



## The “Why” Behind Our Worship

---

### **What is a liturgy, and why is it important?**

A liturgy is the specific order and structure of a worship service. Every church has a liturgy and pattern of worship that they follow, but some churches liturgies are more visible than others. We follow a traditionally reformed style of worship that is filled with the Word of God and grounded upon the Gospel. We believe God, through His Word, directs us in the ways that we are to worship Him. For this reason, our liturgy often follows a call and response pattern; God speaks and we respond with praise, confession, & singing.

**Prelude:** This is music played by the music team or the piano and is planned for reflection and preparation. As we lead hectic lives, this is a time to calm our hearts to prepare to meet with and hear from God.

**Call to Worship:** The service officially begins with the call to worship. Our Lord calls, commands, and invites us to come and worship Him in the splendor of His holiness. Our custom is to open our service by corporate and responsive readings from the Psalms.

**Prayer of Invocation:** The opening prayer asking for God’s presence and blessing on the worship service.

**Singing Unto the Lord:** We believe it’s essential and beneficial for God’s people to sing together from a selection of Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, as commanded in Scripture. We seek to sing God-centered, Scripture-filled music that elevates the mind and transcends the generations, that the Word of Christ may dwell in us.

**Offering:** Our church’s work is supported by grateful givers and their tithes. As an acknowledgment that all that we have belongs to the Lord, we return a portion to Him for the direct support of Kingdom work.

**Prayers & Petitions:** As a church family we share each other’s joys and burdens by bringing these concerns to the Lord in an extended time of prayer.

**Confessions (of faith and of sin):** As a congregation we confess together our common faith. We use historic confessions and creeds such as the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms, the Heidelberg Catechism, the Nicene and Apostles Creeds. We also corporately confess our sins in thought, word and deed and receive the assurance of God’s pardon in Christ from His word.

**Scripture Readings:** We believe that God's Word is perfect and cannot fail. Thus, we seek to saturate our worship service with as much of God's Word as possible. We typically have three readings—one from the Old Testament, one from the New Testament, and one from the Gospels.

**Children's Message:** Children are an important part of the family of God. This is a special time for the children to come to the front to be prayed for and to receive a short message related to the sermon that helps the children (and the adults) prepare to hear the sermon.

**The Preaching of the Word:** The sermon is the focal point of the service, and the sermon text drives the selection of all the other elements and songs. A sermon is an explanation of a Bible text, explaining the verse in context, deriving principles from that context, and applying those principles to everyday life.

**Benediction:** A benediction (literally, "good word") is selected from Scripture to give a concluding blessing from the Lord to us as we depart.

---

### **What does your logo mean?**

The ancient symbol in our logo combines the first two capital Greek letters of Christ (XP) with a cross and an anchor in order to express the firm expectation and hope of eternal life for all those who place their faith in Jesus Christ. *"We have this hope as sure & steadfast an anchor of the soul"* – Hebrews 6:19

### **Why does the minister wear a robe?**

The black robe was adopted by Presbyterians and Reformed believers around the time of the Protestant Reformation. It is designed to "hide the man" and emphasize the primacy of the Word of God, rather than the personality of the one delivering the Word.

### **What do you believe about the Lord's Supper?**

We believe the Lord's Supper (communion) is a means of grace; that is, a means by which the grace of God is communicated to us as we receive the elements of the supper (bread and wine) by faith. As we eat of the bread and wine, the Spirit of God lifts us up to the throne of glory, where we commune with our Lord Jesus Christ in his body and blood and proclaim his victory over death on the cross.

### **What denomination is this church a member of?**

Redeemer Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the PCA, the Presbyterian Church in America. The principles of the PCA are: "Faithful to the Scriptures, True to the Reformed Faith, and Obedient to the Great Commission." To learn more about the denomination, visit [pca.net](http://pca.net)

### **What does Presbyterian mean?**

The word presbyterian comes from the Greek word *presbuteros* (πρεσβύτερος) which simply means "elder." Our church is led by a plurality of elders. Teaching and Ruling Elders are elected or called by the congregation and represent the congregation in the various courts of the church: the session (local church), the presbytery (region), and general assembly (national).

\*More questions? We welcome your thoughts! Contact Rev. Boldt – [pastor@redeemerark.org](mailto:pastor@redeemerark.org)