

# POTOMAC HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

**Sunday, March 16, 2008**

## **WELCOME TO POTOMAC HILLS!**

Our worship service presents Biblical truth and shows how it applies to our everyday lives. Here are some things to know: **Don't feel obligated to give. You are our guest. Our offering is for our regular attenders who consider Potomac Hills their church home.** Don't worry if you can't find the hymnals, choir, or organ. There aren't any. We have a worship team that presents a mix of musical styles and we project the words up front. If you don't want to sing, it's okay. Feel free just to listen and hope those near you are on key. **Thanks. We're glad you're here.**

**All songs used by permission, CCLI # 305096**

Please silence all cell phones and pagers so others aren't distracted.

## **Words of Wisdom from Dr. John Stott**

*In his death Jesus did something objective, final, absolute and decisive; something which enabled him to cry on the cross, 'It is accomplished'; something which was described by the author of the epistle to the Hebrews as 'one sacrifice for sins for ever'; something which turns Christianity from pious good advice into glorious good news; which transforms the characteristic mood of Christianity from the imperative (do) into the indicative (done); which makes evangelism not an invitation for men to do something, but a declaration of what God has already done in Christ.*

From 'The Meat of the Gospel', "Decision" (January 1962) (Billy Graham Evangelistic Association), p. 4.

## **MUSICAL CALL TO WORSHIP**

Worship is a response to God's revelation of Himself to His people. Hence, all our worship services begin with a "Call to Worship," reminding us that God always takes the initiative and comes to His people first, in grace.

## **WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPENING PRAYER**

**Rev. Dorst**

## **RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Psalms 23**

**Leader:** The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

**People:** **He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.**

**Leader:** He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

**People:** **Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.**

**Leader:** You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

**People:** **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

## **AN EXPLANATION OF THE WORSHIP SERVICE**

When we start, we want everyone to think about where we are — at a worship service. As our lives are often hectic and scattered when we first approach worship, we should take a moment to prepare ourselves. We have written a brief welcome and a thoughtful quote related to that day's Scripture passage to help us focus on the service ahead.

### **[The following times are approximations]**

**10:30 ~ Musical Call to Worship** – Historically called "The Opening Hymn," at this point the music serves to get our attention away from our friends and ourselves and redirect us towards the exaltation of Jesus Christ.

**10:35 ~ Welcome** – Very briefly, we want to welcome everyone to the worship service of Potomac Hills Presbyterian Church, thank them for coming, and ask visitors to fill out the response card in the bulletin.

**Responsive Call to Worship** – Worship always begins with an invitation from God, reminding us that we approach the God of the universe only because of His grace and mercy. We typically use either a Psalm or another Scripture text related to the passage for that day's sermon. This serves to call our attention to the Lord — both who He is and what He has done for us (Heb. 12:28-29).

**Opening Prayer** – Historically called "The Invocation." As sinners who are inclined not to worship God, we need to ask for help. We "call upon" or "invoke" God to be present with us, to orient our hearts and minds toward Him, acknowledging that we can only approach Him through His Son, Jesus Christ, and asking that He send His Spirit, who gives us the power to worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:24)

## **WORSHIP WITH SONGS AND HYMNS OF PRAISE**

Feel free to stand or sit, open or close your eyes, raise your hands, or keep them down. Please do that which, for you, is most honoring to God.

## **WORSHIP THROUGH PRAYER**

**Rev. Dorst**

**10:40 ~ Worship with Songs and Hymns of Praise** – Music has the unique capacity to communicate God’s truth to us, and to express our hearts to God, in a way that words alone cannot. Our music aims to be doctrinally rich and musically excellent. During this part of worship, we sing our praise to God and celebrate His presence among us (Psalm 66:1-2; 105:1-4; Col. 3:16).

**11:00 ~ Worship through Prayer** – Historically called “The Pastoral Prayer.” Prayer — where we humbly ask God to be active in our lives, in our church, and in our world — is a vital part of the worship of God. We pray expectantly, showing God to be great, and demonstrating our faith in a God who is near enough to know and care about our every need, yet powerful enough to help us. Normally during this time, one person introduces the topic of that day’s prayer and then leads in prayer, but together we join in faith to ask God to change our lives, our church, and our world (Phil. 1:3-11; 1 Tim. 2:1-6).

Occasional Sundays we take extra time for special prayer needs (missionaries, etc.).

If there is time available at the end of the prayer time, it may be appropriate to ask the congregation to take a few moments to “greet one another.” This is not normally done on Communion Sundays or when there are special extended prayer times.

## **WORSHIP THROUGH OFFERING AND A SONG**

We believe that the offering is an act of worship. Additionally, giving to the work of the church in building God’s Kingdom is a strong reminder of our dependence on Him.

Children ages 3 through 6 may go to Children’s Church.

A Nursery is available for children up to age 3.

**11:10 ~ Worship through Offering and a Song** – We give of our material possessions as an act of faith and as a token of giving our entire lives to God (Rom. 12:1-2). This offering is a response of gratitude for the invaluable gift we’ve been given in Christ (2 Cor. 8:1-5; 9:6-15)

A song is then sung that further demonstrates our gratitude to God and our dependence on Him, preparing us to hear the preaching of God’s Word. Occasional Sundays special music is presented that particularly prepares us for the Scripture and sermon that follows.

At his point in our service, our younger children (ages 3 through 6) and their teachers are dismissed to Children’s Church, where they can learn more about Jesus in a way easier for them to understand.

## READING OF THE WORD

**John 19:31-37**

**11:15 ~ Reading of the Word** – Here we read the Scripture text for that day’s sermon. We are reminded that the Bible is no ordinary book and thus demands our careful attention and obedient response. We are acknowledging that our only hope for understanding God, ourselves, and our world hinges on God’s revealing Himself to us through His Word (1 Tim. 4:13).

Usually, a prayer for illumination to ask for wisdom and understanding from God immediately follows the reading of the Word. The power of God’s Word to save and change us comes not from the ink and paper of our Bibles, nor from the eloquence of the preacher, but from the work of the Holy Spirit. This prayer is offered for both the preacher and the listener, for both the speaking and the hearing of God’s Word. Pray along with the preacher as he asks for God’s help.

## PREACHING OF THE WORD

**Dr. Silvernail**

### ***“The Fulfillment by Christ”***

This is the 71<sup>st</sup> sermon in a series of the New Testament Book of John entitled “The Gospel of Christ”

All sermons are recorded and available for download (audio, text, and podcast) at [www.PotomacHills.com](http://www.PotomacHills.com).

**Preaching of the Word** – This is the central act in the divine drama of biblical worship. It is no less than God communicating Christ to His covenant people, who are spiritually nourished by His Word (Col. 1:28; 1 Thess. 2:13). The proclamation of the Word of God is the primary instrument used by the Holy Spirit to unite people to Christ (1 Pet. 1:23-25; 1 Cor. 1:21)

Learning from God’s Word is part of worship too. Again, careful attention to the preaching of the Word and an appropriate response of obedience both honor and glorify God. For 30 to 45 minutes, the preacher will explain the meaning of the passage and the way it reveals the grace of God to us (2 Tim. 4:1-2). Although the preacher does most of the talking, you can worship by listening actively and applying the message to your life (2 Tim. 3:14-17).

Usually there is a sermon outline to assist you in following along and making application.

## RESPONDING TO GOD IN PRAYER AND SONG

Acceptable responses to hearing and applying God’s Word to our lives include Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication.

**11:55 ~ Responding to God in Prayer and Song** – At the end of the sermon, the congregation is given a moment to respond to God’s Word in prayer (Psalm 116:12). Then, in thanksgiving for all God has done for us this day; we sing our final song, which usually reinforces the message of the sermon.

## RECEIVING THE BLESSING & ONE ANOTHER TIME

Welcome someone, say hi, shake hands, and enjoy a cup of coffee on us.

**11:58 ~ Receiving the Blessing** – Historically called “The Benediction.” This is usually a promise of Scripture telling us that God will be faithful to His Word and will go with us as we take the grace we’ve received and extend it to our community (Luke 24:50). This is a blessing, not a prayer, so feel free to receive it with hands and eyes open, looking at the minister, or reading the Scripture as displayed (Num. 6:24-26). Just as we began with God’s gracious invitation, so we end with one of His gracious promises to us. God gets both the first and the last word in our worship.

**11:59 ~ One Another Time** - As the Gospel draws us into relationship with other people, it is appropriate to spend a few moments greeting one another, welcoming newcomers, and getting to know those around you. We are reminded that we came to worship in community, not just as individuals, and we are to leave as a community who love and serve each other throughout the week to come.