

ORDER FOR THE PUBLIC WORSHIP OF GOD

"Your way was through the sea, Your path through the great waters, and yet Your footprints were unseen."

– Psalm 77:19

April 11, 2021

Morning Worship

10:40 a.m.

"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you."

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

* Responsive Praise

Psalm 34:1-3

I will bless the LORD at all times;
His praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the LORD;
Let the humble hear and be glad.
Oh, magnify the LORD with me,
And let us exalt His name together!

* Hymn of Praise

When Morning Gilds the Skies

LAUDES DOMINI

When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries:
May Jesus Christ be praised.
Alike at work and prayer to Jesus I repair;
May Jesus Christ be praised.

Does sadness fill my mind? A solace here I find:
May Jesus Christ be praised.
Or fades my earthly bliss? My comfort still is this:
May Jesus Christ be praised.

In heav’n’s eternal bliss the loveliest strain is this:
May Jesus Christ be praised.
The pow’rs of darkness fear, when this sweet chant they hear:
May Jesus Christ be praised.

Let earth’s wide circle round in joyful notes resound:
May Jesus Christ be praised.
Let air and sea and sky, from depth to height, reply:
May Jesus Christ be praised.

* Affirmation of Faith

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Congregational Response

LAUDES DOMINI

Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine:
May Jesus Christ be praised.
Be this th’eternal song, through all the ages on:
May Jesus Christ be praised.

* Prayer of Adoration

"I, I am the LORD, and besides me there is no Savior."

New Testament Lesson

Colossians 1:15-23

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

General Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, our Heavenly Father, whose Son is Your very image and the firstborn over all creation, have mercy upon us. We have broken Your law, grieved Your Spirit, and injured our fellow man far too often. Forgive us of our many sins and grant us Your grace to remain stable and steadfast throughout our lives, to the end that we may be holy and blameless and above reproach before You, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

Pastor Heath Cross

* Hymn

Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery

Getty/Boswell/Papa

Come, behold the wondrous myst'ry in the dawning of the King.
He, the theme of heaven's praises, robed in frail humanity.
In our longing, in our darkness, now the light of life has come.
Look to Christ, who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us.

Come, behold the wondrous myst'ry, He, the perfect Son of Man.
In His living, in His suff'ring, never trace nor stain of sin.
See the true and better Adam, come to save the hell-bound man.
Christ, the great and sure fulfillment of the law, in Him we stand.

Come, behold the wondrous myst'ry, Christ, the Lord upon the tree.
In the stead of ruined sinners, hangs the Lamb in victory.
See the price of our redemption, see the Father's plan unfold.
Bringing many sons to glory, grace unmeasured, love untold

Come, behold the wondrous myst'ry, slain by death the God of life.
But no grave could e'er restrain Him, praise the Lord; He is alive!
What a foretaste of deliv'rance, how unwavering our hope.
Christ in power resurrected as we will be when He comes.

"You shall eat the wealth of the nations,
and in their glory you shall boast."

God's Tithe and Our Offerings

Anthem

E'en So Lord Jesus

Manz

Stephens Valley Church Choir

Peace be to you and grace from Him, who freed us from our sins, who loved us all and shed His blood that we might saved be. Sing holy, holy to our Lord,

Almighty God, who was and is and is to come. Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein. Rejoice on earth, ye saints below, for Christ is coming soon and night shall be no more. They need no light, no lamp, nor sun for Christ will be their All.

* Presentation of Gifts

NATIONAL HYMN

Lord of all good, we bring our gifts to You,
Pledges of love and off'rings of our skill;
Through them fulfill Your purpose ever true
As our whole life is offered to Your will.

"Listen diligently to Me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food."

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson

Esther 1:1-22

All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.

Sermon

The Empire Fights Back

Pastor Jim Bachmann

Prayer of Supplication

"Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and he who has no money, come buy and eat!"

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Words of Institution

Breaking the Bread

Sharing the Cup

* Hymn

In Christ Alone

Getty & Townend

In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, Who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless Babe,
This gift of love and righteousness scorned by the ones He came to save;
'Til on that cross as Jesus died the wrath of God was satisfied,
For every sin on Him was laid, here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain.
Then, bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again.
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me.
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand,
'Til He returns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

* Postlude When Morning Gilds the Skies arr. Ridout
Ms. Lisa Barry, organ

– ANNOUNCEMENTS –

Corporation Meeting: After our service today, we will convene for a brief corporation meeting to amend our church bylaws as follows: "The terms of the members of the Council shall be staggered. There shall be three (3) relatively equal classes serving three (3) years each. The classes will be ordered in such a way that one third of the Council membership completes a term of service each year. *Elders in their first year of service are not eligible to serve on the Council.* Following a completed term of service on the Council the members of that class will take a one (1) year sabbatical. ~~During the sabbatical year the Elder will be in reserve and will not be required to attend Council meetings although he may attend Council meetings and be heard regarding any item of business or discussion, but he is not eligible to vote. He may, however, continue service on Council committees while in reserve during his sabbatical year as may be mutually agreed upon between the Elder and the Council."~~

September 30, 1938—April 1, 2021

October 30, 1945—April 2, 2021

Choir: Spring is a wonderful time to add your voice to our growing choir. We have plenty of room for more singers and invite you to check us out on Wednesday evening from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the choir room. It's a great place to serve the Lord and make some new friends. For more information, contact David German.

Mediterranean Study Cruise: Ligonier Ministries is sponsoring a study cruise of Greece, Turkey, Israel, and Cyprus aboard the Celebrity Apex October 17-29, 2022. Speakers include Steven Lawson, Robert Godfrey, and Burk Parsons. For further information, contact the church office.

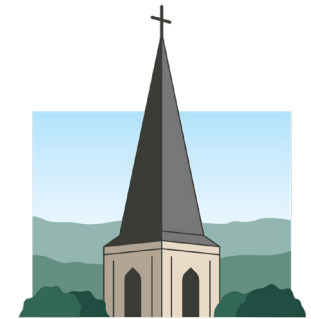
Today, 9:00 a.m.	Officers' Prayer Time
Today, 9:30 a.m.	Sunday School for all ages
Today, 10:40 a.m.	Worship service
Today, 11:45 a.m.	Corporation meeting
Today, 3:00 p.m.	Council meeting
Monday, 9:00 a.m.	Sabbatical Search Career Group
Monday, 10:00 a.m.	SVC Women's Board meeting (Café)
Tuesday, 4:00 p.m.	Sweet Half Hour of Prayer (St. Paul Chapel, first floor)
Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.	Choir rehearsal
Thursday, 10:00 a.m.	SVC Women's Prayer Shawl meeting (Rutherford Room)

Weekly Offering Needed	\$35,164
April 4 General Fund Offering	\$40,520
Total April General Fund Offering	\$40,520
Current 2021 General Fund Deficit	\$35,099
April 4 Building Fund received	\$3,860
April Building Fund received	\$3,860

African Christian Training Institute
Chosen People Ministries
Larry and Mary Warren—Leadership International
Paul and Rachel Snider—MK2MK
David and Robin Dillard—Servant Group International
Peter and Gracie Rosenberger—Standing With Hope
Trans World Radio—Multimedia evangelism
Radooga—Ukraine
Voice of the Martyrs—supporting persecuted Christians
Andy and Bev Warren—Ethiopia, Africa
Confex and Mwai Makhilira—Malawi, Africa
Pete and Ruth Mitchell—France
Dr. Nabil Costa—MEBO—Lebanon
Ale and Lynn Aho—Tonga
Matt and Deborah Stanghelle—Norway
Perry and Betty Husemann—Southern Europe
Guy and EJ—East Asia (sensitive area)
Lewis and Elsbeth Codington—Korea

Bill Kenny, chairman
Dick Speece, vice-chairman
Dick Baxter
Lisa Hanley
Tammi Hollis
Tom Smith
Jean Speece
Susan Sutherland
Terry Warren
Alva Wolfe

Stephens Valley Church (SVC) cleans regularly with products designed specifically to neutralize COVID-19, including weekly cleaning of all public spaces used during worship, and more frequent cleaning of common areas used intermittently during the week. In addition, SVC conducts temperature checks upon entry, provides hand sanitizer and masks, and encourages social distancing, handwashing, and other means of personal protection. We have also restructured our communion, offering, and attendance pad process to avoid person to person handling. Davidson County lists an exception to its mandatory mask requirements when attending a worship service by referring to Governor Lee's voluntary guidelines. Based on the Governor's recommendation to wear a face covering, we recommend wearing a mask as well, but this is a recommendation for voluntary compliance, which is a decision to be made by each individual. Despite these efforts, an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place or meeting where people are present as well as other inherent risks and dangers associated with public meetings. By your presence at SVC, you knowingly and voluntarily, accept, and assume responsibility for, each of these risks and dangers, including but not limited to COVID-19, and all other risks and dangers that could arise out of, or occur during, your use of the facilities at Stephens Valley Church.



Stephens Valley Church

Biblical, Reformed, Independent

The Empire Fights Back

April 11, 2021

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