
REFORMATION WORSHIP

The Westminster morning service follows the classical pattern of the major Protestant Reformers as they sought to return Christian worship to the pattern and elements of the immediate post-Apostolic church. The service consists of four major parts—the acts of entrance, the ministry of the Word, the ministry of prayer and the acts of commitment. Not only does the practice of “classic” worship place the focus on Almighty God himself and his majesty—as opposed to human personalities and entertainment—but the “means of Grace” are central in the service.

THE LORD’S DAY AT WESTMINSTER

11:00 A.M. Morning Service
6:00 P.M. Revival Prayer at the church
6:00 P.M. Q&A Club/ Confession Class

TONIGHT – Q & A CLUB AND CONFESSION CLASS FOR TEENS, AT THE CHURCH AT 6:00

Westminster’s ministry for children and teens to learn the *Westminster Shorter Catechism*.

TONIGHT – REVIVAL PRAYER, AT THE CHURCH AT 6:00.

Revival prayer, as displayed by Daniel, Nehemiah, Anna and the Apostles.

Westminster Presbyterian Church

THE MORNING SERVICE

eleven o’clock

Lord’s Day, November 9, 2025

Visitors will note that the Westminster morning service proceeds without announcement. Written direction is found in the bulletin for each component of the corporate expression of worship of the Almighty and Majestic Triune God. The service is planned in this manner so as to eliminate as much as possible interruptions of the flow of thought and expressions of reverent worship that is commensurate with the majesty of Almighty God. This worship begins with the prelude.

*Indicates the congregation standing, as one is able.

+Latecomers may be seated.

“O Lord GOD, you are God, and your words are true . . .” II Samuel 7:28

HOW CHRIST GIVES HIMSELF TO BELIEVERS

In order to give himself to us, Christ gives us the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was given to him to live in all his fullness by the Father. This Spirit, dwelling in Christ in all his fullness, Christ in turn gives to all believers to dwell in them (*John* 14:14-20; *I Cor.* 6:17; *Rom.* 8:9). Thus the glorious union between Christ and believers is brought about. For as in his incarnation he took our nature into personal union with his own, so by the Holy Spirit he takes us into a mystical union with himself.

This mystical union is a glorious illustration of God’s wisdom. The same Spirit who dwells in him as the head dwells in the church as his body, giving life to all the elect.

—John Owen (1616-1683), vice chancellor Oxford, the Puritans “theologian’s theologian”
From *The Glory of Christ: Abridged*, ed. R. J. K. Law, (Banner, 1994), pp. 87-88

ANNUAL THANKSGIVING OFFERING

Our annual Thanksgiving Offering for Palmer Home for Children in Memphis and Nashville, Tennessee, and Calvary Home for Children, Anderson, South Carolina, continues today. All loose cash received in the morning offering will go to help provide Christmas gifts for Calvary Home children and new clothes and school computers for Palm Home children. Designations can be made on offering checks or separate checks made payable to either Calvary Home or Palmer Home and placed in offering plates. This offering will remain open through Lord’s Day, November 23.

***BOOK OF THE MONTH:** *How to Lead Your Family* by Joel Beeke*

The Prelude

Children of the Heavenly Father Traditional Swedish melody, arr. Hedin
The Ends of All the Earth Shall Hear Doane
The God of Abraham Praise Traditional Jewish melody, arr. Lyon

***The First Lesson – Psalm 148:1-6, 13-14**

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts!

Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars! Praise him,
you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the Lord! For he commanded and they were created. And he established them forever and ever; he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.

Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his majesty is above earth and heaven. He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his saints, for the people of Israel who are near to him. Praise the LORD! (ESV)

The Hymn No. 115 – “All creatures of our God and King” *Lasst uns erfreuen

*The Invocation and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven; Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done; On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts; As we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

***The Response** (Sung by all) *Austrian Hymn*

Worship, honor, glory, blessing, Lord, we offer unto thee; young and old, thy praise expressing, in glad homage bend the knee. All the saints in heav'n adore thee; we would bow before thy throne: as thine angels serve before thee, so on earth thy will be done. (by Edward Osler, English physician, wrote 60 hymns, 1836)

+The Interlude – *St. Patrick's Breastplate* Traditional Irish melody, arr. Hustad

***The Ascription of Praise** (Sung by all) *Lobe den Herren*

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation! All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near, join me in glad adoration. (based on Ps. 103, by Joachim Neander, 1680, tr. C. Winkworth, 1863)

*The Great Commandment (Unison)

And he [*Jesus*] said . . . “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.” (St. Matthew 22:37-40 [Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:18]) (ESV)

***The Response** (Sung by all) *Toulon*

Have you not bid me love you, God and King? All, all of me, soul, heart and strength and mind. Stoop to my weakness, mighty as you art, and make me love you as I ought to love. (by George Croly, 1867, mod., alt. 2014)

*The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost; Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate; Was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell;* The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven; And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Catholic Church; The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body; And the Life everlasting. Amen.

*i. e. His body continued in the state of the dead until the third day.

(from the 2nd c.; the term “Catholic” is the Anglicization of the Latin for universal)

***The Gloria Patri (Sung by all) Creatorex**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen. (2nd cent.)

***The Second Lesson – I John 1:5-2:2 (Responsively)**

5 This is the message we have heard¹ from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

1 . . . But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

2 He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. (ESV)

*The Silent Prayers of God's People

*The Pastoral Prayer

***The Response** (Sung by all) *Darwall*

O Light that knew no dawn, that shines to endless day, all things in earth and heav'n are lusted by your ray; no eye can to your throne ascend, nor mind your brightness comprehend. That, cleansed from stain of sin, I may meet homage give, and let your mercy bless your servant more and more. All grace and glory be to you, from age to age eternally. (by Gregory of Nazianzus, 4th century, tr. John Brownlie, 1900, alt., mod.)

***The Westminster Shorter Catechism**

Pastor: Q. 34. What is adoption?
Congregation: A. Adoption is an act of God’s free grace, whereby we are received into the number, and have a right to all the privileges of the sons of God.
Pastor: Q. 35. What is sanctification?
Congregation: A. Sanctification is the work of God’s free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.
Pastor: Q. 36. What are the benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification?
Congregation: A. The benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification are, assurance of God’s love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Ghost, increase of grace, and perseverance therein to the end.
Pastor: Q. 37. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at death?
Congregation: A. The souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness, and do immediately pass into glory; and their bodies, being still united to Christ, do rest in their graves, till the resurrection.

***The Psalm** (Sung by all) *Love Unknown*
Hear now my prayer, O LORD; my cry for mercy heed. In righteousness and truth draw near to meet my need. And do not judge me in your sight, for in your presence none is right.
I call to mind, O LORD; the days and years long gone; I ponder all your works and what your hands have done. To you in prayer, I stretch my hands; for you I thirst, like arid lands.
My spirit fails, O LORD; come quickly to my side. Hide not from me your face, lest to the pit I slide. Let morning bring your love anew, for I have put my trust in you.
To you I lift my soul; show me the way to go. I hide myself in you; LORD, save me from my foe. Teach me, my God, to do your will; may your good Spirit lead me still. (Psalm 143, *Trinity Psalter Hymnal*, 2018)

The Interlude – O Sacred Head, Now Wounded Hassler, harm. J. S. Bach

The Third Lesson – Daniel 5:1-29 (Pew Bible, pp. 742-743, Large Print, pp. 881-882)

The Sermon – A KING FOUND WANTING Mr. McGowan
VIII. AN UNSHAKEABLE KINGDOM: AN EXPOSITION OF DANIEL

***The Hymn No. 296** – “All hail the pow’r of Jesus name” *Coronation*

***The Benediction**

***The Response** (Sung by all) *In Babilone*
Jesus, hail! enthroned in glory, there forever to abide; all the heav’nly hosts adore thee, seated at thy Father’s side. There for sinners thou art pleading; there thou dost our place prepare; ever for us interceding till in glory we appear. (by John Bakewell, English evangelist, 1757, alt. Augustus Toplady, 1776)

The Postlude – Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah Hughes

GOD-CENTERED WORSHIP

What is worship that is not centered on God? Worship that is centered on something other than God is not worship, we answer simply. It may be a religious gathering, it may be exciting, it may be informative, but it is not, by definition, worship. Among the primary virtues of traditional Reformed worship is its God-centeredness. Its structure and content leave no ambiguity about what the people of God have gathered to do: offer publicly to God their sacrifice of praise (Heb. 13:15). A church gathering to offer traditional Reformed worship assembles to meet, to encounter, to know, and to glorify God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This is as it should be. “It is fundamental that we recognize that all true Christian worship must be theocentric,” says Robert G. Rayburn, “the primary motion and focus of worship are Godward.”

Nearly everyone leading worship services claims to be God-centered. What exactly do the proponents of traditional Reformed worship mean when they claim to be God-centered, or theocentric? We mean that our worship is directed to God. Praise is offered to Him, confession is made to Him, petitions are presented to Him, He addresses His Word to us, and He meets with us at His table. Is this not the worship language of the Bible? We “draw near” to God in worship (James 4:8–10; Heb. 4:15–16; 10:19–23). We ascribe glory to His name (1 Chron. 11:29; Ps. 29:2; 96:7). It is before Him that we bow down and kneel (Ps. 95:6–7). We come before Him with “joyful songs” (Ps. 100:2 NASB). We could go on and on with examples of this. Everything in worship is God-centered and God-directed. Even as the Bible is read and preached, we are worshiping God by receiving and submitting to His Word (2 Tim. 3:16). “You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only,” Jesus said (Matt. 4:10 NASB).

Finally, there are only two options in worship. Worship can be man-centered or God-centered. Worship is “worth-ship,” to attribute worth to God. Congregations assemble to do other things. Sometimes they meet to conduct business, exercise discipline, or enjoy fellowship; or sometimes they meet to devote time to music, Bible study, or evangelism. These other activities should not be confused with worship, though they may be elements or by-products of worship. Time devoted to worship proper should, in the first place, consist of congregational devotional exercises, which, in the second place, have as their aim the glorification of God. It should be asked of any activity proposed for inclusion in a worship service: Is it legitimately devotional in nature? Is its aim first and foremost to please, honor, and glorify God?

This means that for a service to be about God it cannot be about the lost, the saints, or about my experience. A proper worship service will indeed have much to say to the lost, much that will edify the saints, and much that is experientially rich. Indeed, we would claim that traditional Reformed worship is potentially the experientially richest of all worship, thrilling the soul with rich praise of God, deep confession of sin, fresh appreciation of the promises of pardon through the cross of Christ, and the peace and joy and contentment that flow from it. Traditional Reformed worship features intercessory prayer that expresses dependence upon the Spirit for holiness and Christ-likeness. It also emphasizes the soul feeding and satisfying reading and exposition of God’s word. All of

this praying and preaching has an impact on the lost and edifies the saints. But it is not “my experience” at which proper worship aims. Fulfilling personal experience is a by-product of God-centeredness in worship.

Ironically, because traditional Reformed worship aims at God, it opens the door for a more true and deeper experience of God’s presence than is likely in a service that aims at experience (or edification or evangelism). The service is about God. This is crucial. Yet it is not about God as an abstraction, but as a Person. Worship is concerned with both His praise *and* His presence. We are drawing near to Him not only that we might *glorify* Him but also *enjoy* Him. True worshipers long to “behold the beauty of the Lord” (Ps. 27:4–5 NASB). They seek His presence wherein they find the “fullness of joy” (Ps. 16:11 NASB). They are as the deer that pants for the waterbrook, thirsting for God (Psalm 42:1). “Oh satisfy us in the morning with Thy lovingkindness,” they cry (Psalm 90:14 NASB). It may be that we are making a very fine distinction, but it is one that must be made. The God we seek is a Person. As we seek *Him* (and not just an experience of Him) we glorify and do indeed enjoy Him.

The Christian life begins when a Copernican revolution takes place when I remove myself from the center of the universe and recognize that God alone reigns there (Matt. 16:24; Rom. 12:1–2). Nowhere should this revolution be more obvious than in the worship of the church. Even the detractors of traditional Reformed worship would have to concede that God-centeredness is the strength of traditional liturgies.

On the other hand, the trajectory of contemporary worship is not encouraging for those who wish to remain God-centered. R. Kent Hughes decries the contemporary shift from *theocentrism* to *anthropocentrism*. Congregational worship, he observes, “has taken the form of something done *for* an audience as opposed to something done *by* a congregation.” Stages, theater-seating, programs, “special music,” and the adoption of the posture and gestures of secular performers by worship leaders all suggest that the priority of the contemporary church is entertaining congregations, not worshiping God. Sessions and denominations should ask themselves a very simple question: At what do they want their people to aim when they come to church each Sunday? What do they want their primary intention to be? Do they want the people to see themselves as a “studio audience” providing the backdrop against which the unsaved get evangelized? Do they want them coming to hear a great lecture? Do they want them seeking an exciting experience? Do they want them coming as consumers in pursuit of spiritual entertainment? Or do they want the people coming so that they might meet with the true and living God and offer to Him public praise offered in “spirit and truth” (John 4:7 NASB) and with “reverence and awe” (Heb. 12:28 NASB)? Is it not obvious that if a worship service is a worship service, then all that takes place within that service must have a God-ward devotional quality. God must be at the center of the whole. He must be the hub, and all else must revolve around Him.

—The Rev. Terry L. Johnson, D.Min. (Erskine)
Pastor, Independent Presbyterian Church (Ind.), Savannah, GA
From the January 2005 issue of *Tabletalk* magazine

THE SACRAMENTS

Christ instituted two rights for His followers to observe: baptism, a once-for-all rite of initiation (Matt. 28:19; Gal. 3:27), and the Lord’s Supper, a regular rite of remembrance (1 Cor. 11:23-26). These are called “sacraments” in the Western church, “mysteries” in the Eastern Orthodox church, or “ordinances”. Scripture has no technical term for the two rites, or the corresponding Old Testament observances, that is, circumcision of males as a rite of initiation (Gen. 17:9-14, 23-27) and the annual Passover as a rite of remembrance (Ex. 12:1-27). Biblical teaching, however, warrants classifying them all together as signs and seals of a covenant relationship with God.

“Sacrament” is from a Latin word meaning sacred. Study of the Christian rites (*baptism and the Lord’s Supper*) themselves leads to a definition of sacrament as a ritual action instituted by Christ in which signs perceived by the senses present to us the grace of God in Christ and the blessings of His covenant. They communicate and confirm these blessings to believers, who in receiving the sacraments respond to God’s grace and declare their faith and allegiance to Him. The sacraments “put a visible difference between those that belong unto the Church and the rest of the world.” They solemnly “engage them (*Christians*) to the service of God in Christ, according to His Word” (*Westminster Confession of Faith*, XXVII.1) . . .

The sacraments are means of grace, for God uses them to strengthen faith’s confidence in His promises and to call forth acts of faith for receiving the good gifts signified. The efficacy of the sacraments is not from the faith or virtue of the minister, but from the faithfulness of God, who, having given signs, is now pleased to use them. Christ and the apostles speak of the sign as if it were the thing signified, and as if receiving the former is the same as receiving the latter (Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 10:15-21; 1 Pet. 3:21, 22). As the preaching of the Word makes the gospel audible, so the sacraments make it visible.

Sacraments strengthen faith by correlating Christian beliefs with the testimony of our sense. The *Heidelberg Catechism* illustrates this in its answer to Question 75. The key words are “as sure as”:

Christ has commanded me . . . to eat of this broken bread and to drink of this cup in memory of Him, and therewith has given assurance: first, that His body was . . . broken on the cross for me, and His blood shed for me, as sure as I see with my eyes the bread . . . broken for me and the cup communicated to me; and, further, that with His crucified body and shed blood He Himself feeds and nourishes my soul to eternal life, as sure as I take and taste the bread and cup . . . which are given me as sure tokens of the body and blood of Christ.

—The Rev. J. I. Packer, D. Phil. (Oxford)
from *The Reformation Study Bible*, 2d. ed., p. 1411

CHRISTIANS AND CIVIL GOVERNMENT

Civil government is a means ordained by God for ruling and maintaining order in communities. It is one of a number of such means, including ministers in the churches and parents in the home. Each such means has its own sphere of authority under Christ, who now rules and sustains creation, and the limits of each sphere are set by reference to the others. In our fallen world these authorities are institutions of God’s “common grace” (kindly providence), standing as a bulwark against anarchy and the dissolution of ordered society.

With reference to Rom. 13:1-7 and 1 Pet. 2:13-17, the *Westminster Confession* explains the sphere of civil government as follows:

God, the supreme Lord and King of all the world, hath ordained civil magistrates, to be, under him, over the people, for his own glory, and the public good; and, to this end, hath armed them with the power of the sword, for the defence and encouragement of them that are good, and for the punishment of evil doers . . . Civil magistrates may not assume to themselves the administration of the Word and sacraments; or the power of the keys of the kingdom of heaven (23:1, 3).

Because civil government exists for the welfare of the whole society, God gives it the “power of the sword,” the lawful use of force to administer just laws (Rom. 13:4). Christians must acknowledge this as part of God’s order (Rom. 13:1, 2). A government may collect taxes for the services it renders (Matt. 22:15-21; Rom. 13:6, 7). But if it forbids what God requires or requires what God forbids, Christians cannot submit, and some form of civil disobedience becomes inescapable (Acts 4:18-31; 5:17-29).

The church’s sphere of authority relates to the civil government at the level of morality. The church has the responsibility to comment on the morality of governments and their policies on the basis of God’s word, but should not appropriate to itself the power to set such policies. Whereas these assessments may foster political action among Christians, they should act in their capacity as citizens rather than as representatives of the church. In this way the gospel works through moral persuasion and the working of God’s grace among citizens.

Christians should urge governments to fulfill their proper role. They are to pray for, obey, and yet watch over civil governments (1 Tim. 2:1-4; 1 Pet. 2:13, 14), reminding them that God ordained them to rule, protect, and keep order

—The Rev. J. I. Packer, D.Phil. (Oxford)
author of *Knowing God* and *the Sovereignty of God*
from *The Reformation Study Bible*, 2d. ed., p. 1636

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”

—A. W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy* (1961), p. 9.

JOHN CALVIN ON THE NECESSITY FOR REFORMING THE CHURCH
More than 450 years ago, a request came to John Calvin to write on the character of and need for reform in the Church. The circumstances were quite different from those that inspired other writings of Calvin, and enable us to see other dimensions of his defense of the Reformation. The Emperor Charles V was calling the Diet of the Holy Roman Empire to meet in the city of Speyer in 1544. Martin Bucer, the great reformer of Strassburg, appealed to Calvin to draft a statement of the doctrines of and necessity for the Reformation. The result was remarkable. Theodore Beza, Calvin’s friend and successor in Geneva, called *The Necessity for Reforming the Church* the most powerful work of his time . . .

... Calvin focuses on four topics, which he calls the soul and body of the church. The soul of the church is worship and salvation. The body is sacraments and church government. The great cause of reform for Calvin centers in these topics. The evils, remedies and necessity for prompt action all relate to worship, salvation, sacraments and church government.

... Proper worship is Calvin’s first concern.

WORSHIP

Calvin stresses the importance of worship because human beings so easily worship according to their own wisdom rather than God’s. He insists that worship must be regulated by the Word of God alone: “I know how difficult it is to persuade the world that God disapproves of all modes of worship not expressly sanctioned by His Word. The opposite persuasion which cleaves to them, being seated, as it were, in their very bones and marrow, is, that whatever they do has in itself a sufficient sanction, provided it exhibits some kind of zeal for the honour of God. But since God not only regards as fruitless, but also plainly abominates, whatever we undertake from zeal to His worship, if at variance with His command what do we gain by a contrary course? The words of God are clear and distinct, ‘Obedience is better than sacrifice.’” This conviction is one of the reasons that reform was required: “ . . . since . . . God in many passages forbids any new worship unsanctioned by his Word; since he declares that he is grievously offended with the presumption which invents such worship, and threatens it with severe punishment, it is clear that the reformation which we have introduced was demanded by a strong necessity.” . . .

For Calvin the worship of the medieval church had become “gross idolatry.” The issue of idolatry was for him as serious as the issue of works righteousness in justification. Both represented human wisdom replacing divine revelation. Both represented a pandering to human proclivities, rather than desiring to please and obey God . . .

The reformers, like the prophets of old, needed to attack the idolatry and the “external show” of the worship of their time. The antidote to the theatrics of the church in Calvin’s day was a godly simplicity of worship — as reflected in the order of service in the church of Geneva . . .

—The Rev. W. Robert Godfrey, Ph.D. (Stanford)

From www.Ligonier.org, July 8, 2016

*Westminster’s worship service follows Calvin’s 1542 order of service.

THE SESSION
Sean W. T. McGowan, Moderator
George E. Close
Arthur E. Wahl
Brett S. Doster

THE DIACONATE
Christopher J. Colson
Kerry S. Langston
Drew D. McLeod

OUR MINISTER
Sean W. T. McGowan, Pastor

OUR MISSIONARIES
Rev. and Mrs. Allen M. Baker, III, Reformed Evangelistic Fellowship Africa, India and USA
Rev. and Mrs. Ethan P. Brown, Reformed University Fellowship (PCA) University of Illinois
Mr. and Mrs. Juan C. Cardenas, TEAM (The Evangelical Alliance Mission) India
Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Davila, Presbyterian Church in America El Salvador
Rev. and Mrs. J. Kelly Jackson, Reformed University Fellowship (PCA) Florida State University
Rev. and Mrs. George Sayour, Ministry to State (PCA Mission to North Am.) Tallahassee
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stewart, Presbyterian Church in America Japan

OUR MISSION AGENCIES
A Women’s Pregnancy Center Tallahassee
Calvary Home for Children Anderson, SC
Chelsea House, Good Samaritan Network Tallahassee
Good Samaritan Inn for Men, Good Samaritan Network Tallahassee
Gulf Coast Presbytery, Presbyterian Church in America Madison, FL to Mobile, AL
Palmer Home for Children Memphis and Nashville, TN
Pregnancy Center of Gadsden County Havana and Quincy
Pregnancy Help & Information Center Tallahassee
Presbyterian Church in America Retired Ministers and Widows Relief Fund USA

THE ORDINARY MEANS OF GRACE-BASED MINISTRY
“What exactly do you mean by ‘ordinary means of grace-based ministry?’” The “ordinary means of grace” are “the Word, sacraments, and prayer.” These are the ordinances given by God with which spiritual life is nurtured. By ordinances we mean spiritual instruments of grace and growth in grace appointed by God in the Bible. So, when we say ordinary means of grace-based ministry, we mean a ministry that focuses on doing the things God says are central to the spiritual health and growth of His people. The key things that the church can do to help people know God and grow in their knowledge of God are: (1) the public reading and preaching of the Word; (2) emphasize the confirming efficacy of the sacraments; and (3) emphasize a life of prayer. —The Rev. J. Ligon Duncan, III, Ph.D.

