March 4, 2018 “The Greatness of our God”

“Father as we gather here this morning in your name we want to give thanks for all that you are and all that you have done for us. And as we are in wonder of all that you are we recognize all that we are not, and all that we need from you in our daily lives.

We are thankful that you are an **infinite God.** You are beyond measurement—we cannot define You by proportions or magnitude. You have no beginning, no end, and no limits. Where you are limitless we are so limited. Help us to recognize our shortcomings and our utter dependence on you.

**We thank you that you are omnipotent.** It is such a blessing to serve the all-powerful God. You spoke all things into being, and all things are sustained by you. Every moment of our lives and every breath that we take is sustained by your powerful hand. In our weakness help us to cling to your strength. Grant us the gift of acknowledging that apart from your power in our lives we can do no truly good thing.

We are thankful that even though you are all-powerful, **You are a good God** who is kind, caring, and full of compassion. You not only love us but **you are love.** We confess that we so often fail to love one another as we should and do not have compassion for our brothers and sisters. As we grown in our knowledge and understanding of your goodness and love, help us to spread that love within our congregation, and to those around us in our neighborhoods and our city and our world.

We are grateful for all of the ways that **You provide for us.”** Just as you provided yesterday, you will also provide today and tomorrow. You not only so richly provide for all of our material needs, but You grant us deliverance from sin, the oil of joy for the ashes of sorrow, and eternal citizenship in your Kingdom. Help us to trust in your perfect provision. Protect us and guard us from envy and hearts that are not content with what you have given to us.

We are thankful for your perfect **peace** that surpasses understanding and sustains us even through the most difficult of times. We confess that we are quick to worry and fall into despondency when we experience pain and loss and distress in this life. Help us to turn to you and not away from you in our times of greatest need.

**We are in awe of your mercy towards us.** Your compassion is never ending and does not run dry. Through your provision of Christ, You took the judgment that was rightfully ours and placed it on your own Son. We confess that we are all too often like the unmerciful servant in knowing that we have received such great mercy from you we neglect to show mercy to our one another. Help RGC to be known as a church full of merciful people.

We are thankful for the comfort and assurance that is given to us in knowing that you are **sovereign.** You preside over every event, great or small, and You are in control of our lives. You rule over all creation with your **almighty power.** We are so quick to try to control all things in our lives and our relationships, we plead with you to grant us the ability to relinquish control over our lives and rely on your sovereignty.

We are thankful that even as you are all of these great and mighty things you are also our **Father** since You have adopted us in Christ Jesus. So many of our familial relationships have been broken and tainted but sin, but we ask that you would help us to more fully understand what it means to be your sons and have you as our father. As men, help us to be good fathers to our children that we might give our children a small glimpse of your fatherly love towards us.

I am so thankful that you are always **faithful,** even when we are so often faithless. Out of your faithfulness You honor Your covenants and fulfill all your promises. You remain true to us when we fail you daily in thought and word and deed. Help us to grow in faithfulness, we ask that through the sanctification of the holy spirit we would never remain the same but continue to become more and more faithful to you until we finish the race that you have set before us.

You are utterly **Holy** and perfect. And because of your holiness you are filled with justice and righteous wrath. We are thankful that your wrath is unlike our anger, it is never capricious, self-indulgent, or irritable. It is the right and necessary reaction to objective moral evil. We recognize that our own anger almost always leads us to sin. Teach us to be angry at the sin and evil in this fallen world without ourselves turning to sin. Give us wisdom and compassion as we hold fast to your holy moral standards. Make us a bastion for righteousness as the world around us becomes more and more evil and opposed to you and your moral and just law.

Finally today we are thankful that you are **full of grace.** Grace is Your good pleasure that moves you to grant value where it is undeserved and to forgive debt that cannot be repaid. Help us to always recognize our desperate need for your grace. Throughout our time here together this morning we ask that we would grow in our amazement of your grace towards us. Soften our hearts and help us to learn more of your greatness as we understand our utter need for you in our lives.