



RED TREE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

APRIL 23, 2023

HOT TAKES & DEEPER THOUGHTS

"Why the unhealthy preoccupation of early Christian theologians with sin? They could have devoted their pages and their sermons to extolling the sky splashed with stars, or mountains and green forests, seas and dawn choruses. These are occasionally mentioned, but the Christian focus is overwhelmingly on sin sin sin sin sin sin. What a nasty little preoccupation to have dominating your life."

Richard Dawkins

"Your principal concern appears to be that the Creator of the universe will take offense at something people do while naked. This prudery of yours contributes daily to the surplus of human misery."

Sam Harris, *Letter to a Christian Nation*

"You cannot read the stories of the Bible like most people want to, as inspirational stories, filled with moral examples for us to imitate. The theme throughout all the stories of the Bible is how the grace of God breaks through into the lives of people who otherwise would sink under their own sin and brokenness. The gospel is this: We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope."

Timothy Keller

"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"

Galatians 3:13

WELCOME TO **RED TREE** PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Red Tree is a collection of people of all ages and professions, from a wide variety of spiritual and social backgrounds. We embrace Jesus' claims to be true and transformational. We also believe the central message of the Bible is the good news, or "gospel," of a God who created us for Himself and desires us to live fully as we enjoy relationship with Him and with each other.

The Bible's radical message of grace centers on Jesus and creates a new people who live not for themselves but for the God who saved and redeems them. For this reason, Red Tree exists to be a community with deep roots and deep love, experiencing deep change in our lives and in our city.

As the Lead Pastor of Red Tree, it is my privilege to welcome you and to invite you to be astonished, together with us, by the splendor and grace of God.



REV. RYAN MCVICAR



Deep Roots | in the truth of the gospel

Deep Love | because of the beauty of the gospel

Deep Change | by the power of the gospel

ALL



God always comes to us before we can come to Him. Biblical worship is a response to God's gracious revelation of Himself, calling us to worship.

ALL



The Prayer of Invocation is a humble yet earnest calling upon God to reveal himself and bless us as we gather to worship.

ALL



Why does music and singing play such a central role in our worship? Because God has rescued us by his abundant grace and has brought us into a relationship with himself. We cannot help but to respond in celebration and songs of adoration to our savior.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 95

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts!

PRAYER FOR GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING HYMN

All Creatures of Our God and King

St. Francis of Assisi, William Henry Draper. 1225, Public Domain

All creatures of our God and King
Lift up your voice and with us sing
Oh praise Him; alleluia
Thou burning sun with golden beam
Thou silver moon with softer gleam
Oh praise Him, oh praise Him
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

All the redeemed washed by His blood
Come and rejoice in His great love
Oh praise Him; alleluia
Christ has defeated every sin
Cast all your burdens now on Him
Oh praise Him, oh praise Him
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Let all things their Creator bless
And worship Him in humbleness
Oh praise Him; alleluia
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son
And praise the Spirit, Three-in-One
Oh praise Him, oh praise Him
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

He shall return in power to reign
Heaven and earth will join to say
Oh praise Him; alleluia
Then who shall fall on bended knee
All creatures of our God and King
Oh praise Him, oh praise Him
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

ALL



Why does music and singing play such a central role in our worship? Because God has rescued us by his abundant grace and has brought us into a relationship with himself. We cannot help but to respond in celebration and songs of adoration to our savior.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Great is the Lord Almighty

C. Hendershot, S. Hendershot

Great is the Lord
Great is the Lord Almighty
Great is the Lord
Great is the Lord Almighty

To Him who is able to keep you from falling
To Him who presents you blameless and joyful
To the glorious presence of the Most High God—be glory!
Majesty, dominion, full of power, now and always
Great is His Name

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

VISITING US?

Thank you for spending time with us and getting to know us firsthand! We would love to learn more about you and how we can serve you. Please scan the QR code to let us know that you visited with us, so we can follow up with you.



All we have is given to us by God. Our offerings express this joyful dependence, and our commitment to join God in His work of renewal.

TITHES & OFFERINGS

GIVE ONLINE

Scan the QR code at right:



TEXT TO GIVE

To give via text: Text "MNA 1391" to 76959 and follow the prompts.

ALL



The word "doxology" comes from the Greek translation of the Old Testament word for worship. Throughout our service, we respond to the gospel of God's grace with songs of praise.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Thomas Ken, arrangement S. Hendershot

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost

Amen! Amen! Amen!



In anticipation of the proclamation of God's Word, we lift a prayer to God asking Him to speak to us through His living Word.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

When we hear the Word of God proclaimed and preached, we are listening to the voice of God. The Holy Spirit makes the inspired texts and spoken words the chief means of nourishing and comforting God's people, and of awakening others to new faith.

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Genesis 3

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" 2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" 4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" 10 And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." 11 He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" 12 The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." 13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

14 The Lord God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

15 I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel."

16 To the woman he said,

“I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;
in pain you shall bring forth children.
Your desire shall be contrary to your husband,
but he shall rule over you.”

17 And to Adam he said,

“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife
and have eaten of the tree
of which I commanded you,
'You shall not eat of it,'
cursed is the ground because of you;
in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

18 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.

19 By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread,
till you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
for you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.”

20 The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. 21 And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

MINISTER

The grass withers, the flower fades,

ALL

But the Word of our God stands forever.

MINISTER

THE SERMON

What's Up with the Red Tree?

Rev. Ryan McVicar

SERMON NOTES

1. *Why is Red Tree in Ann Arbor?*

2. *Why is Red Tree named Red Tree?*

3. *Where are you with the Red Tree?*

ALL

Because of the gospel, our relationship with God is a relationship in which honesty about our sin is welcome and safe. Therefore, with one voice, we are able to openly and sincerely confess our sins to Him.

MINISTER

God's Word assures us of our forgiveness in Christ, and we cannot but continue in praise to the grace, mercy, and peace offered to us.

CALL TO REPENTANCE

Corporate Prayer of Confession

Gracious Father, we confess that we have longed too much for the comforts and treasures of this world rather than for your enduring Kingdom. We have loved the gifts more than the Giver. In your mercy, help us to see that the things we strive for are shadows, but you are the substance; We plead for your forgiveness through the riches of Jesus Christ. Accept his worthiness for our unworthiness, his sinlessness for our transgressions, his glory for our shame, his righteousness for our dead works, his riches for our poverty, his death for our life. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us— for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"

Galatians 3:13

"He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed."

1 Peter 2:24

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion, also known as the Lord's Supper, has always been a common, shared, joyous family meal. This meal is for those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ; for those Baptized Christians who trust in His once-for-all sacrificial death upon the cross for their salvation. When we celebrate this feast, we commune with the risen Lord Jesus who stands as our host to offer spiritual nourishment, renewal and life. We also commune with one another, participating together in the reconciling grace of God.

We warmly welcome to the table all who trust in Jesus and who have publicly professed their faith as members of a Christian congregation. At Red Tree, we ask our children to take communion only if they have met with the elders to share of their faith in Christ, although all children are invited to come forward to receive a blessing and a word of encouragement. If you are not a Christian, we encourage you to spend this time reflecting on the following prayers in the hopes that a relationship with Jesus and membership in his church may be considered.

You will be directed to make your way to one of the communion stations where you will receive the bread and the wine.

Jesus is truly and spiritually present and stands ready to feed you. Come hungry. Come thirsty. Come ready to be filled.

Individual Prayers for Praying During Communion

Lord Jesus, You claim to be the way, the truth and the life. If what You claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who You are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following You as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding of You that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that You promise. Amen.

Lord Jesus, I believe that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before admitted, but through You, I am more loved and accepted than I ever imagined or hoped. I thank You for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that You have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive You as my Savior. Amen.

I do not presume to come to Your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in my own goodness, but only in Your righteousness credited to me. I am not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under Your table. But You are the same Lord whose manner is always to show mercy. Grant me, O Lord, the grace to commune now with Christ by faith, that I may evermore live in Him and He in me. Amen.

PRAYER
FOR THOSE
SEARCHING
FOR THE TRUTH

PRAYER TO
BECOME A
CHRISTIAN

PRAYER
OF HUMBLE
ACCESS TO THE
LORD'S TABLE

MINISTER

If you have repented and placed your trust in Jesus Christ alone for your salvation and are a member of a Christian church, you are invited to feast with your brothers and sisters at the Lord's Table.

MINISTER

The Words of Institution echo Jesus' words at the Last Supper, now inviting us to partake of the Bread and Wine in remembrance of Him.

MINISTER

The Pastoral Prayer is a time to express our gratitude for—and dependence on—God's provision for the life and ministry of the Church.

MINISTER

This prayer is offered to set apart the bread and the wine as holy, for the purpose of nourishing us spiritually through our communion with Christ.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Why does music and singing play such a central role in our worship? Because God has rescued us by his abundant grace and has brought us into a relationship with himself. We cannot help but to respond in celebration and with songs of adoration to our savior.

HYMN AT THE TABLE

Almighty God, to You All Hearts are Open

L. Jordan, D. Leonard, S. McCracken

Almighty God, to You all hearts are open
Search and know our thoughts and anxious fears
Wash us in the fountain of Your mercy
Come with Your light; we cannot hide from You

Almighty God, to You all hearts are open
With gratitude, we raise our song to You
Come and fill the praises of Your people
In grace and truth, You make us new again

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Almighty God, to You all hearts are open
We long for more than what this world provides
No shallow spring will ever satisfy us
But Your river deep floods over everything

Almighty God, to You all hearts are open
You take away our sickness and our sin
O Lamb of God, we gather at Your table
In bread and wine, You have supplied our need

PARTAKING OF THE BREAD & WINE

ALL



Why does music and singing play such a central role in our worship? Because God has rescued us by his abundant grace and has brought us into a relationship with himself. We cannot help but to respond in celebration and with songs of adoration to our savior.

HYMN OF DEPARTURE

How Great Thou Art

C. Boeberg; S. Hine

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds thy hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe displayed

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, "My God, how great Thou art!"

PASTOR

Our gathered worship service concludes with God's blessing; a joyful declaration of God's satisfaction in us through Jesus Christ, and a vow to be in fellowship with us as we scatter.

BENEDICTION

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Mark your calendars!

We will launch weekly Sunday services on September 10th. Where? Stay tuned because we are still exploring options for our longer term worship space.

Announcements

Join us for brunch in the room next door immediately following our service.

Check out our website at redtreeannarbor.com

Connect! We would love to connect with you for the purpose of walking with you as you take steps forward in your spiritual journey. Your next step may be joining us for our next worship service, meeting with the pastor, finding help with a relationship, meeting with others for conversation, study, or prayer, or discovering ways to serve and use your gifts.

Next steps take different shapes for each of us individually, but they generally fit into one of the following categories:

- **Deep Roots.** Develop a deeper understanding of Christianity and grow deeper convictions that are rooted in the Bible.
- **Deep Love.** Develop deeper relationships in the church so that you can be encouraged as you experience the support and love of Christ through the community life of Red Tree. Over time, God will use you to offer support and the love of Christ to others. The church is the body of Christ and we need one another!
- **Deep Change.** Develop a deeper sense of purpose and learn about the ways God wants to use you to bring deep change through the ministries of Red Tree and in the places where you live, work and play. Currently, we are praying for more people to join our Core Team as we prepare for our public launch in the Fall.

CONTACT RED TREE

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Email Newsletter

The Red Tree Press is our weekly email newsletter. Subscribe to receive the latest news at redtreeannarbor.com/connect.

Social

Find us on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube:
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VISITING US?

Thank you for spending some time with us and getting to know us firsthand! We would love to learn more about you and how we can serve you. Please scan the QR code to let us know that you visited with us, so we can follow up with you.



NEED PRAYER?

Please let us know how we can pray for you! Scan this QR code and scroll to "Prayer Requests."



