

February 26, 2023



The ARC Ministry Staff

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We Approach God

Welcome & Announcements

Praise Singing

“The Old Rugged Cross” Hymn #228 vs 1-2

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
'Til my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.

O that old rugged cross, So despised by the world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God Left His glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary.

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
'Til my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.

“King of Kings”

In the darkness, we were waiting
Without hope, without light
'Til from Heaven You came running
There was mercy in Your eyes
To fulfill the law and prophets
To a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory
To a cradle in the dirt

Praise the Father, praise the Son
Praise the Spirit, three in one
God of glory, Majesty
Praise forever to the King of Kings

To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation
You did not despise the cross
For even in Your suffering
You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation
Jesus for our sake You died

Praise the Father, praise the Son
Praise the Spirit, three in one
God of glory, Majesty
Praise forever to the King of Kings

And the morning that You rose
All of Heaven held its breath
'Til that stone was moved for good
For the Lamb had conquered death
And the dead rose from their tombs
And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored

And the church of Christ was born
Then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel, shall not faint
By His blood and in His name
In His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me

Praise the Father, praise the Son
Praise the Spirit, three in one
God of glory, Majesty
Praise forever to the King of Kings

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Praise the Spirit, three in one
God of glory, Majesty
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“Living Hope”

How great the chasm that lay between us.
How high the mountain I could not climb.
In desperation I turned to heaven
and spoke Your name into the night.

Then through the darkness
Your loving kindness tore through the shadows of my soul.
The work is finished, the end is written.
Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Who could imagine so great a mercy?
What heart could fathom such boundless grace?
The God of ages stepped down from glory
to wear my sin and bear my shame.

The cross has spoken; I am forgiven.
The King of kings calls me His own.
Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever.
Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free!
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me!
You have broken ev'ry chain.
There's salvation in Your name.
Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Then came the morning that sealed the promise
Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence the roaring lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me

Then came the morning that sealed the promise

Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence the roaring lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me
Jesus, Yours is the victory!

Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free!
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me!
You have broken ev'ry chain.
There's salvation in Your name.
Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free!
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me!
You have broken ev'ry chain.
There's salvation in Your name.
Jesus Christ, my living hope.
Jesus Christ, my living hope.
God, You are my living hope!

Congregational Prayer

“Because He Lives” Hymn #260 vs 1 & 3

God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus,
He came to love, heal, and forgive;
He lived and died to buy my pardon,
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

Because He lives I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living just because He lives.

And then one day I'll cross the river,
I'll fight life's final war with pain;
And then as death gives way to victory,
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He reigns.

Because He lives I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives all fear is gone;

Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living just because He lives.

We Hear God's Word

Children's Message – Joel Ruis

Message – Prophecy: Does God Still Speak?

Scripture – Luke 11:29-32

We Respond to God

Prayer

Sonshine Singers – “For the Good”

Benediction

Family Memory Verse for March 1st: Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. – Psalm 119:105



Prophecy: Does God Still Speak? Prophecy for today?

Luke 11:29–32 (NET 2nd ed.)

²⁹ As the crowds were increasing, Jesus began to say, “This generation is a wicked generation; it looks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah. ³⁰ For just as Jonah became a sign to the people of Nineveh, so the Son of Man will be a sign to this generation.

³¹ The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with the people of this generation and condemn them, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon—and now, something greater than Solomon is here! ³² The people of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented when Jonah preached to them—and now, something greater than Jonah is here!

A. Jesus exhorts the _____ Generation.

B. Jesus will only give the Sign of _____.

C. Jesus prophesies _____ from the Queen of the south.

FIVE WORD-FOCUSED GIFTS:

1. Prophecy

FIVE PROPHECIES OF JESUS:

The First Prophecy: A Prediction of Jesus' Suffering (9:21-22)

The Second Prophecy: A Prediction of Jesus' Suffering (9:43b-45)

The Third Prophecy: A Prediction of Easter (13:31-32)

The Fourth Prophecy: A Prediction of Jesus' Suffering (18:31-34)

The Fifth Prophecy: A Parable Predicting the Suffering of Jesus and the Condemnation of Unbelievers (20:9-16)

THE POINT OF THESE PROPHECIES:

To encourage the disciples to be _____ and believe when Jesus suffered. (Prophecy 1,2,4)

To _____ the pharisees & people, calling them to repentance. (Prophecy 3,5)

THE DEFINITION OF PROPHECY:

The gift of Prophecy is the unique ability to receive messages from God and communicate those messages to the assembly of Christ followers. The words of a Prophet will always be supported by the principles and teachings of Scripture. The ability to communicate divine messages may take the form of Pastoral Preaching (2 Tim. 4:2-3, 1 Cor. 4:6, James 3:1), Word of Knowledge, or foretelling future events (Acts 21:10-11). (assessme.org)

"The gift of prophecy... should be defined not as "predicting the future," nor as "proclaiming a word from the Lord," nor as "powerful preaching"—but rather as "*telling something that God has spontaneously brought to mind.*" -Wayne Grudem, [*Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*](#), Second Edition. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2020), 1293.

2. Word of knowledge

The gift of Knowledge is a special insight given by God regarding God's will applied to a particular circumstance. The "Word of Knowledge" given to an individual or to the assembly of Christ Followers will always be supported by the teachings and principles of Scripture. 1 Corinthians 12:8 identifies the gift of the Word of Knowledge among many other spiritual gifts. A dramatic example of the Word of Knowledge in action can be found in Acts 5:1-11. Within this passage, a married couple seeks to lie to the Apostle Peter, to the Holy Spirit and to the Church. The Holy Spirit reveals the truth to Peter, and then disciplines the married couple. (See assessme.org)

3. Wisdom

The gift of Wisdom is the special ability given by God to enable a person to "know the right thing to do, and how to do it rightly". When the council of a godly person gifted with Wisdom is followed, God's will is accomplished, God is honored, and the mission of the ministry will find success. A person possessing the gift of Wisdom may also display the gift of Knowledge. The Apostle Paul identifies the gift of "A Message of Wisdom" among many other spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 12:8. Ephesians 1:7 states... "*I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit [1:17 Or a spirit] of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better*". Colossians 1:9 continues this theme... "*For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding*". James 1:5 instructs all Christ Followers: "*If any*

of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him". (See assessme.org)

4. Teaching

The gift of Teaching is a highly honored spiritual gift within the assembly of Christ Followers, but it is also a gift with severe responsibilities before God. The Bible warns us that those who teach among the people will be judged more harshly by God (James 3:1). A spiritually healthy teacher will not simply instruct the minds of his/her students, but will first instruct and apply unto him/herself the lessons taught by God through Scripture, and then only after the teacher can model the biblical lesson within his/her life, will he/she be authentically able to teach the lesson to others.

1 Corinthians 12:28 lists the gift of Teaching, when applied within the church, as an essential office within the ministry...subservient only to the greater offices of Prophets and Apostles. [We do not see these as offices, but as roles. Ministers, elders, and deacons are offices. (Phil. 1:1, 1 Tim. 3, & Luke 1:2)- Kevin] Ephesians 4:11-14 makes it clear that the teacher's job description includes *"Equipping the people for the works of service"*. Paul specifically lists Teaching as one of the spiritual gifts in Romans 12:7.

5. Exhortation

The gift of Exhortation is the special ability to counsel or challenge others toward a healthy relationship with Jesus Christ. Often, the gift of Exhortation is utilized to motivate the Church in general or a Christ Follower in particular, to make God-honoring choices. If sensitivity and tact is not properly developed, the person gifted with Exhortation may not immediately be appreciated. The gift of Exhortation is somewhat similar to the role of the Old Testament prophets in challenging God's people to remain faithful. While the prophets were not immediately valued, and often persecuted, their service was indispensable to the spiritual health and vitality of the biblical faith community.

People who possess the gift of Exhortation will not avoid conflict. It is not that they love conflict. In fact, everything inside them may hate conflict. People with the gift of Exhortation feel a deep responsibility before God to challenge and encourage those that may be taking a path that does not honor the Lord, to correct their misguided choices. In Acts 14:22, the Apostle Paul consistently serves to *"strengthen the disciples and to encourage them to remain true to the faith"*. In Act 11:23, Barnabas encouraged the people of Antioch to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. Again, in 1 Thessalonians 2:12, the Apostle Paul describes their ministry among the Thessalonians as *"encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory"*. The gift of Exhortation is always expressed in a "personal appeal"...even when focused on a group. The group is comprised of individuals, and each individual is responsible for their own decisions and actions before God. This is why people often react defensively when first hearing a word of exhortation. When this gift is utilized appropriately, it will either be received by humble and contrite hearts, or the recipients will respond with hostility and transference. They may assert that the person using the gift of Exhortation is judgmental, critical or harsh. For this reason, the person utilizing the gift of Exhortation should make every effort to ensure that "how" they communicate does not get in the way of "what" they are called to communicate on God's behalf. However, even when every effort has been made to communicate a word of exhortation carefully and lovingly, the exhorter should not be surprised if the communication is initially rejected...along with the one who communicated the message. People

with the gift of Exhortation quickly learn that they need to give the Holy Spirit an opportunity to do his work of conviction and sanctification.

APPLICATION: ACTIVATE WORD-FOCUSED SPIRITUAL GIFTS

R _____

A _____ for these gifts (Luke 11: 9-13, Ps. 43:3, 1 Corinthians 14:1, James 1:5)

L _____ to God (Ps. 32:8, John 16:13, Col. 1:9, Eph. 1:17–18)

How to listen: (See back of bulletin)

- Find a prayerful place and read some Scripture.
- Confess sin, surrender your will to God's
- Prayerfully journal asking God for direction.
- Listen for specific name, word, message, picture

T _____ the message (1 Thes. 5:20-22, 1 John 4)

- Does the prophecy conflict with Scripture? Test the message and interpretation against the Bible - Know the Bible as your guardrails
- Is there any reason why I should accept a particular "prophet's" claim to be a prophet? Have they been right before?
- Did the prophecy come true?
- Does it bring people to repentance or build up the church?
- Do reputable elders affirm the prophet? Test the message and interpretation with biblically grounded leaders like elders.

O _____ / _____ courageously and humbly what you believe God is saying (12:6, 1 Cor. 12, 1 Cor. 14:6)

RESOURCES FOR MORE STUDY

*Neither Kevin, nor Alto Reformed Church fully endorse all these teachers, but they provide much insight into the topic.

Jon Bloom, www.desiringgod.org/series/the-gift-of-prophecy-today/articles. [These four articles are helpful overview of prophecy.]

Wayne Grudem, [*Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*](#), Second Edition. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2020). [This is a massive book on everything in the Bible and a helpful resource for answering biblical questions. Its' section on prophecy is more thorough than the articles above.]

John Eldredge, [*Moving Mountains: Praying with Passion, Confidence, and Authority*](#) (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2016). [This book is a practical, charismatic look at prayer.]

Holly Pivec and R. Douglas Geivett, [*Counterfeit Kingdom: The Dangers of New Revelation, New Prophets, and New Age Practices in the Church*](#) (Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing, 2022). [This book addresses concerns with the New Apostolic Reformation and churches like Bethel Church in Redding CA.]

DISCOVER YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

AssessMe is an online survey we use to help you identify your spiritual gifts. See 1 Cor. 12 for a list of gifts. AssessMe enables churches to turn off "supernatural" gifts, for churches that believe

they ceased, but there is way too much evidence saying they exist. 140 of you have done the assessment at least in part. Many have one of these gifts, but you don't need certification of the gift to claim authority over evil spirits.

Go to www.altoreformedchurch.org/discover-your-strengths for more info. Go to www.assessme.org/8274.aspx to take the survey. If you want to finish your survey, go to www.assessme.org and login.

Upcoming Events

- Feb 26** 8:30am – Prayer Meeting
 9:30am – Pastor Kevin, Sonshine Singers
 10:45am – Sunday School
 5:30pm – Jr High Praise Band
 6:30pm – Middle School Youth Group
- Feb 27** 6:30pm – Men's Bible Study
 7:00pm – Deacon Meeting
- Feb 28** 8:00am – Prayer Meeting
 9:30am – Women's Bible Study
- Mar 1** 9:30am – Golden Lifers
 6:00pm – Men's Chorus at Prairie Ridge, Intermediate Praise Team
 6:20pm – Sonshine Singers, Jr Choir
 6:45pm – Bible Class
 7:00pm – Mixed Choir
 7:30pm – High School Youth Group
- Mar 5** 8:30am – Prayer Meeting
 9:30am – Pastor Doug, Men's Chorus
 10:45am – Sunday School
 5:30pm – Junior High Praise Band
 6:30pm – Middle School Youth Group

To view the church calendar, go to www.altoreformedchurch.org

Youth News

Middle School – Tonight Rick and Jean Stelsel will be coming in to share with us! See you at 6:30!

High School – On Wednesday we'll be talking about the importance of reading the Bible and answering these questions - Why do all of those old stories matter? What if I read it and don't understand it? What's the best way to read my Bible? Can't I just read a devotion book instead? See you at 7:30!

Opportunities to Get Involved

Women's Bible Study – Join us Mondays at 6:30pm for an 8-week bible study "Nothing to Prove" by Jennie Allen beginning March 6th. Books cost \$10. Signup at the Information Center by February 26th.

2023 Mission Trip to Manitoqua – We have the opportunity to serve Camp Manitoqua through mission work during the week of April 2nd – 5th. There are opportunities available for nearly all

levels of ability whether young or old, so if the Holy Spirit is speaking to you to go, then know the Lord can use you there. More details are available at the Information Center.

All Church Retreat – Join us for our 2nd annual All Church Retreat at Silver Birch Ranch on April 21-23. Brochures with information are in your church mailbox or at the Information Center. Register by March 31st or contact Megan to get help with registration. Any questions, reach out to Pastor Doug, Jessa or Lynnae.

Pinewood Derby Family Night – Join us at the Alto Community Center on Monday, April 17th from 5:30-7:30pm for a fun, free night. We'll have a meal at 5:30pm and races will start at 6pm. Sign-up and grab a car kit with instructions at the Children & Families Resource Center by April 9th. Classes range from 1st grade to adult. Want to check the weight of your car? Stop in by Lynnae or Megan. Don't want to race a car? Join us anyway.

Post-High Group coming soon! We're starting a post-high group focused on young adults that have graduated high school and are looking for others to do life with. We are kicking this off by having a March Madness party March 19th at 6pm at the Union. Don't worry-if you don't care about basketball, there will be plenty of people, games, food and other activities!

Bulletin Board News

Offering may be placed in one of the three white offering boxes located in the lobby. Upcoming benevolent schedule: 2/26 Missionary Salary, 3/5 Missionary Salary, 3/12 Gideons International, 3/19 Missionary Salary. If you feel led to give specifically towards the ceiling project, please put your check in a separate marked envelope in one of the offering boxes. The deacons are keeping track separately of what has been contributed towards the project, which will be shown on the monthly financial reports. Thank you.

AMEN articles are due today.

Lent Activities for families are available at the Children & Families Resource Center.

Donations Needed for VBS – Over the next few months we will be collecting empty toilet paper/paper towel/wrapping paper rolls and large cardboard to use for VBS decorations. We are also looking for new colored tablecloths and new/used pool noodles. Donations may be placed in the tote by the Children & Families Resource Center.

P - praise R - repent A - ask Y – yield

PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE

The following prayer for guidance is from John Eldredge, [Moving Mountains: Praying with Passion, Confidence, and Authority](#).

“Holy Spirit, I need your help. I come to you in need of your counsel, your guidance and direction. Wisdom and power belong to you, God. You change times and seasons; you set up kings and depose them. You give wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. You reveal deep and hidden things; you know what lies in darkness, and light dwells with you. Holy Spirit—I ask for wisdom and power, I ask you to make known to me the answer to this riddle.

[based on Daniel 2:20-23]

But first I consecrate my life to you, including all my plans and decisions. I consecrate this decision to you; I consecrate the process to you as well. I bring all of this under the rule and under the dominion of Jesus Christ, who is Lord.

I surrender all my hopes and dreams, all my desires, and all my fears to you, God. I surrender my hunches, my own thoughts and plans, and I ask you, God, for your clear and true leading in my life...

I need your counsel, Holy Spirit. Come into this decision-making process. Shine your light here and banish all confusion; deliver me from falsehood and fear, from false directions and foolish choices. I want to know the way you have for me. I also lay down in this moment the pressure to get the answer right; I lay down the pressure to hear from you clearly. I simply ask you to speak to me, God...

I ask you, God, to fill me with the knowledge of your will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding; I ask you for the Spirit of wisdom and revelation here."

PRAYER FOR GIFTING

Father, we eagerly desire the gifts of prophecy, wisdom, words of knowledge, and teaching, because we long to speak truth into others. You are the giver of good gifts, so we ask that you would equip your church to call unbelievers to repentance and to call believers to faithful obedience. Give wisdom to leaders to test every spirit and advance the truth. Encourage and strengthen your church.

Healing: Friends and family with cancer, undergoing treatment, hospitalized, recovering from surgery/illness, etc.: Betty Daane, Cal Flegner, Barbara Gordon, Alvin Harmsen, Kevin Harmsen, Sharon Harmsen, John Hoekstra, Faye Janey, Isabel Kastein, Carter Kraemer, Jim Parrish, Dave Rumley, Jean Stelsel, Jodi Vande Berg, Carl VanderKooi, Jake Vande Zande, Ron Vande Zande, Connie Wiersema, and Silas Willey.

Military Personnel: Aaron Zeatlow, stationed in Las Vegas; Sebastian Hoenisch, deployed on an aircraft carrier in the Pacific, grandson of Larry & Gloria Mulder; Mitch Miller, US

Shut-ins: Members in assisted living, nursing homes or those confined to their home: **Barrett House:** Lowell Glewen **Charleston House:** Brian Hemp **Beaver Dam Memory Care:** Cora Hemp **Christian Home:** Sharon Harmsen, Dayton TerBeest, Junice Vande Zande, Kay Vande Zande **Home:** Margaret Hoekstra, Marion Tolsma, Marilyn Westerveld, **Christian Homestead:** Betty Bruins **Maple Meadows:** Arlene Henning **Marvin's Manor:** Eleanor Loomans **Prairie Ridge:** Annice Hopp

Missionaries: Bob Abel – Remember Nhu, Steve & Amanda Bialy – Converge, Chris Briggs – CCCD, Andy Lickel – InterVarsity, Jersey & Preston Sheldon – Overland Missions, Randy & Wanda Potratz – SIM, Scott Ritzema – Youth for Christ