

**We have submitted to this world's empires.
We have starved ourselves of your grace;
Neglecting your forgiveness,
we have not been forgiving.
Our faith has been tried, and failed.
Heal us, forgive us, and restore us to your Realm.
We pray in the name and by the grace of Christ.**

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

**L: This is the Good News of the Gospel:
in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

P: Thanks be to God!

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE #582 "Glory to God Whose Good..."**

***RECONCILIATION WITH ONE ANOTHER**

L: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

P: And also with you!

THE READING

Colossians 2: 6-19

L: This is the Word of the Lord!

P: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Hold Fast"

Rev. Allamon

***STATEMENT OF FAITH from "A Brief Statement of Faith"**

**In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ
as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom,
and peace.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks**

and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven
and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

Call

The Anthem

The Doxology #606

Old Hundredth

The Dedication

WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal pg. 35

+ BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD +

HYMN #630 "Fairest Lord Jesus"

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

+ + +

*You can find a list of the lectionary readings for any Sunday at
<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/revised-common-lectionary/>
Today's prayer of confession is from the work of Steve Garnaas-Holmes in
Unfolding Light. Used with permission.*

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***About the Brief Statement of Faith
Presbyterian Church (USA)***

In 1983 [120 years after the end of the Civil War], the two
largest Presbyterian churches in the United States reunited.
The "Plan for Reunion" called for the preparation of a brief

statement of the Reformed faith for possible inclusion in *The Book of Confessions*. This statement is therefore not intended to stand alone, apart from the other confessions of our church. It is designed to be confessed by the whole congregation in the setting of public worship, and it may also serve pastors and teachers as an aid to Christian instruction. It celebrates our rediscovery that for all our undoubted diversity, we are bound together by a common faith and a common task.

The Spirit of Truth gives new light to the churches when they are willing to become pupils together of the Word of God. This statement therefore intends to confess the catholic faith, in which the grace of Jesus Christ has first place as the foundation of our knowledge of God's sovereign love and our life together in the Holy Spirit.

No confession of faith looks merely to the past; every confession seeks to cast the light of a priceless heritage on the needs of the present moment and so to shape the future. Reformed confessions, in particular, when necessary even reform the tradition itself in the light of the Word of God. From the first, the Reformed churches have insisted that the renewal of the church must become visible in the transformation of human lives and societies. Hence "A Brief Statement of Faith" lifts up concerns that call most urgently for the church's attention in our time. The church is not a refuge from the world, an elect people is chosen for the blessing of the nations. A sound confession, therefore, proves itself as it nurtures commitment to the church's mission, and as the confessing church itself becomes the body by which Christ continues the blessing of his earthly ministry.

(abridged from <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/what-we-believe/brief-statement-of-faith/>)