own guilt magnified.
Instead of rejoicing in Your good news,
we focus on our own shortcomings.
Turn us around, Redeemer,
and do not let our fears have dominion over us.
Enlighten us, so that our words and deeds
may be acceptable to You. Amen.**

A time of silent prayer will be kept for personal confession.

GOD DECLARES OUR FORGIVENESS *from Psalm 103*

The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
For high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him.

WE OFFER OURSELVES TO GOD IN OFFERINGS AND SONG

At this point in the service, Restoration members and regular attendees are invited to respond to God's grace by giving their tithes and offerings. If you are our guest this morning, please know that you are under no obligation to give.

WE THANK GOD

Your Grace Is Enough

**Great is your faithfulness, O God of Jacob
You wrestle with the sinner's restless heart
You lead us by still waters into mercy
And nothing can keep us apart**

**CHORUS So remember your people
 Remember your children
 Remember your promise, O God**

**Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough for me**

**Great is your love and justice, God of Jacob
You use the weak to lead the strong
You lead us in the song of your salvation
And all your people sing along**

CHORUS

Text and tune: Matt Maher, 2003

Speak, O Lord

Speak, O Lord, as we come to you
to receive the food of your holy word.
Take your truth plant it deep in us,
Shape and fashion us in your likeness
that the light of Christ might be seen today
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
all your purposes for your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
in the radiance of your purity.
Cause our faith to rise.
Cause our eyes to see
your majestic love and authority.
Words of power that can never fail,
let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds.
Help us grasp the heights of your plans for us,
truths unchanged from the dawn of time
that will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on your promises.
And by faith we'll walk as you walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till your church is built
and the earth is filled with your glory.

Text and tune: Keith Getty, 2005; © 2005, Thankyou Music

WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

We are led in prayer this week by Elder Leo Hsu.

This week, we are praying for Jackie Wu; James & Sarah Yeo (Monica).

We will conclude our time of prayer with the Lord's Prayer.

**Our Father 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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.
For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

COMMUNITY WELCOME & NEWS *Family Worship*

*Please take a moment to warmly welcome those around you.
Announcements and upcoming events can be found on page 10*

PRAYER FOR THE READING AND PREACHING OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING *Nehemiah 8:1-8*

Church Bible p. 403

After the reading:

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON *Who Needs Preaching?* *Elder John Peters*

The Case for Sitting (or Standing) under the Preached Word in our Fast and Furious, Short Attention-Spanned, VR-crazed Culture

WE CONFESS OUR FAITH IN GOD *The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.¹ The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic² Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

¹ Hell is not to be understood here as the place of judgment, but simply the place of the dead; therefore, when we confess that Jesus descended into hell, we confess that He actually died.

² In this sense, "catholic" means "universal."

DOXOLOGY

Easter Doxology

**O! Let the nations sing the fame
Of Christ the Lamb who once was slain!
He is risen! He is risen!
Now we await the coming day
When all those raised in Christ will say
Give him glory! Give him glory!
He is risen! He is risen! Alle-luia!**

Text: Eric Schumacher, 2004; © 2001, ReformedPraise.org

Tune: Auserlesen Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesange, Cologne, 1623; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906 LASST UNS ERFREUEN

WE RECEIVE GOD'S BLESSING (*hands outstretched*)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Congregational Meeting — TODAY!
Youth Bake Sale — TODAY!
Illuminate (Last for the Semester) — TONIGHT
Last Sunday School/ACE for the semester — May 5
Chew on this — May 5
NextGen Sunday School Presentation — May 12
Ladies Night Out — May 13
Men's Night Out (*Wudon Korean BBQ*) — May 17, 7pm
Youth End of Year Bash — May 18
Summer Picnic & Youth Snow Cone fundraiser— June 2
Annual Congregation Meeting — June 23
Youth GENERATE Summer Camp — June 24-28
Children's Art Camp — July 15-18
10 Year Celebration Picnic— August 4

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome, Visitor!

If you are a visitor to Restoration Community Church, we would love to give you a gift in appreciation for joining us today. Please stop by the Welcome Center in the foyer after the service in order to receive a book from us to you!

Congregational Meeting - TODAY

There will be a Congregational Meeting on **TODAY following the service** to elect **Alex Langford** and **Jack McKay** to the office of Deacon.

Youth Bake Sale - TODAY

Stop by after service to purchase baked goods that will help our Youth students offset costs for the Youth GENERATE Camp this summer. (There will also be a snow cone fundraiser during our Summer Picnic on June 2nd.)

Save the Date! - 10 Year Celebration Picnic

Our **10 year Celebration Picnic** will be on **August 4th**, at the *Greensfelder Memorial Shelter*. Mark your calendars for a wonderful celebration!

ACE/Sunday School

Our last ACE/Sunday School classes for the semester will be next **Sunday, May 5**.

Illuminate

Youth, we have our last Illuminate for the semester **TODAY!** Our youth service held on **Sunday evenings** from **6:30-8:30pm** consists of dinner, games, worship, teaching, and discussion. Bring your friends and be ready to have a great time of fellowship and worship as we wrap up a great semester of learning and fun!

Mercy Fund

If you are interested in contributing to the Mercy Fund you can give any time by making a check to Restoration with "*Mercy Fund*" in the memo line. If you have questions, contact our deacons at **deacons@restorationcommunity.net**.

**Restoration Community Church is a congregation of the
Presbyterian Church in America**

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All quotations from Scripture are from the *English Standard Version* unless otherwise noted.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

9 AM Children's/Youth Sunday School, ACE (*Nursery Provided*)

10 AM Gathered Worship

11:15 AM Refreshments & Fellowship

GET IN TOUCH WITH US

Office Hours: T/W/F 9 AM-3:30 PM

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