

THE LORD'S DAY

December 29, 2019



**United Reformed Church of Nampa
Rev. Nick Smith, Pastor**

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Morning Worship Service: 10:15 AM • Evening Catechism Service: 6:00 PM

Member of:

United Reformed Churches in North America (www.urna.org)
North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council (www.naparc.org)
International Council of Reformed Churches (www.icrconline.com)

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

10:15 AM

Prelude and Silent Prayer

(Upon entering the sanctuary, please remain silent as the congregation prepares for worship)

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and ever. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

God Calls Us to Worship

†Call to Worship Revelation 21:1-4

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

†Opening Prayer

†Responsive Reading Rev. 1:4-5; Psa. 22

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

Amen!

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;

My vows I will perform before those who fear him.

The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD!

May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD,

And all the families of the nations shall worship before you.

For kingship belongs to the LORD,

And he rules over the nations.

†"Sing, Choirs of New Jerusalem" #358*

God Assures Us of Forgiveness

Call to Confession

Micah 6:8

Confession of Sin

Psalm 51:1-10

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 only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the 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 broken rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon Isaiah 1:18
Come now, let us reason together, says the
LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they
shall be as white as snow; though they are red
like crimson, they shall become like wool.

†Psalm 94A
Pastoral Prayer

†Psalm 46B

God Speaks to Us Through His Word

Old Testament Reading Exodus 15:1-21
This is the Word of the Lord. (p. 57)
Thanks be to God!

New Testament Reading Revelation 15
This is the Word of the Lord. (p. 1036)
Thanks be to God!

Prayer for Illumination
Sermon

REVELATION 15
BY THE SEA OF CRYSTAL:
THE SONG OF THE LAMB
SONGS OF ADVENT #5
i. The Setting of the Song
ii. The Words of the Song
iii. The Response to the Song

†“By the Sea of Crystal” #473

God Communes with Us
in the Lord’s Supper

Preparation and Prayer of Consecration
By the promise of God this bread and wine are
for us the body and blood of Christ. Lift up
your hearts!
We lift them up to the Lord!

Distribution of the Bread and Wine
Prayer of Thanksgiving

Offering 1st: General Fund
2nd: Westminster Seminary California

God Blesses Us and
Sends Us to Be a Blessing

†Benediction Numbers 6:24-26
The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD
make his face to shine upon you and be
gracious to you; the LORD lift up his
countenance upon you and give you peace.
Amen!

†Doxology (unannounced, #568)*
**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.**

Postlude

† = please stand, if able
bold = congregational response
* = the congregation is invited to lift hands
(during last stanza); cf. Ps. 63:4, 1 Tim. 2:8

Invitation to the Lord’s Supper

We invite you to participate in the Lord’s Supper
with us if you are a professing member in good
standing of a Christian church. This means that:

1. you have been baptized;
2. you have made a public profession of
faith in Jesus Christ;
3. and you desire to live a godly life in
fellowship with his church.

Do you know your place in Christ? Are you
known as faithful to Christ by his church? Then
you too are welcome at his table.

EVENING CATECHISM SERVICE

6:00 PM

Prelude and Silent Prayer

(Upon entering the sanctuary, please remain silent as the congregation prepares for worship)

O God, you loved the world so much that you gave your only Son for us. Increase and strengthen our faith and fix it firmly on the mystery of your Word made flesh, that we may triumph over all evil through Christ who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen!

†Call to Worship Psalm 65:1-4

Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion, and to you shall vows be performed. O you who hear prayer, to you shall all flesh come. When iniquities prevail against me, you atone for our transgressions. Blessed is the one you choose and bring near, to dwell in your courts! We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, the holiness of your temple!

†Opening Prayer

†Responsive Reading Psa. 124:8; Eph. 1:2

Our help is in the name of the LORD,

Who made heaven and earth.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen!

†Psalm 22C

†Confession of Faith The Nicene Creed

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 Spirit, 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 one holy catholic¹ 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.

†“All Creatures of Our God and King”

#248; 5*

Let all things their Creator bless, and worship him in humbleness, O praise him, alleluia! Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, three in one, O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Life of Gratitude

Psalm 1

Blessed is the man

Who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,

Nor stands in the way of sinners,

Nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

But his delight is in the law of the LORD,

And on his law he meditates day and night.

He is like a tree planted by streams of water

That yields its fruit in its season,

¹ “Catholic” means universal; that is, there is one church across all times, places, and peoples (Belgic Confession, art. 27; Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 54).

And its leaf does not wither.

In all that he does, he prospers.

The wicked are not so,

But are like chaff that the wind drives away.

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,

Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,

But the way of the wicked will perish.

Pastoral Prayer

Psalm 68

Our Father who is 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 evil. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen!

Psalm of the Month

†Psalm 119K

Scripture Reading

Matthew 6:25-34

This is the Word of the Lord.

(p. 811)

Thanks be to God!

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon

THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD

ARTICLE 13

THE BELGIC CONFESSION

We believe that this good God, after he created all things, did not abandon them to chance or fortune but leads and governs them according to his holy will, in such a way that nothing happens in this world without his orderly arrangement. Yet God is not the author of, nor can he be charged with, the sin that occurs. For his power and goodness are so great and incomprehensible that he arranges and does his work very well and justly even

when the devils and wicked men act unjustly.

We do not wish to inquire with undue curiosity into what he does that surpasses human understanding and is beyond our ability to comprehend. But in all humility and reverence we adore the just judgments of God, which are hidden from us, being content to be Christ's disciples, so as to learn only what he shows us in his Word, without going beyond those limits.

This doctrine gives us unspeakable comfort since it teaches us that nothing can happen to us by chance but only by the arrangement of our gracious heavenly Father. He watches over us with fatherly care, keeping all creatures under his control, so that not one of the hairs on our heads (for they are all numbered) nor even a little bird can fall to the ground without the will of our Father. In this thought we rest, knowing that he holds in check the devils and all our enemies, who cannot hurt us without his permission and will. For that reason we reject the damnable error of the Epicureans, who say that God involves himself in nothing and leaves everything to chance.

†“How Firm a Foundation”

#243

Offering

General Fund

†Benediction

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

Amen!

†“It Is Well with My Soul”

#476

Postlude

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bold = congregational response

* = the congregation is invited to lift hands (during last stanza); cf. Ps. 63:4, 1 Tim. 2:8