



Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
A Service for Reconciliation

Conducted at Hicks Memorial Chapel
Tuesday, May 9, 2017

The Reformed tradition understands worship as covenant renewal. In worship we remember our covenant relationship with God and how that is connected with our relationships with our neighbors. We recommit ourselves to living as God would have us live.

Choral Introit

Roll Down, Justice!

Mark A. Miller

*There's a voice, strong and clear, ringing out far and near,
"Let justice roll down, let justice roll down!"
Like the rush of a stream, comes a powerful dream, let justice roll down, justice rolls down!
Let the earth be restored, every soul be reformed; let the healing renew, creation reborn.
Here in this sacred space with the strength of God's grace,
let justice roll down, justice rolls down!
Roll down! Roll down, justice! Roll, like an ever flowing stream.
Let your heart soar, open the doors wide,
let your mind be transformed, let it be opened by love.
On this glorious day give us courage, we pray, that justice rolls down, let justice roll down.
Let the vision take flight and God will delight as the waters flow down, justice abounds!
Roll down! Roll down, justice! Roll, like an ever flowing stream.*

Come, thou fount of ev-'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing your grace.
Streams of jus-tice, nev-er ceas-ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by
flam - ing tongues a - bove. Priase the mount! I'm fixed up -
on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love!

*please rise in body and/or spirit

*Call to Confession and Reconciliation

drawing on Amos 5:24

Leader: Our God calls us to open the doors of our hearts,
to let our minds be transformed by love.

People: **Let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.**

Leader: The God of justice calls us to practice justice;
The reconciling God calls us to be reconciled
to one another in Christ.

People: **Let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.**

*Opening Prayer

*Kyrie

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us; Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Text: Trad. liturgical text
Music: J. Christopher Pardini, 2005

THE WORD

Scripture Reading: 2 Samuel 12:1-7a

...and the Lord sent Nathan to David. He came to him, and said to him, "There were two men in a certain city, one rich and the other poor. The rich man had very many flocks and herds; but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. He brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children; it used to eat of his meager fare, and drink from his cup, and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him. Now there came a traveller to the rich man, and he was loath to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb, and prepared that for the guest who had come to him." Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man. He said to Nathan, "As the Lord lives, the man who has done this deserves to die; he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity."

Nathan said to David, "You are the man!"

Silent reflection – with whom do you identify in the narrative?

Have you had the experience of being victimized? Have you had the experience of being the victimizer?

Kyrie

Scripture Reading: 2 Samuel 12:1-7a

Silent reflection – reverse your role in the narrative.

*If you first reflected on ways you have been victimized,
now reflect on ways in which you have victimized others.*

*If you first reflected on ways you have victimized others,
now reflect on ways in which you have been victimized.*

Kyrie

Psalm of Confession: Psalm 51

A Psalm of David, when the prophet Nathan came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

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 alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.
Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.

You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
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 crushed rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.
Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt-offering, you would not be pleased.
The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem,
then you will delight in right sacrifices,
in burnt-offerings and whole burnt-offerings;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Silent reflection

Prayer of Confession

People: God, be merciful to us.

Oftentimes we do not know our transgressions.

Our own hurt so often blinds us to the hurt we have caused one another.

Create in us clean hearts, O God,

and put a new and right spirit within us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven,
united in love,
and set free to live as God would have us.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Anthem

One Song

Pepper Choplin

*When God's people are wounded by holy war,
and we fight one another in the name of the Lord,
I find myself praying that it won't be too long 'til we all join together in one song.*

*When God's family is broken, each goes his own way,
And I feel so lost, I don't know what to pray.*

But still I'll go forward to follow the call to join people together in one song.

One song, like the one sung in heaven. One song, united in love.

*There will be no division. Everyone will belong as we stand before Christ singing one song.
So come and build bridges and tear down the wall. Let our love for each other be a witness to all.*

They will see us united, and we'll sing it out strong as we praise our Great Savior in one song.

One song, like the one sung in heaven. One song, united in love.

There will be no division. Everyone will belong as we stand before Christ singing one song.

God's Promise, Our Hope: The Great Multitude from Every Nation

Revelation 7:9-17

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.”

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;
for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

A sign of Christ's peace may be exchanged by all