



**Sovereign Grace
Reformed**
Presbyterian Church (OPC)

Family Worship Guide

Sunday, August 23, 2020

Opening Scripture: Matthew 11:28–30

²⁸ Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

The Lord's Prayer

Psalm of Praise: *I Will Extol You, O My God (Psalm 146:1–8)* – TPH #145C

Reading of the Law of God: Colossians 3:12–17

¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Prayer of Confession: Psalm 138

¹ I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;

² I bow down toward your holy temple
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love
and your faithfulness,
for you have exalted above all things
your name and your word.

³ On the day I called, you answered me;
my strength of soul you increased.

⁴ All the kings of the earth shall give you thanks, O LORD,
for they have heard the words of your mouth,
⁵ and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD,
for great is the glory of the LORD.

⁶ For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly,
but the haughty he knows from afar.

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble,

you preserve my life;
you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies,
and your right hand delivers me.
⁸ The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.

Assurance of Grace and Pardon: Colossians 1:12b–14

¹² ... [the Father] has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Doxology: TPH #570

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Supplication: Using the prayer sheet, pray for Christ's kingdom to come in the world. And pray for one another.

First Reading of God's Word: John 1:1–18

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵ (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus

Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

Psalm of Preparation: *With All My Heart My Thanks I Bring (Ps. 138:1-5) – TPH #138:1-2*

Second Reading of God's Word: 1 John 4:7-12

¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

¹⁶ So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

¹⁷ By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹ And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

⁵¹ Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

Preaching of God's Word: Pastor Jeffrey Carter

"Christ, Our Rock of Safety and Comfort"

Point: Christ is a solid rock of safety and comfort for those who trust in him. Through Christ we know the love of God that banishes our fear, binds us together, and directs our steps.

Outline:

1. A Love that Banishes Our Fears
 - a. Fear of judgment to come
 - b. Fear of condemnation now
2. A Love that Binds Us Together
 - a. As a people/family devoted to truth
 - b. As a people/family devoted to God
 - c. As a people/family devoted to each other
3. A Love that Directs Our Steps
 - a. Through the Spirit's indwelling
 - b. Through Christ's own example
 - c. Through the Father's instruction

Hymn of Response: *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less – TPH #459:1, 2, 4*

Closing Scripture: Hebrews 13:20–21

²⁰ Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, ²¹ equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.