

The One Who Keeps Covenant

Come and Hear, All You Who Fear God,
And I will declare what **He has done** for my soul.
Ps 66:16

*He has turned my mourning into laughter, and my desolation into joy;
He has led my captivity captive,
and made my heart rejoice with joy unspeakable
and full of Glory.*

*He drew me when I struggled to escape from His Grace;
and when at last I came all trembling
like a condemned culprit to His mercy-seat **He** said,*

*“Thy sins, **which are many**, are all forgiven thee;
be of good cheer.”*

*I bear witness that never servant had such a **Master** as I have;
Never brother such a **Kinsman** as He has been to me;
never spouse such a **Husband**, as Christ has been to my soul;*

*never sinner a better **Savior**;
never mourner a better **Comforter** than Christ has been to my spirit.*

*I want none beside Him. In life, **He** is my life, and in death, **He** shall be the death of death;
in poverty **Christ** is my riches; in sickness **He** is my bed;
in darkness **He** is my star, and in brightness **He** is my sun.*

***Jesus** is to the redeemed, all Grace and no wrath,*

the One who keeps covenant;

*And of Truth and Grace -**He** is full, infinitely full.*

- C.H.S.

A Celebration of Worship & The Lord's Supper

For the Children of God in Covenant at

River City Reformed Church

May 7, 2018

The Stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

*This was the **LORD's** doing and it is marvelous in our eyes.*

*This is the day the **LORD** has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it!*

HYMN

My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less

Hymnal 521

PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING

SONGS OF FAITH

Be Still My Soul, the Lord is on your side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;
In every change, He faithful will remain;
Be still my soul, your best, your heavenly Friend,
Through stormy ways, leads to a joyful end.

Be still my soul, your God will undertake;
To guide the future, as he has the past.
Your hope, your confidence, let nothing shake,
All now mysterious, shall be bright at last.
*Be still, my soul, the waves and winds still know,
His voice Who ruled them, while He dwelt below.*

Glory, Glory, Glory to the Lamb
Glory, glory, glory to the Lamb
For He is glorious and worthy to be praised,
The Lamb upon the Throne;
And unto Him, we lift our voice in praise,
The Lamb upon the Throne.

Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lamb
Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lamb
For He is glorious and worthy to be praised,
The Lamb upon the Throne;
And unto Him, we lift our voice in praise,
The Lamb upon the Throne.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

OFFERING & DOXOLOGY

PREACHING

The Exceeding Sinfulness of Sin
(What Hope Do You Have?)

2 Samuel 11

Sin will take you further than you want to go,
keep you longer than you want to stay,
and cost you more than you want to pay.



Our Elders are eager to be of service,
to pray with you,
or answer any questions:

Bob Carter 910.520.0272
Steve Coggins 910.520.0718



*"My Grace
is sufficient for you."*

If you would like more information, or would like to contact Pastor Bob, he may be reached at 910.520.0272

RIVER CITY REFORMED CHURCH, 4903 OLEANDER DRIVE, WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28403

THE COMMUNION

CONFESSION OF SIN

***Eternal and Merciful Father**, we humble ourselves before Your great majesty,
for we have frequently and grievously sinned against You.
We acknowledge that if You should enter into judgment with us,
we would deserve nothing but eternal death and damnation.
We are deeply conscious that we were conceived and born in sin,
and that **all manner of evil desires against You**, and our neighbor, fill our hearts.
We continually transgress Your commandments, failing to do what You have commanded us,
and doing that which You have expressly forbidden.
We all like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way.
We acknowledge our waywardness, and are heartily sorry for all our sins.
We confess that our transgressions are innumerable, their weight is unbearable,
and that **we have nothing** with which to repay our debt.
We are not worthy to be called Your children, nor to lift up our eyes to You in Heaven.*

*Nevertheless, O Lord God and our gracious Father,
we know that You do not desire the death of the sinner,
but rather that he should turn to You and live.
We know that Your mercy toward those who turn to You is infinite;
and so we take courage to call upon You from the depths of our hearts,
trusting in our Mediator Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God
who takes away the sins of the world.
Have mercy on us and forgive us all our sins for Christ's sake.
Wash us in the fountain of His Blood, so that we may become clean and white as snow.*

*Free our understanding **from all blindness**, our hearts from all selfishness and rebellion,
and grant us by your grace every holy affection.
Fill us with Your Holy Spirit and cause Your fruit to come forth in us in great abundance
to the honor and praise of Your Glory alone.*

All this, good and gentle Father, we implore You in the Name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the promises of God to those who truly repent of their sins, trusting in Christ and His merits.

*But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.
All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way;
And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53*

*I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said,
"I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," And You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Ps. 32*

*The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness.
He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.
For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him.
As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. Ps. 103*

There is, therefore, now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Rom. 8

HYMN

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need: Jehovah is His Name;
In pastures fresh He makes me feed, Beside the living stream.
He brings my wandering spirit back, When I forsake His ways,
And leads me, for His mercy's sake, In paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death, Thy presence is my stay;
A word of Thy supporting breath, Drives all my fears away.
Thy hand, in sight of all my foes, Doth still my table spread;
My cup with blessings overflows, Thine oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God, Attend me all my days;
O may Thy house be my abode, And all my work be praise!
There would I find a settled rest, While others go and come;
No more a stranger, nor a guest, But like a child at Home.
No more a stranger, nor a guest, But like a child at Home.

INVITATION & FENCING OF THE TABLE

What is True Repentance?

*Repentance unto life is a saving Grace, wrought in the heart of a sinner,
by the Spirit and Word of God,
whereby out of the sight and sense, not only of the danger,
but also of the filthiness and odiousness of his sins,
and upon the apprehension of God's mercy in Christ, to such as are penitent,
he so grieves for and hates his sins,
as that he turns from them all, to God, -purposing and endeavoring constantly
to walk with Him, in all the ways of new obedience.*

Christian, What Do You Believe?

I believe in one God,
the **Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth,** and of all things visible and invisible.
And in **one Lord Jesus Christ,** the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the 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 men 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 the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures;
and ascended into Heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory,
to judge the living and the dead; **whose Kingdom shall have no end.**

And I believe in the **Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life;** who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of
sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the World to come. *Amen*

(* *catholic* - meaning worldwide and age to age, -**not** Roman Catholic)

PARTING HYMN

When Peace, Like A River, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say,
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

***It is well, with my soul, It is well, with my soul,
It is well, it is well, with my soul.***

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded **my helpless estate,**
And hath shed His own blood for my soul. *Refrain*

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! *Refrain*

Then Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The Trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul. *Refrain*

BENEDICTION

Your portrait!

James Smith, "The Physician!" 1855.

"Those who are whole do not need a physician — but those who are sick!" Matthew 9:12

The world is one vast hospital. Jesus is the only physician in it; He has healed thousands, He will heal thousands more. But multitudes reject Him; they imagine they can do without Him; **they think that they are whole** — and therefore do not need a physician.

Sin is the disease of the soul. The sinner's state, is a *diseased* state. He is sick — *mortally* sick. His sickness is *hereditary*. He inherited it from his parents. He brought it into the world with him. That is true of all — which was spoken by David of himself, "Behold I was shaped in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me!"

Sin is increased by wicked habits. We go astray from the womb, speaking lies.
We contract the *habit of sinning* — so that to sin becomes as natural to us, as to breathe.

The disease of sin is *contagious*. We contaminate others — and others increase our sickness.
"Bad company corrupts good character."

The progress of this disease is constant — it spreads daily — almost insensibly, and especially from neglect.

Sin produces great *weakness*, so that the sinner cannot of himself, do anything really good.

Sin not only makes us weak, but stupid — so that we become careless and foolish. We are dying of disease — but are unconcerned about it! There is a skillful Physician at hand — but we refuse to apply to Him!

Sin has destroyed all our moral beauty — and left us loathsome, unsightly, and wretched!
It produces innumerable and horrendous pains — and surrounds us with sorrows, cares, and woes!

Sin brings us to *death* — not only separating the body from the soul — but separating the soul from God!

Sin is the forerunner of eternal and unmitigated weeping, and wailing, and gnashing of teeth!

There is no sickness like sin — yet this disease is *universal*. All are sick! "Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin. There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good — *not even one!*"
Romans 3:9-12

This disease *affects every part* of man, "The whole head is sick, and the whole heart is faint. From the sole of the foot, even unto the head, there is no soundness in it — only wounds and bruises and putrefying sores!"
Isaiah 1:5, 6. *Man is one mass of moral disease!* Every power and faculty is disordered. All the elements of destruction are within himself. He deeply needs a physician, for he is dreadfully sick; so sick, that there is but a step between him and damnation!

My dear reader, this is your state!

The Holy Spirit has given **your portrait** in the passages you have just read.

Can you recognize the likeness? If not — your **eye is diseased!**

Do you feel alarmed at the representation? If not — your **conscience is diseased!**

Are you determined at once to apply to the physician? If not — your **heart is diseased!**

The plague spot is upon you! You are very far advanced in a moral and spiritual *cancer* — which is secretly hurrying you to eternal death and damnation!

O may the Lord,
open your *eyes* — that you may see your dreadful state;
enlighten your *conscience* — that you may be alarmed at your condition;
and quicken your *soul* — that you may flee to Jesus and receive health, healing, and everlasting soundness from His hands!

Jesus is the best Physician. His work is to heal souls. He is every way *qualified* for His work.

He is a wise and skillful Physician. All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are in Him — and He employs them for the good of souls. He has been employed in healing sinners for six thousand years —

His skill has never been baffled, nor has one patient died under His hand yet!

He is a *kind and tender* Physician. Not one harsh word is ever spoken by Him, to a poor broken-hearted sinner; nor does He ever refuse to attend to any case. His kindness is such — that He weeps with those who weep! And His tenderness is so great — that it is said in reference to all His patients,
"In all their afflictions — He is afflicted."

He is a *friendly and faithful* Physician. There is nothing forbidding or austere in His manner, nor does He ever deceive. *Friendship* has erected her throne in His heart, and built her mansion in His bosom; and He is ever *faithful* to His word, and to the poor sick sinner who applies to Him.

He is a *willing and accessible* Physician. Willing to heal anyone who is willing to be healed by Him — and to go anywhere to perform His *miracles of mercy*. As when applied to of old, He said "*I will come and heal him!*" Just so now! He stoops to the beggar in the dust, and visits the needy on the dunghill.

He is always ready at hand. You need no *messenger* to send and fetch Him — He is within hearing! He is nearer than anyone else — He can hear the softest whisper of the heart!

He is the *Great* Physician, no one can be *compared* to Him for qualifications or success.

He is the *Good* Physician, no one beside Him can be found — who so kindly, so freely, and so effectually heals every applicant! His blood is the true *balm of Gilead*.

It is not only His *work* — but **His *delight* to heal sin-sick souls!**
And He heals them all *freely, certainly, and perfectly!*
His terms are, "*No Money! No Price!*"

Those whom He restores to health — will enjoy health forever.
He makes every one of His **patients immortal** —
and surrounds them with all that can make them **holy and happy forever!**

No Sunday Evening study tonight
Ladies Study: Tuesday, 10:00 am