



"Whenever the faithful put the question, "How long wilt thou forget me, O Lord?" "Awake, why sleepest thou, O Lord?" they assuredly are not to be understood as attributing forgetfulness or sleep to him: they only lay before him the temptations which flesh and blood suggest to them in order to induce him speedily to succour them under the infirmity with which they are distressed."

- John Calvin, Commentary on Psalm 89

Sunday Evening Service
July 13, 2025

Evening Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church

Sunday Evening Worship – July 13, 2025

Presider: Elder Ben Chidester

Call to Worship: Psalm 89:1-6

Please stand for the Call to Worship if you are able.

Leader I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;

People **With my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.**

Leader For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness."

People **You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: 'I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations.'"**

Leader Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,

People **Your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!**

Leader For who in the skies can be compared to the LORD?

People **Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD, a God greatly to be feared in the council of the holy ones, and awesome above all who are around him?**

Prayer of Invocation

All My Ways

(Words & Music: Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, Dustin Smith, and Michael Farren 2016)

In days of peace and days of rest
In times of loss and loneliness
Though rich or poor, your word is true
That all my ways are known to you

No trial has come beyond your hand
No step I walk beyond your plan
The path is dark outside my view
Still all my ways are known to you

*And O, what peace that I have found
Wherever I may be
For all my ways are known to you
Hallelujah, they are known to you*

I do not fear the final night
For death will be the door to life
You take my hand and lead me through
For all my ways are known to you

Open up my eyes so I may see
That you have made these ways for me
Open up my eyes so I may see
That you, my God, will walk with me

Solid Rock (My Hope Is Built)

(Words: Edward Mote 1834; Music: William Batchelder Bradbury 1863)

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly lean on Jesus' Name

When darkness veils his lovely face
I rest on his unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil

*On Christ the Solid Rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand
All other ground is sinking sand*

His oath his covenant his blood
Support me in the whelming flood
When all around my soul gives way
He then is all my hope and stay

When he shall come with trumpet sound
O may I then in him be found
Dressed in his righteousness alone
Faultless to stand before the throne

Call to Confession: Psalm 89:20, 29-32

"I have found David, my servant; with my holy oil I have anointed him, ... I will establish his offspring forever and his throne as the days of the heavens. If his children forsake my law and do not walk according to my rules, if they violate my statutes and do not keep my commandments, then I will punish their transgression with the rod and their iniquity with stripes, ..."

Prayer of Confession:

We confess, O Lord, that while you are faithful, we have been faithless. Like an unfaithful spouse, we have broken our covenant vows – to love you with all of our heart and soul and mind and strength. We have so often given away our deepest affection and love to other people and other things. Thank you, God our Rock, that though our love is fickle, yours is not. Like the constancy of the sun and moon, traversing their course in the skies, so is your steadfast love for us. Forgive us, and help us to be faithful to you as you are to us. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Psalm 89:33-37

"... but I will not remove from him my steadfast love or be false to my faithfulness. I will not violate my covenant or alter the word that went forth from my lips. Once for all I have sworn by my holiness; I will not lie to David. His offspring shall endure forever, his throne as long as the sun before me. Like the moon it shall be established forever, a faithful witness in the skies."

Corporate Prayer

Song of Renewal

We consider tithes & offering as an act of worship within the corporate family of Christ. Please direct giving online or via mail (cityreformed.org/give; 3929 Coleman St., 15207)

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

(Words: Thomas Obediah Chisholm; Music: William Marion Runyan 1923)

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see:
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Scripture & Homily: Psalm 89

"The Royal Psalms Take a Downward Turn"

- Elder Ben Chidester

A Maskil of Ethan the Ezrahite.

I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;
with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to
all generations.

²For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up forever;
in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness."

³You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen
one;

I have sworn to David my servant:

⁴"I will establish your offspring forever,
and build your throne for all generations."

⁵Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,
your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

⁶For who in the skies can be compared to the LORD?

Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD,

⁷a God greatly to be feared in the council of the holy ones,
and awesome above all who are around him?

⁸O LORD God of hosts,

who is mighty as you are, O LORD,
with your faithfulness all around you?

⁹You rule the raging of the sea;
when its waves rise, you still them.

¹⁰You crushed Rahab like a carcass;
you scattered your enemies with your mighty arm.

¹¹The heavens are yours; the earth also is yours;
the world and all that is in it, you have founded them.

¹²The north and the south, you have created them;
Tabor and Hermon joyously praise your name.

¹³You have a mighty arm;

strong is your hand, high your right hand.

¹⁴Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne;

steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.

¹⁵Blessed are the people who know the festal shout,
who walk, O LORD, in the light of your face,

¹⁶who exult in your name all the day
and in your righteousness are exalted.

¹⁷For you are the glory of their strength;
by your favor our horn is exalted.

¹⁸For our shield belongs to the LORD,
our king to the Holy One of Israel.

¹⁹Of old you spoke in a vision to your godly one, and said:

“I have granted help to one who is mighty;
I have exalted one chosen from the people.

²⁰I have found David, my servant;
with my holy oil I have anointed him,

²¹so that my hand shall be established with him;
my arm also shall strengthen him.

²²The enemy shall not outwit him;
the wicked shall not humble him.

²³I will crush his foes before him
and strike down those who hate him.

²⁴My faithfulness and my steadfast love shall be with him,
and in my name shall his horn be exalted.

²⁵I will set his hand on the sea
and his right hand on the rivers.

²⁶He shall cry to me, ‘You are my Father,
my God, and the Rock of my salvation.’

²⁷And I will make him the firstborn,
the highest of the kings of the earth.

²⁸My steadfast love I will keep for him forever,
and my covenant will stand firm for him.

- ²⁹I will establish his offspring forever
and his throne as the days of the heavens.
- ³⁰If his children forsake my law
and do not walk according to my rules,
³¹if they violate my statutes
and do not keep my commandments,
³²then I will punish their transgression with the rod
and their iniquity with stripes,
³³but I will not remove from him my steadfast love
or be false to my faithfulness.
- ³⁴I will not violate my covenant
or alter the word that went forth from my lips.
- ³⁵Once for all I have sworn by my holiness;
I will not lie to David.
- ³⁶His offspring shall endure forever,
his throne as long as the sun before me.
- ³⁷Like the moon it shall be established forever,
a faithful witness in the skies.”
- ³⁸But now you have cast off and rejected;
you are full of wrath against your anointed.
- ³⁹You have renounced the covenant with your servant;
you have defiled his crown in the dust.
- ⁴⁰You have breached all his walls;
you have laid his strongholds in ruins.
- ⁴¹All who pass by plunder him;
he has become the scorn of his neighbors.
- ⁴²You have exalted the right hand of his foes;
you have made all his enemies rejoice.
- ⁴³You have also turned back the edge of his sword,
and you have not made him stand in battle.
- ⁴⁴You have made his splendor to cease
and cast his throne to the ground.
- ⁴⁵You have cut short the days of his youth;

you have covered him with shame.

⁴⁶How long, O LORD? Will you hide yourself forever?
How long will your wrath burn like fire?

⁴⁷Remember how short my time is!

For what vanity you have created all the children of man!

⁴⁸What man can live and never see death?

Who can deliver his soul from the power of Sheol?

⁴⁹LORD, where is your steadfast love of old,
which by your faithfulness you swore to David?

⁵⁰Remember, O LORD, how your servants are mocked,
and how I bear in my heart the insults of all the many nations,

⁵¹with which your enemies mock, O LORD,
with which they mock the footsteps of your anointed.

⁵²Blessed be the LORD forever!

Amen and Amen.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Outline

How do we pray when God's kingdom feels far away?

- Appeal to God's promises
- Pour out your heart before him
- Consider the Cross

Additional Scripture

Genesis 18:22-26 / So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD. Then Abraham drew near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake."

1 Chronicles 17:7-14 / Now, therefore, thus shall you say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be prince over my people Israel, and I have been with you wherever you have gone and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall waste them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will subdue all your enemies. Moreover, I declare to you that the LORD will build you a house. When your days are fulfilled to walk with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, one of your own sons, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for me, and I will establish his throne forever. I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from him who was before you, but I will confirm him in my house and in my kingdom forever, and his throne shall be established forever.'

Psalms 62:8 / Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.

Song of Thanksgiving

Promises

(Words & Music: Aaron Moses, Carrington Gaines, Dante Bowe, Keila Alvarado, and Lemuel Marin 2020)

God of Abraham
You're the God of covenant
Of faithful promises
Time and time again
You have proven
You do just what you say

Though the storms may come
And the winds may blow
I'll remain steadfast
And let my heart learn
When you speak a word
It will come to pass

*Great is your faithfulness to me
Great is your faithfulness to me
From the rising sun
To the setting same
I will praise your name
Great is your faithfulness to me*

God from age to age
Though the earth may pass away
Your Word remains the same
Your history can prove
There's nothing you can't do
You're faithful and true

I put my faith in Jesus
My anchor to the ground
My hope and firm foundation
He'll never let me down

Benediction