

This assault on God in public culture severely damages our republic. If God is thrown out of our history, we lose our basis for believing that individuals have rights and dignity. In an empty universe, we have no meaning, no value. Without God there are no unalienable rights, and no certain proof that liberty is better than tyranny or that life better than death. Everything is a matter of opinion and power.

The references to God in the Declaration of Independence provide a foundation for a moral argument within civil society. And moral truths pervade our founding documents from beginning to end. Without God as the source of all those moral principles, the public square would quickly revert to the law of the jungle. Brutish power would prevail. The weak, the unborn, the elderly, and the gravely ill could be quietly terminated.

As much as I enjoy the anthems and the fireworks, more than that is called for on this July 4th. We need to confess our moral failures and our national sins. Repent of the lies that have justified killing innocent babies and the elderly. Renewal begins on our knees. It's there that we hear soul-searching questions from God Himself, asking: "How long will you defend the unjust and show partiality to the wicked?...Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked."

Our nation's founding document declared independence from Britain, but, with equal fervor, declared dependence upon God. Expressing "firm reliance on the Protection of divine Providence," the signers committed the American experiment to their Maker. The Spirit of 1776 was reverence and trust.

So as we mark this solemn occasion, let us seek a rebirth of true liberty, which is possible only when governed by divine law. For, without God, we can never have "liberty and justice for all."



July 3, 2022

10:30 A.M.

## The Church God Desires

Behold  
I stand  
at the  
door and  
knock

Revelation 3:20

knowing-jesus.com

# Order of Service

## Announcements

### Welcome

### Missions Report

### Preparation for Worship

#### -----God's Greatness-----

### Call to Worship

**Song of Praise:** "House of the Lord". . . . . Smith/Wickham

### Prayer of Invocation

### Hymn of Adoration

"The Lord Almighty Reigns". . . . .Althoff/Kauflin/Stiff

**Affirmation of Faith:** The Apostles' Creed\*

**Hymn of Affirmation:** "This I Believe". . . . . Fielding/Crocker

### Children are Dismissed to Sunday School

#### ----- God's Renewal-----

**Scripture Warning:** 1 John 2:3-5

### Public Confession

### Silent Confession

**Assurance of Pardon and Comfort:** Romans 10:11,10

**Song of Renewal:** "Lord Have Mercy". . . . . Steve Merkel

#### -----God's Grace-----

**Scripture:** Revelation 3:14-22

### Prayer

### The Sermon

"The Church God Desires"

### Celebration of the Lord's Supper

**Hymn:** "In Christ Alone Medley". . . . . Getty/Townend

### Prayer of Approach

**Words of Institution:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (ESV)

### Holy Communion

#### -----God's Blessing-----

**Parting Hymn:** "Amazing Grace". . . . . Newton/Rees/Excell

### Benediction

\*Although not written by the apostles, the Apostles' Creed is a concise summary of their teachings. It originated in the 2nd century and developed into its present form by the 6th century. By referring to Jesus' descent into hell, the Christian embraces two truths. Firstly, Jesus received the full sentence of hell on behalf of his people while on the cross. Secondly, Jesus experienced the reign of death by remaining in the tomb after the crucifixion. The term catholic refers to the church universal, knowing no racial, economic, geographical, or language barriers.

## Why is he ruling the world?

**Because he earned it. Every single thing he did, he did for us.**

How can you come to grips with someone who gave himself utterly for you without you giving yourself utterly to him?

To only go halfway, a quarter way, two-thirds of the way, to not give him your all, is not just an offense to the moral sensibility; it's a crucifixion of the intelligence. It's as stupid as it is wicked. Give yourself wholly to him. That's the only reasonable thing to do for someone who gave himself wholly for you. Tim Keller

## "A New Declaration of Dependence"

Chuck Colson, July 2, 2004



July 4 celebrates our liberty and our national independence. Americans will hoist their flags, march in parades, and set off fireworks. I get a thrill every time I hear the cannons blast that rousing finale of the "1812 Overture." And I get a lump in my throat whenever I join in singing "America, America, God shed His grace on thee."

Indeed, God has blessed America. This nation, dedicated to the proposition that all men are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, has endured 228 years. America is the oldest constitutional republic on earth.

But all is not well in our land. When Thomas Jefferson penned the immortal words of the Declaration of Independence, he deliberately appealed to the Creator. He acknowledged an overriding obligation to "Nature and Nature's God." And he understood that ordered liberty is not just a subjective preference, but a divinely ordained condition for which human beings are designed.

But over the last few decades, legions of skeptics have mounted a massive assault on these "self-evident truths." In prestigious law schools, in the halls of government, and especially in the Supreme Court, God is often banished from public conversation. If a public school teacher introduces Jefferson's ideas and language into the classroom today, she would likely be called on the carpet—and possibly disciplined.

(Continued on back page)

## Upcoming Events

### What is spiritual lukewarmness?

Revelation 3:15 (ESV)

His indictment against the church is that they are half-hearted in their relation to him.

**Jesus' threat to the lukewarm church is that he will spew them out of his mouth.**

### Be zealous and repent.

Revelation 3:19 (ESV)

What does it mean to be jealous, (zealous)?

To be jealous means to set your love on someone with such intensity there's an explosion of energy on behalf of that person.

### What Jesus say about lukewarmness?

Revelation 3:16 (ESV)

How did the Laodiceans become so lukewarm?

The underlying Disease

- First, the problem was not their wealth but what their riches had done to them.
- Second, the Laodiceans drew their attitude from the secular culture around them.

### Christ's Loving Counsel

Revelation 3:18 (ESV)

### How do you buy gold when you're broke?

Revelation 3:20 (ESV)

*The opposite of lukewarmness is the fervor you experience when you enjoy a candlelit dinner with Jesus Christ in the innermost room of your heart. And when Jesus Christ, the source of all God's creation, is dining with you in your heart, then you have all the gold, all the garments, and all the medicine in the world.*  
John Piper

### "I will give you the right to sit with me on my throne."

Revelation 3:21-22 (ESV)

He writes to offer us a share in his universal rule if we will conquer, if we will overcome the menace of lukewarmness and spiritual self-satisfaction.

**Tuesday, July 5 6:00 PM to Dusk (includes Supper)**

Summer Youth/Young Adult Bible Study at the Deicherts

**Saturday, July 16 8:00 A.M. Men's Breakfast**

at the home of Pastor Rick

**Sunday, July 17 6:15-7:15 P.M. House of Prayer**

GCC Prayer Gathering —1300 High St.

**Monday, July 25– Saturday, July 30 Senior High Youth Week**

at Harvey Cedars Bible Conference in New Jersey

### FamilyLife: A CRU Ministry

**Steve and Kristen Scholl**

- Pray for the all staff conference in Milwaukee this July.
- Pray as they lead "Art of Parenting" at their church this fall.



### Crossing Cultures International

**David and Mindy Nelson**

**MYANMAR**

- Please pray for the National Director's children. Pray they can start in a Christian school after two years of no school because of the Covid-19 and political crisis in the country. Many children still have no school as the military destroyed villages, including the schools.
- Pray for a great harvest as churches actively share the good news in several ways like giving time and money, donating food, etc. During this crisis, many are very receptive to the gospel. Please pray that the kingdom will be expanded and churches will be built up.

### DiscipleMakers

**Tim and Holly Howden**

- Pray for the summer interns.
- Pray for the staff as they recharge and prepare for another year.
- Praise God with us for a fruitful year of ministry and students that have come to believe the gospel despite all of the challenges of returning in person!

## Prayer/Praise. . . . . July 3, 2022

- Pray for Joie Horner’s friend, Cheryl. Her husband was cutting down trees on June 29th, and tragically, one fell on him and took his life. He leaves behind his sweet wife and 4 young children. Pray for God’s strength, comfort, and peace for Cheryl and her family.
- Pray for Lorraine Blanski’s sister-in-law, Beth, who is scheduled to have lumpectomy surgery on July 5<sup>th</sup> and radiation afterwards. Pray for a successful surgery and God’s healing for Beth.
- Praise that Austin, the stepson of Lorraine Blanski’s niece, is doing well with his prosthetics. Pray for continued healing and mental health and God’s strength for Austin as he navigates his new life.
- Praise that Mandi Yensan’s friend, Christine’s dad was transferred to a heart hospital in Long Island where he had successful surgery.
- Pray for Leah, daughter of John Kurtyka and cousin of Lorraine Blanski, who is struggling with drug addiction and is away at an 8-month drug rehabilitation program. Pray for God’s strength, peace, and comfort for Leah.
- Pray for Terry Cecchetelli’s grandnephew, Liam, who is 1-year old and has a rare disease called PDHA-1. He will need a feeding tube. Pray for God’s wisdom for Liam’s doctors and strength and comfort for Liam’s and Terry’s families.
- Pray for Steve Simons neighbor, Mrs. McCabe, who has dementia. Pray for God’s strength for the McCabe family during this difficult time.
- Praise that Dalton Weider, father of Lulu Bocci’s friend, Mary, is now in rehab learning to talk, walk, and move his muscles. Pray for his progress and his family as they support him.
- Pray for Igor Parfeniuk, a North Coventry police officer with Matt Deichert. Pray for Igor’s sister and her family, as they are still living in Ukraine.
- Praise that Dawn Rhoads, Igor’s mother-in-law, who had her 4<sup>th</sup> cancer treatment on April 25<sup>th</sup>, is doing much better. Pray for continued healing for Dawn.
- Praise that Donna Jenkins’ friend, Debbie Breyer, is home from the nursing home. Pray for Debbie’s husband, who is in the hospital with undetermined issues. Pray for God’s healing.
- Pray for Donna Jenkins’ nephew, Evan James, who has a very rare disease, CDA. Praise that Evan can be off the breathing machine for the hours he is awake. Pray for God’s healing for Evan and for his family and wisdom for his doctors.
- Pray for Justine Schumaker, mother of Renee Schumaker. Pray for healing for Justine through her chemotherapy treatment.

## Message

### The Church God Desires

#### *Revelation 3:14–22 (ESV)*

*“And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ‘The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God’s creation. <sup>15</sup>‘I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot!’ <sup>16</sup>So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. <sup>17</sup>For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. <sup>18</sup>I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. <sup>19</sup>Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. <sup>20</sup>Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. <sup>21</sup>The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. <sup>22</sup>He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’ ”*

“We didn’t choose to be in this cultural moment, or to face the challenges it presents. Our time and our place in history are chosen by God. Our moment in history is not an accidental context in which we try to follow Jesus: It’s an essential aspect of the calling to follow Jesus. He invites us into His life and to join in the advance of His kingdom and His story right now.” —John Stonestreet

#### **A letter from Jesus to the church at Laodicea in Asia Minor.**

It was given to John in a vision and had the purpose of saving the church from lukewarmness and possible destruction.

**We must always ask the questions,** “Is this true of me, and to what degree is this true of me?”