



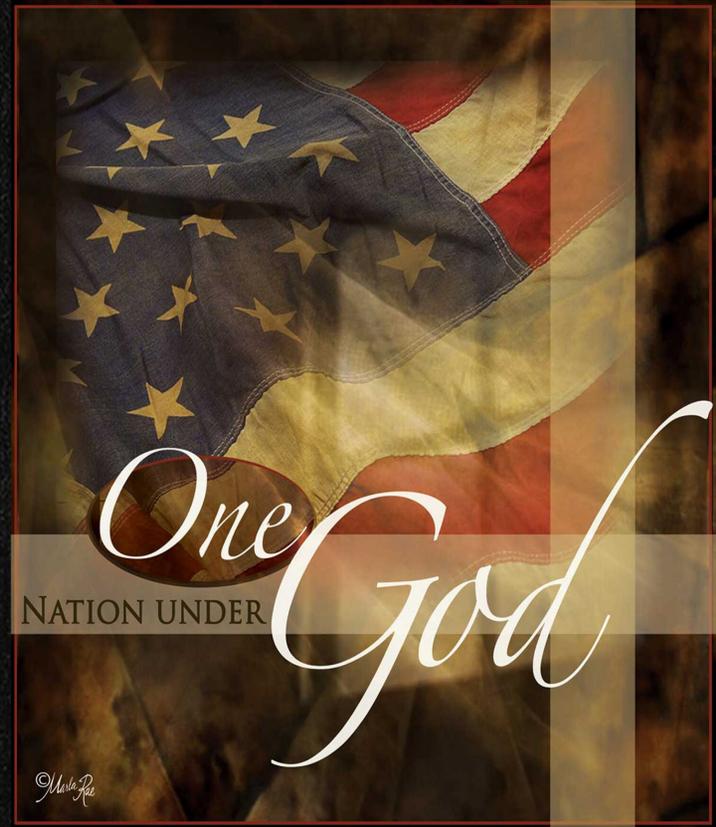
July 4, 2021

10:30 A.M.

God AND Caesar



“There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over *all*, does not cry: ‘Mine!’ ” —Abraham Kuyper



Order of Service

Announcements

Welcome

Song: "America the Beautiful". Bates/Ward

Missions

Preparation for Worship

-----**God's Greatness**-----

Call to Worship

Hymn of Adoration

"10,000 Reasons(Bless the Lord). Redman/Myrin

Prayer of Invocation

Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

Song of Praise: "Blessed Assurance/ My King is Coming "

. Crosby/West/Kipley

Children are dismissed to Sunday School

----- **God's Renewal**-----

Understanding Ourselves Rightly

Public Confession

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort: Romans 8:38-39

Song of Renewal: "In Christ Alone Medley". Getty/Townend

-----**God's Grace**-----

Scripture Reading: Luke 20:19-26

Prayer

The Sermon

"God and Caesar"

Words of Institution

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Hymn: "You Are My King(Amazing Love)". Billy Foote

Prayer of Approach

-----**God's Blessing**-----

Parting Hymn: "For the Cause". Getty/Townend

Benediction

God's Gracious Provision 6/27/2021

Attendance: 37

Offering: \$1340.00

Your offering may be place in the box at the Welcome Table.

Pray for America

Father, through trials and tears, through victories and challenges, you have guided this nation.

We pray today for your hand to guide us.

Your Word has said, to whom much is given, much will be required. O Father, how you have blessed us! Our soil can feed the world. Our strength can secure justice. Our dreams can heal nations. **But without You, we can do nothing.**

We pray for strong churches.

We pray for America, that we'll never forget the price that was paid, the foundation that was laid and the blessing we enjoy in this land of plenty. Give us hearts that seek to heal. We pray for strong churches in the United States that can and will do infinitely more than any law, bill or platform could ever do. May our hope be even greater than our heritage.

We pray for a spiritual awakening.

We confess our utter helplessness to impact the world eternally without the work of the Holy Spirit. For this reason, we ask you Lord, for a spiritual awakening that gives life to our land. Call us once again in this time of great challenge to honor you with great vigor. Teach us how to love one another. Help us to see injustice and right it. Help us to see their pain and with Your heart, heal them. Help us to see hopelessness and like the Samaritan, sacrifice, respond, heal and restore.

We pray for radical love.

May we say to a world ravaged by disease, starvation and discord: "Rise up! Take heart!" Teach us how to have an unquenchable passion for your mission. Show us how to stop violent intentions with radical love. Lord, we look forward to the day when our swords will be beaten into plowshares. When your kingdom will come and your will shall be done in America as it is in heaven. Give us the bread of reconciliation and the cleansing water of forgiveness. For Yours is the kingdom, power and glory, forever!

In Jesus name, Amen.

The fourth thing we render unto Caesar is participation in public life.

We are citizens of an earthly government, and from time to time we will be called to serve our fellow citizens. In a democratic society this includes taking seriously our responsibility to vote, in keeping with biblical principles and our own conscience before God.

There will also be times when the church has a responsibility to speak—as the church—on public issues.

This is an area for boldness, but also for caution. We have a responsibility to bear witness to the biblical truth about poverty, business, education, racism, abortion, marriage, war, the environment, and many other issues that have a moral dimension.¹

The Things That Are God's

What belongs to God is absolutely everything: *“For from him and through him and to him are all things”* (Rom. 11:36).

This was the fatal flaw in the reasoning of the religious leaders. They were trying to make such a distinction between religion and politics that some things belonged to Caesar and other things belonged to God. But the truth is that even the things that belong to Caesar ultimately belong to God. Caesar himself belongs to God, because he is inscribed with God's image (see Gen. 1:27)—almost as if he himself were a coin—and also because God is the one who sets every authority in its place (see Rom. 13:1)

Notes

¹Ryken, P. G. (2009). *Luke*. (R. D. Phillips, P. G. Ryken, & D. M. Doriani, Eds.) (Vol. 2, p. 369). Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing. Ryken, P. G. (2009). *Luke*. (R. D. Phillips, P. G. Ryken, & D. M. Doriani, Eds.) (Vol. 2, p. 369). Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, July 6 6:00 –8:00 P.M. **Youth**(Grades 6-12) **and Young Adults**(under 30) meet at the Deicherts for supper, Bible Study(groups separated), Volleyball, and ice cream.

Saturday, July 10 6:00 P.M. **Prayer Dinner** at the home of Pastor Rick and Barb

Saturday, July 17 8:00 A.M. **Men's Breakfast** at the home of Pastor Rick

Sunday, July 18 6:15-7:15 P.M. **House of Prayer**
GCC Prayer Gathering for youth and adults
1300 High Street, Pottstown, PA

Monday, July 19-24 **Youth Group** goes to **Harvey Cedars Bible Conference Senior High Youth Week**.

Everyone is invited to join with the elders in prayer every Sunday from 9:30-10:00 in the back of the gym.

David and Mindy Nelson

- Praise that they are equipping more leaders through the DOUBLE IT campaign. These leaders are trained to become healthier in their own walk with Jesus, become better-equipped leaders with God's Word and become multipliers of disciples.
- Pray for recent CCI training graduates planning to go to China.
- Pray for a new women-only class which will start in 2022 at Streams Community Church in New Zealand with Helen Lee and the two recent women graduates facilitating the training and discipleship.



Tim and Holly Howden

- Praise that God has provided full support for Tim and Holly.
- Pray for the opportunities that Tim and Holly will have this summer to work with interns that are coming into the media department.
- Pray that students will attend the Bible Studies that are happening on the campuses where Disciple Makers are present.
- Pray for Disciple Makers staff as they prepare to minister on campuses where classes are returning to normal in the fall.

Prayer/Praise. July 4, 2021

- Praise that Sara's procedure on Monday went well. Pray for further testing on July 26th followed by valve repair on July 28th.
- Praise that Donna Plowfield's son, David, found employment at Shannondell in Oaks.
- Pray for Koreen Mace's dad, who has challenges with blindness and daily life. Pray for continued strength for Gwen, who is taking care of their dad.
- Pray for Jim Tobin, the husband of Donna Jenkins' cousin, Terri. Jim was just diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease. Pray for Terri as she cares for Jim and their grandchildren.
- Pray for Margaret Henz, friend of Donna Jenkins, who is in a hospice center in Virginia. Pray for her daughter Eva as she goes through this time with her mother.
- Pray for Austin, stepson of Lorraine Blanski's niece. He is having a series of surgeries for severe burns over most of his body. Pray for his healing and for his family as they walk with him through this time.
- Pray for Kathleen, friend of Lisa Frame, and her husband in prayer. Kathleen is not doing well since the loss of their baby. She is going to grief counseling.
- Pray for Dave Conway, husband of Steve Simon's cousin, Trish. Dave had liver and prostate tests done on Friday, June 11th, to determine if cancer is present. Pray for God's healing and strength for Dave.
- Pray for Christopher, son of Susan and Glen Williams. Pray that he is freed from his addiction and that most importantly, he finds that Jesus is his only hope.
- Pray for Deana Deichert's father. Pray that the tumor in his spine is not in the spinal canal. He has an MRI on July 6th. Pray for wisdom for his doctors and healing for Deana's father. Praise that Deana's dad has a much better pain management plan now, is responding well to hormone therapy side effects, and attending our church virtually and soaking up the Word.
- Pray that a position will open for Jeremiah Mace to be employed at Teen Challenge. Pray for healing for Koreen's family.
- Pray for Rhonda Clark's father, Donald Mace, who had his last treatment on Thursday, July 1, 2021 and next will have a CT scan.
- Pray for Denny Bartchak, friend of Barb Knarr. He is scheduled for another bladder surgery on July 15.
- Pray for Ashley, the niece of Lisa Frame's friend, Denise, who is continuing her chemotherapy treatment and is doing well. Pray for healing and salvation.
- Pray for Diane Ziegler, friend of Donna Jenkins, who had two surgeries and was back in the hospital but is feeling better.
- Pray for Baby Evan, who is the son of Donna Jenkins' niece, Tracy. Evan is still in the hospital, but his lungs are working much better. Pray for continued healing for Evan and God's peace for Tracy and her family.
- Pray for Justine Schumaker, mother of Renee Schumaker. Pray for healing for Justine through her chemotherapy treatment.

Message

God AND Caesar

Luke 20:19–26 (ESV)

The scribes and the chief priests sought to lay hands on him at that very hour, for they perceived that he had told this parable against them, but they feared the people. ²⁰So they watched him and sent spies, who pretended to be sincere, that they might catch him in something he said, so as to deliver him up to the authority and jurisdiction of the governor. ²¹So they asked him, "Teacher, we know that you speak and teach rightly, and show no partiality, but truly teach the way of God. ²²Is it lawful for us to give tribute to Caesar, or not?" ²³But he perceived their craftiness, and said to them, ²⁴"Show me a denarius. Whose likeness and inscription does it have?" They said, "Caesar's." ²⁵He said to them, "Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." ²⁶And they were not able in the presence of the people to catch him in what he said, but marveling at his answer they became silent.

If we want to understand the true relationship between politics and religion, probably the best place to start is with one of the most famous things Jesus ever said: "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's" (Luke 20:25).

Four things God wants us to "render unto Caesar."

The first is paying our taxes.

What makes this so extraordinary is that Jesus was talking about the Roman Empire, which of all governments was cruel in its oppression, even persecuting the people of God.

The second way we render unto Caesar is by *praying for our leaders.*

Christians are people who pray for God to bless their government.

Third we render unto Caesar by *practicing civil obedience.*

God commands us to obey the existing laws, whether they were formulated by the heathen or by others, and in this obedience to practice love. Of course, there are some exceptions to this. We are not obligated to do anything immoral, or anything that directly conflicts with the revealed will of God. Nor can we ever give up our duty to share the gospel, whatever the government may say. Thus, there may be times when, as a matter of conscience, we have to say what Peter and John said to the Sanhedrin: "*We must obey God rather than men*" (Acts 5:29).