

## REFORMED CHURCH BELLVILLE : SUNDAY 10 APRIL 2011 EVENING SERVICE

**Sing before:** Psalm 27:5

*Let us commence this meeting with God by declaring openly to one another and to God:*

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Beloved grace and peace be to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, through the mighty working of God the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

Psalm of praise: Psalm 89:11

**Prayer:**

- **Doxology**
- **Worship**
- **Confession of sins**
- **Forgiveness**
- **Gratitude**
- **Prayer for the need of the congregation of the church, the authorities and the sinful world and appeal to God's promises**
- **General prayer**
- **Enlightenment from the Holy Spirit for the sake of the ministry of the Word.**

**Amen**

Psalm 4:3

**Scripture reading:** 1 Peter 1

**Scripture text:** 1 Peter 1:2; Catechism Sunday 8

**...elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.**

(1Peter 1:2)

We worship the Triune God, who at the beginning of every service greets and blesses us in His Trinity sending us at the end of the service away to live according to His grace in the world.

Because of the large amount of grace to the church from God, the Church must also correctly know and confess the Lord and the sermon must also proclaim the Lord in His true Godliness.

To know God properly we have only one source from where we could know Him, and that is Him revealing Himself to us. He reveals Himself in various ways to us.

- He reveals Himself by His Word. That is the Bible

- Together with the Word goes the working of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God Himself, working within us.
- Then the Lord also reveals Himself through the nature where we can see in creation Who He, and how powerful He is.

Romans 1:18-20 teaches that matters like the everlasting power of God and that He truly is God can be known from creation. The Bible adds that thus man has no excuse should he not have known and worshipped God.

**18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,  
19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.**

**20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,**

(Romans 1:18-20)

Trough all these matters in the Bible God reveals Himself as our Father. That is why, every Sunday morning, we start our service with a joyous confession: I believe in God the Father! The Almighty! The Creator of heaven and earth!

I believe in God who created everything to His glory.

- A Heavenly Father who prepared a creation for us, so that we may live in it. We confess His as the Almighty because He created everything existing from nothing and because He still is maintaining and ruling everything.
- We believe in God our Father who, through the sacraments, confirms His fatherhood over us by the death of His Son.
  - o Both the sacraments (Baptism and Holy Communion) point to the reconciliation blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We are facing this almighty God.

- Not only do we stand powerless, indeed we stand pathetically powerless facing Him.
- We cannot create something.
- We cannot create life.
- We can't even look after creation in the way the Lord commanded us to do.

Therefore there is so much consolation in that we may confess Our God the Almighty as our Father.

- He, with that godly power of His snatches me, with His fatherly protection, out from sin.
- ] He will command my body, which is to be buried after my death, at the end of earthly time from the earth back to life.

I know that this Almighty Father will carry me during my earthly life through my tribulations.

- I know that God's almighty will, in eternity, clothe me with glory.
- This Almighty makes me His child – me, who in reality is only capable of sin.

That brings us to the application of this matter: Our lives are not always proper. Often we encompass both God and Satan into our lives.

- We claim to believe, but do deeds not befitting children of the Almighty God.
- Often we pretend as if God our Father cannot or will not punish our petulancy.

There is something we have to realize together with all these truths:

- The fact of the Lord Jesus Christ making us God's children causes that God will indeed, in aid of bringing us to conversion, punish us.
- He does not want disobedient children in His Household.

In the passage of scripture that we read the apostle Paul asks the Greeks, resident in Corinth, how on earth they managed to cling with one hand to God whilst with the other hand clinging to sin.

- He states that it is just impossible for God to enter into an alliance with the Satan.
- It just means that it is not possible that a believer could live like a man of the world.

We confess to believing in God the Almighty Father, the Creator of heaven and earth.

- Therefore we have to look at ourselves and see whether we live and look like people who are children of this God and Father we confess and belong to Him.
- The almight and fathership of God does not mean that He will forever continue to be tolerant towards our sins.

We must keep in mind that the judgement over sin and the forces of the hell also resort under the almight of God.

- It is the almight of God that will seal these forces for eternity in the realm of the dead.
- It is with almight that God the father will meter out His punishment to the people having no repentance of their sin.

We may not, because we cannot confess to be image carriers of this almighty God and not tolerate other people, live devoid of love.

We have to also live out mercy and forgiveness.

The Creator is watching us.

The Father cares for us

The Almighty grants us eternal life.

Let us read our confession, the Heidelberg Catechism, Sunday 8:

**Q. 24.**

**How are these articles divided?**

**A.**

Into three parts; the first is of God the Father, and our creation; the second of God the Son, and our redemption; the third of God the Holy Ghost, and our sanctification.

**Q. 25.**

**Since there is but one only divine essence, (a) why speakest thou of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost?**

**A.**

Because God has so revealed himself in his word, (b)

that these three distinct persons are the one only true and eternal God.

(a)

Deut.6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:

Eph.4:6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Isa.44:6 Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.

Isa.45:5 I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me:

1 Cor.8:4 As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one.

1 Cor.8:6 But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.

(b)

Isa.61:1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

Luke 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

Gen.1:2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

Gen.1:3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

Ps.33:6 By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.

Isa.48:16 Come ye near unto me, hear ye this; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there am I: and now the Lord GOD, and his Spirit, hath sent me.

Ps.110:1 <<A Psalm of David.>> The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.

Matt.3:16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

Matt.3:17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Matt.28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

1 John 5:7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. Isa.6:1 In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.

Isa.6:3 And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

John 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

2 Cor.13:13 All the saints salute you.

Gal.4:6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

Eph.2:18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

Tit.3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Tit.3:6 Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;

**Amen.**

Closing prayer.

Closing Psalm: 150:1 - 3

The Lord bless and keep you, the Lord make his face shine on you, the Lord turn His countenance to you and give peace.

**Amen**

Dr MJ Du Plessis

Reformed Church Bellville

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Scripture Modern King James Version