

Greetings Redeemer family,

It's with a heavy heart that I write this edition of the worship notes, knowing that Sunday will be my last service as Worship Director at Redeemer. It has been a joy and privilege to serve alongside such a wonderful faith family. I am so thankful for the time that I've had to minister among you. I love this church, and am very excited for how God will grow and use you in the future. And this Sunday is just the beginning.

This fall, we will be picking up our series in John that we've been working through for the past two years. Before doing so, Mike has a special sermon for this week, looking at the value of wisdom. Proverbs 3 says that wisdom is "more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold." I can't help but read that and think of the past few years of global financial insecurity. Back in the late 90's, tech stocks looked like the thing to invest in. That went bust and investors jumped on the real estate boom. Mortgage-backed securities then blew up in our faces, and now there are ads enticing people to invest in physical assets like gold and silver. And here the Word of God points to something that is better than pieces of paper, plots of land, or glittering coins.

It's relatively easy to get financial assets. You get a job, go to the bank, call an 800 number, visit a website. But how do you get wisdom? Where do you start this search? Our call to worship this week from Psalm 111 gives us the answer.

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all who follow his precepts have good understanding.
To him belongs eternal praise.*

So we begin our service with three songs singing the praise of God, the fount of all wisdom and every good thing. He has promised to bless His people when we seek Him, so we come with expectant and joyful hearts this Sunday.

*Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord*

*Our God, You reign forever
Our hope, our Strong Deliverer
You are the everlasting God, the everlasting God
You do not faint, You won't grow weary
You're the defender of the weak
You comfort those in need
You lift us up on wings like eagles*

....
*Every blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say*

*Blessed be Your name
When the sun's shining down on me
When the world's all as it should be
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be Your name*

*On the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering
Blessed be Your name*

....

*All my life long, I had thirsted
For a drink from some cool spring,
That I hoped would quench the burning
Of the thirst I felt within.*

*Hallelujah! He has found me
The One my soul so long has craved!
Jesus satisfies all my longings
Through His blood I now am saved.*

As Christians, we rejoice that God has made Himself known to us. All of creation proclaims His wisdom, beauty, and power – and that alone is enough to tell us that He is worthy to be worshipped. Yet He has even further, in giving us His Holy Word. Our confession of faith this week from the Westminster Confession of Faith reminds us of the great gift God has given us in the Scriptures.

Although the light of nature and the works of creation and providence manifest the goodness, wisdom, and power of God, to such an extent that men are without excuse, yet they are not sufficient to give that knowledge of God and of his will which is necessary for salvation. Therefore it pleased the Lord, at various times and in diverse ways, to reveal himself and to declare his will to his church; and afterward—for the better preserving and propagating of the truth, and for the more sure establishment and comfort of the church against the corruption of the flesh and the malice of Satan and of the world—to commit this revelation wholly to writing. Therefore the Holy Scripture is most necessary, God's former ways of revealing his will to his people having ceased. (1.1, Modern English Study Version)

In Scripture alone do we learn of the saving work of Jesus, whose blood alone is able to save us from our sin and corruption. Our song of assurance echoes the words of Isaiah 1:18.

*O precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow
No other fount I know
Nothing but the blood of Jesus*

Our offertory song is a poetic rendering of John's vision of the throne room of God in Revelation 4. The words and music remind us that when the glory of God is revealed to our hearts by the Word and work of His Spirit, our only response can be to worship. So we join our voices with the angels, who surround the throne of God and forever sing this hymn:

*Holy holy holy is the Lord God Almighty
Who was and is and is to come
With all creation I sing praise to the King of kings
You are my ev'rything and I will adore You*

We close our service with a resounding chorus of praise. My prayer for each of you as I end my tenure as Worship Director is that the wisdom of God would be present in your every decision, animating each

moment of your life. In that, may your life be a continual act of worship to our Great God, who is worthy of all glory, honor, and praise. May you lift high the name of Jesus, and may many be brought to His love through your faithful witness. And may you come to know the depths of the riches of his wisdom and knowledge: how high, how wide, how deep, and how strong is His love.

*May our homes be filled with dancing
May our streets be filled with joy
May injustice bow to Jesus
As the people turn and pray*

*May our light shine in the darkness
As we walk before the cross
May Your glory fill the whole earth
As the water over the seas*

*From the mountain to the valley
Hear our praises rise to You
From the heavens to the nations
Hear our singing fill the air*

May the Grace and Peace of Christ be with you always,

Tim Sharpe