

A Mighty Fortress

A mighty Fortress is our God,
A bulwark never failing;
Our Helper He, amid the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great,
And armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide,
Our striving would be losing,
Were not the right Man on our side,
The Man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus it is He;
Lord Sabaoth, His name,
From age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim
We tremble not for him.
His rage we can endure,
For lo, his doom is sure;
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers,
No thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours,
Through Him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go,
This mortal life also.
The body they may kill;
God's truth abideth still.
His kingdom is forever.

Words & Music by Martin Luther
Tune: EIN' FESTE BURG 8.7.8.7.6.6.6.7.

Our core convictions:

SOLA SCRIPTURA: *Scripture alone* is the written word of God. The Bible is the sole and final authority for faith and practice.

SOLA GRATIA: *God's grace alone* saves us from God's just wrath through the death of Jesus Christ. Salvation is not in any sense a human work or accomplishment but is totally and completely the gift of God.

SOLUS CHRISTUS: *Christ alone* is the eternal Son of God whose sinless life and atoning death redeem us for God. *Christ alone* has accomplished all that is necessary for our salvation and eternal life is found in no one else but Christ.

SOLA FIDE: *Faith alone*—apart from all human work or merit—is the instrument of our salvation. Faith is a gift bestowed upon us in Christ for our salvation. God justifies sinners (declares them right with Himself) by grace alone through faith alone because of Christ alone.

SOLI DEO GLORIA: *God's glory alone* is to be the purpose for which we live and the aim of our worship. We believe worship should affect daily life. For this reason, we seek to focus on God in our worship rather than entertainment values or personal needs. The Church gathers on the Lord's Day to rejoice in the mighty acts of God and to worship Him in ways He has commanded and that are consistent with the principles of His word.

Welcome to Redeemer!

We are a servant people who are passionate about proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ, teaching Biblical faith and honoring God with simple, Biblical worship—and with our lives as we learn to follow Jesus Christ.

We are a congregation of the **Presbyterian Church in America**—a denomination that is thoroughly committed to the Scripture as the sole authority for faith and practice.

Today's announcements . . .

First Sunday of the Month—please make a love-offering for our mercy ministry.

9th Church Anniversary Celebration. There will be a **fellowship luncheon** after the worship service. **All are invited!**

Worship Ministry Meeting (5:00PM).

Evening Prayer Service (6:00PM).

This week . . .

Men's Prayer Breakfast (Saturday, 8:30AM) at Burns Church of Christ. Breakfast will be served by the American Heritage Girls Troop TN1004. Tickets are \$5. **All men are encouraged to attend.**

Looking Ahead . . .

Women in the Church Meet (Sunday, March 13, 4:30PM). Be prepared to discuss chapter 13 in *The Pursuit of Holiness*.

Leadership Team Meeting (Sunday, March 20, 12:00NOON.)

Did you know . . . ?

Recent sermons are available online for listening or download at www.rpcdickson.org. *Tell a friend!*

Need resources for private or family worship? **Recent bulletins are available online** at www.rpcdickson.org.

Worship Ministry

Pam Spence, *Music Director* • Patti Robertson, *Pianist*
Ann Galya, *Vocalist* • Laura Moore, *Percussion*

Serving You

Ronda Moore, Phil Chadwick, Katlynn Karnes, Clay McKinney
& John Stevens, *Sound & Recording*
Mary Karnes, *Treasurer* • Anita Berkey & Bonnie Madden, *Finance Clerks*
Linda Joy Choate, *Redeemerlink* Editor (nowfullofjoy@bellsouth.net)
Vickie Stevens, *Prayer Letter* Editor (vns2js@gmail.com)
Patti Robertson & Vickie Stevens, *March Facility Volunteers*

Childcare Attendants

Dot Barnhill & Anita Berkey
Donna Taylor, *Children's Ministry Director*

Leadership Team

R. Neil Spence, D. Min., *Pastor* (nspence@rpcdickson.org)
Ken Brown, *Assistant Pastor* (kbrown@rpcdickson.org)
Jim Berkey • Phil Chadwick • Ron Robertson, *Ruling Elders*
Blake Chadwick • Clay McKinney • Boyd Taylor, *Deacons*

SERVICE FOR The Lord's Day

March 6, 2011

Words of Greeting & Opening Prayer

Hymn of Praise *We Bow Down*

The Morning Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven;
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy 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 evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power
and the glory forever. Amen.

The Offering

Offertory Sentences

The Offertory

Act of Praise *The Doxology*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Consecration

Psalter Psalm 45

Scripture Reading Ecclesiastes 3:14-22

Sermon *There Is Nothing Better*
Pastor R. Neil Spence, *Preaching*

Affirmation of Faith *The Apostles' Creed*

The Lord's Supper

Hymn *A Mighty Fortress*

The Blessing

Redeemer Presbyterian Church

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

Meeting at **7 Valley West Drive, Dickson, Tennessee 37055**

(615) 740-7898 • email@rpcdickson.org • www.rpcdickson.org

We Bow Down

You are Lord of creation and Lord of my life,
Lord of the land and the sea.
You were Lord of the heavens
before there was time,
And Lord of all lords You will be!

*We bow down, and we worship You, Lord.
We bow down, and we worship You, Lord.
We bow down, and we worship You, Lord.
Lord of all lords You will be.*

You are King of creation and King of my life,
King of the land and the sea.
You were King of the heavens
before there was time,
And King of all kings You will be!

Words & Music by Twila Paris.
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A Psalm about the King and His Bride

The superscription to Psalm 45 states that it is “A Song of Love.” It has an introduction (45:1) followed by four stanzas—two for the King (45:2-5 & 6-9) and two for His bride (45:10-12 & 13-17).

The second stanza is quoted in part in the New Testament. There the inspired author applies it to Christ—

But to the Son He says: “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions.” (Hebrews 1:8-9 NKJV quoting Psalm 45:6-7)

Today we are singing the last two “stanzas” of the psalm as a celebration of the Church as the bride of Christ.

The institution of marriage is itself a parable of Christ and His Church.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

(Ephesians 5:25-27)

Our psalm looks forward to that glorious Day on which Christ takes His bride. But she already has a new identity (45:10) and new devotion (45:11) and grace (45:12). She is already glorious (45:13) and dressed in beautiful garments (45:14a). She has new companions (45:14-15) and she has a new destiny that comes from her gracious King (45:16-17).

Those who love the King will also love His bride, His Church.

Psalm 45

Verses 10-17

- 10 Daughter, incline your ear,
Consider well my call:
Put out of mind your father’s house,
Forget your people all.
- 11 Your beauty then the King
With great delight will see;
Because He is your Lord, bow down
Before Him rev’reantly.
- 12 Tyre’s daughter has arrived,
A costly gift has brought;
And by the wealthy of the land
Your favor now is sought.
- 13 The princess now awaits,
Most glorious to behold,
And woven all throughout her gown
Are threads of precious gold.
- 14 In her embroidered gown
She’s taken to the King;
To You her maiden friends are brought,
Companions following.
- 15 With gladness they are led,
As people celebrate;
They all approach the King with joy
Within His palace gate.
- 16 They in your father’s place
Your children all will stand,
And you will make them princes then
To rule throughout the land
- 17 I’ll cause your name to be
In every age renowned,
And so from peoples evermore
Your praises will abound.

Words from *The Book of Psalms for Worship*.
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Tune: DIADEMATA S.M.D. by George J. Elvey, 1868.

The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father,
Maker of all heav’n and earth;
And in Jesus Christ, our Savior,
God’s own Son, of matchless worth;
By the Spirit was con-ceiv-ed,
Of the virgin Mary born,
He in whom I have be-liev-ed;
God Almighty, Three in One.

Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Crucified, for me He died;
Laid within the grave so silent,
Gates of hell He opened wide;
For the stone-sealed tomb was empty;
On the third day He arose;
Into heaven made His entry,
Mighty Conqu’ror of His foes.

At God’s right hand He is seated
Till His coming, as He said;
Final judgment will be meted,
To the living and the dead;
I confess the Holy Spirit
Who was sent through Christ the Son
To apply salvation’s merit—
God, the Spirit, Three in One.

I believe the church of Jesus,
Universal, e’er remains;
We are one through all the ages,
In communion of the saints.
I believe sins are forgiven,
That our bodies will be raised
To eternal life in heaven:
Ever let His name be praised.

Anonymous. Tune: NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D.
by Asahel Nettleton, 1825.