



PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Epiphany Season

2 March 2025

The Bible describes Jesus; the Scriptures must be ransacked in order to understand His person... But we do not offer commodities or even forgiveness and peace. We are in the business of offering people the Lord Jesus, who brings forgiveness and who gives peace. —Daniel Strange

Regardless of what anyone may personally think or believe about Him, Jesus of Nazareth has been the dominant figure in the history of Western culture for almost twenty centuries. If it were possible, with some sort of super magnet, to pull up out of that history every scrap of metal bearing at least a trace of His name, how much would be left?
—Jaroslav Pelikan

GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

It is God Himself who calls His people to worship. We do not call ourselves, but it is the King who opens His gates and beckons us into His courts.

Gospel Invitation—from Galatians 2:16

Believe in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

Sung Response—O Worship The King, Vs. 1



O wor-ship the King, all glor-ious a - bove, O grate-ful-ly sing His pow'r and His love;



Our shield and de-fend-er, the An-cient of Days, pa - vil-ioned in splen-dor, and gird-ed with praise.

Text: Robert Grant, 1833, based on Psalm 104; Music: LYONS, Joseph Martin Kraus, 1784.

Call to Worship—Psalm 72:1, 11, 17-19

Pastor: Give the king Your justice, O God, and Your righteousness to the royal son!

All: **May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him!**

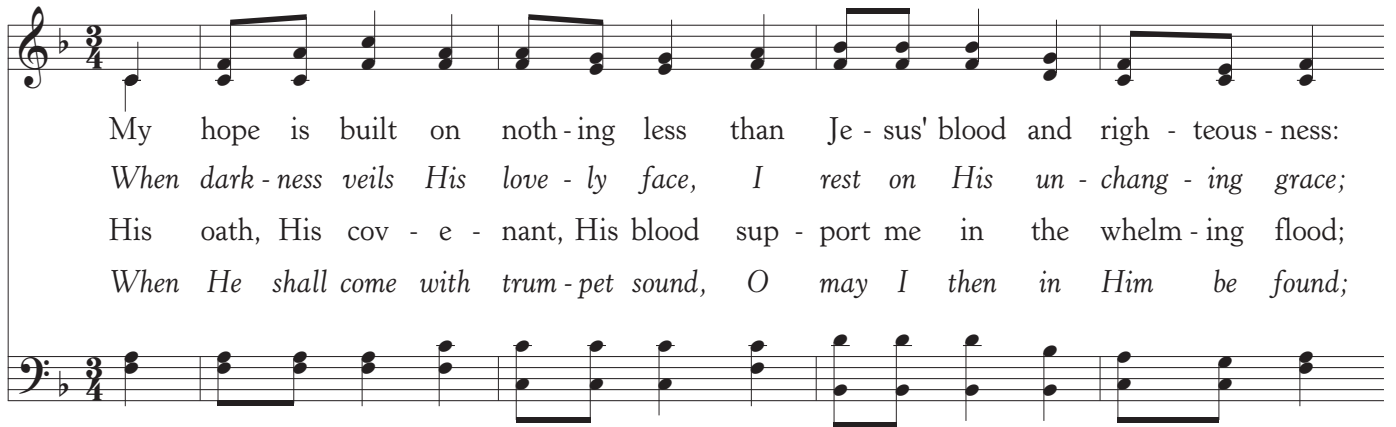
Reader 1: May his name endure forever, his fame continue as long as the sun!

Reader 2: May people be blessed in him, all nations call him blessed!

All: **Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.**

Pastor: Blessed be His glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with His glory! Amen and Amen!

Congregational Hymn—My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less



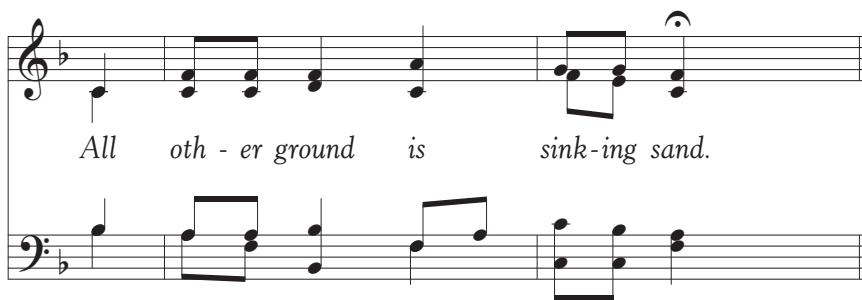
My hope is built on noth - ing less than Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness:
When dark - ness veils His love - ly face, I rest on His un - chang - ing grace;
His oath, His cov - e - nant, His blood sup - port me in the whelm - ing flood;
When He shall come with trum - pet sound, O may I then in Him be found;



I dare not trust the sweet - est frame, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
In ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
When all a - round my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.
Dressed in His righ - teous - ness a - lone, fault - less to stand be - fore the throne.



On Christ the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand,



All oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1834; Music: SOLID ROCK, William B. Bradbury, 1863.

GOD SPEAKS TO HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

The Bible is the means by which God graciously reveals Himself to His people—so we listen, read, and study with expectant hearts. God particularly entreats us in His Word to sing psalms. And while all Scripture is appropriate for hymns and spiritual songs, there is a specific exhortation for us to make use of the Psalter as the church's songbook.

Congregational Psalm—The King In Your Strength Shall Be Glad (Psalm 21)



O Je - ho - vah, the king in Your strength shall be glad,
Through sal - va - tion from You is his fame wide - ly spread,
You will stretch forth Your hand on the heads of Your foes,



And shall in Your sal - va - tion re - joice;— for You free - ly have giv - en each
For the maj - es - ty You did im - part— O most bles - sed for - ev - er the
On Your hat - ers a right hand of pow'r, then Your wrath shall a - round them like



Wish his heart had, You at - tend to the cries of his voice.—
King has been made, and Your pres - ence has glad - dened his heart.—
Fur - nace flames close; for Je - ho - vah's own wrath shall de - vour.—



All the bless - ings he craved You did grac - ious - ly give,
For the king in the name of Je - ho - vah Most High
From the earth shall their race be con - sumed and de - stroyed,
You will turn back your foes; You will put them to flight,



With the pur - est of gold he is crowned.— When he asked of You life, You
Did un - wav - er - ing con - fi - dence place;— through His great lov - ing - kind - ness
And their off - spring for - ev - er shall fail;— by the e - vil they plot - ted,
When Your ar - rows are aimed at their face.— Be ex - al - ted Je - ho - vah,



Have made him to live, while the ag - es shall cir - cle a - round.
He still will re - ly on the High - est, and stand by His grace.
The schemes they em - ployed. they shall nev - er a - gainst You pre - vail.
In strength and in might; we will sing of Your pow - er and grace.

Text: Psalm 21:1-13, *The Psalter*, 1898, alt. 2021; Music: KING PHILIP, Henry C. Haffner, 2021.

Scripture Reading—Galatians 1:11-16, 23-24

For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But... He who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son to me, in order that I might preach Him among the Gentiles... They only were hearing it said, "He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." And they glorified God because of me.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Congregational Hymn—My Jesus, I Love Thee

My Je - sus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine;
I love Thee, be - cause Thou hast first lov - ed me.
I'll love Thee in life, I will love Thee in death,
In man - sions of glo - ry and end - less de - light,

For Thee all the fol - lies of sin I re - sign.
And pur - chased my par - don on Cal - va - ry's tree;
And praise Thee as long as Thou lend - est me breath;
I'll ev - er a - dore Thee in heav - en so bright;

My gra - cious Re - deem - er, my Sa - vior art Thou;
I love Thee for wear - ing the thorns on Thy brow;
And say when the death - dew lies cold on my brow,
I'll sing with the glit - ter - ing crown on my brow,

If ev - er I loved Thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.

Text: William R. Featherston, 1864; Music: GORDON, Adoniram J. Gordon, 1876.

Baptism of Ellie Litwin, daughter of Nicholas and Chloe Litwin

Reading of the Word—Acts 9:19b-31

For some days [Saul] was with the disciples at Damascus. ²⁰ And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." ²¹ And all who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?" ²² But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

²³ When many days had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him, ²⁴ but their plot became known to Saul. They were watching the gates day and night in order to kill him, ²⁵ but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a basket.

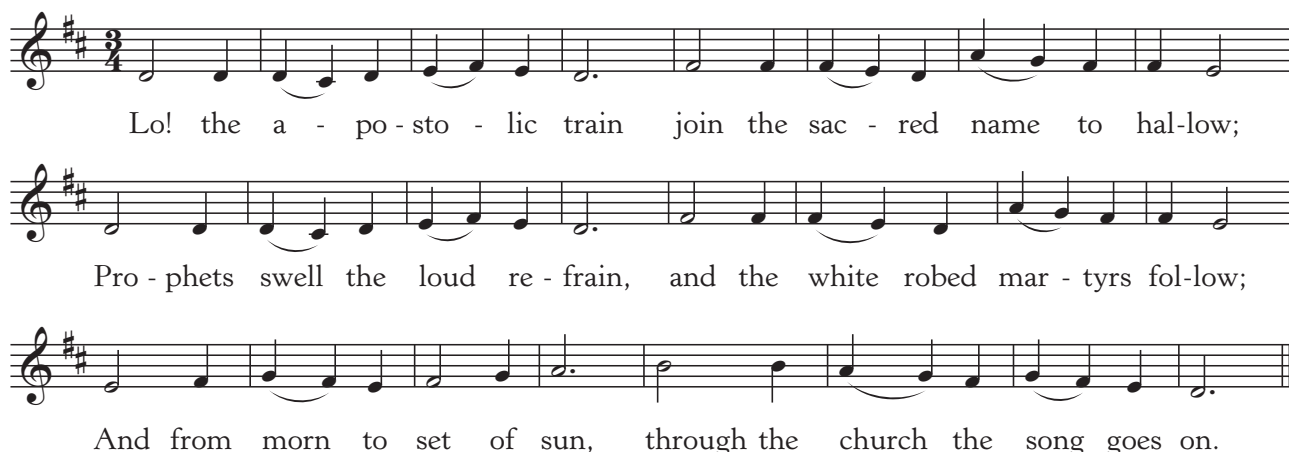
²⁶ And when he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. ²⁷ But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus. ²⁸ So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord. ²⁹ And he spoke and disputed against the Hellenists. But they were seeking to kill him. ³⁰ And when the brothers learned this, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

³¹ So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—Holy God, We Praise Your Name, Vs. 3



Lo! the a - po - sto - lic train join the sac - red name to hal-low;
 Pro - phets swell the loud re - frain, and the white robed mar - tyrs fol-low;
 And from morn to set of sun, through the church the song goes on.

Text: based on *Te Deum*, 4th century, attr. Ignace Franz, 1774;
 Music: GROSSER GOTT, WIR LOBEN DICH, *Katholisches Gesangbuch*, 1774.

Sermon—A Bold Preacher

—Pastor, James Crampton

GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO CONFESSION, REPENTANCE, AND RECONCILIATION

The people of God respond to His Word by confessing their sins, repenting of their sinful ways, and seeking God's favor through the reconciling work of Jesus, the Son of God.

Confession of Sin—based on Galatians 1:6-10

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. We are so quick to desert You who called us in the grace of Christ. We are so quick to turn to a different gospel— not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble us and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

All: But if we should follow a gospel contrary to the one the apostles preached, let us be accursed.

Pastor: Are we now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or are we trying to please man?

All: If we are still trying to please man, we are not servants of Christ.

(Silent prayers of confession)

Sung Response—Kyrie

WOMEN

MEN

Lord have mer - cy _____ Christ have mer - cy _____

Lord have mer - cy _____ Christ have mer - cy _____

Lord have mer - cy _____ Up - on us.

Lord have mer - cy _____ Up - on us.

Detailed description: This musical score is for a Kyrie response, written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It features two parts: 'WOMEN' and 'MEN'. The 'WOMEN' part is on a treble clef staff, and the 'MEN' part is on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: 'Lord have mer - cy _____ Christ have mer - cy _____'. The score is divided into three systems. The first system shows the initial vocal entries. The second system shows the continuation of the 'Lord have mer - cy' phrase. The third system shows the phrase 'Up - on us.' with a final cadence.

Text: Traditional; Music: Nathan George & Henry C. Haffner, 2012.

Assurance of Pardon—Galatians 2:19-21; Mark 12:30

For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.

Pastor: This is the promise of God. This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Therefore, let us love the Lord our God with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our mind and with all our strength.

Sung Response—Fivefold Amen

A - men, a - men. A - men, a - men, a - men.

Detailed description: This musical score is for a 'Fivefold Amen' response, written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It features a single vocal line on a treble clef staff. The lyrics are: 'A - men, a - men. A - men, a - men, a - men.' The score is divided into two systems. The first system shows the initial vocal entries. The second system shows the continuation of the 'Amen' phrase with a final cadence.

Text: Traditional; Music: Traditional African-American spiritual,
arr. Nelsie T. Johnson, 1988.

HEAVENLY GIFT—*EUCCHARISTO*

As God beckons His people to the bounty of His table, they make joyous profession of their fealty to Him.

Profession of Faith—The Apostles' Creed

We believe in God:

The Father Almighty, the Creator of Heaven and Earth;

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,

Born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,

Was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into Hell.

On the third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into Heaven and now sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

From whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit; the one holy church—both visible and invisible;

The communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;

The resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

Amen.

Sursum Corda

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You, Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth. Therefore, we praise You, Triune God, and we join our voices with the angels, the archangels, and the whole company of Heaven in this hymn of eternal praise:

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly is the Lord God Al - might - y,
Heav'n and Earth are full of Thy glor - y, glor - y be un - to Thee,
O Lord most high, O Lord most high, O Lord most high, A - men.

Text: Traditional, based on Isaiah 6:3, Revelation 4:8;

Music: Nathan George, 2013.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND THE LORD'S TABLE

This table is open to all baptized Christians who have made a profession of faith. You may come forward to receive the bread and wine or grape juice.

Congregational Hymn—To Live Is Christ



I re - jice! for through your prayers, — and the help of Je - sus' Spir - it,
My sure hope and ex - pec - ta - tion is that I will not be shamed —
Our de - sire is to de - part, — be with Christ up - on that day —



All these pre - sent trials will turn — to de - li - ver - ance.
But that — Christ will gain the glo - ry in my life or death.
Though now — we are called to live, — live in joy and faith.

Vs. 1 & 2 then Chorus

Chorus



To live is Christ, to be His ser - vant. To die and live with Him is — gain.



Though as I live, may fruit - ful la - bor glor - i - fy His Name, glo - ri - fy His Name.

Text: based on Philippians 1:19-25, Nathan George, 2012; Music: Nathan George, 2012.

Congregational Hymn—From Babel To Zion



Now to the ho - ly ci - ty the faith - ful gath - er home; —
Now eye to eye be - hold - ing the way - marks on — the road, —
Sing glo - ry to the Sav - ior, high o - ver all — the world; —
No long - er Bab - el's bon - dage the bride of Christ can hold; —



To Zi - on's mount of glor - y with songs of joy they come. —
All bound in love to - geth - er, they're com - ing home to God: —
On Zi - on's heights for - ev - er His ban - ner is un - furled.
God's chil - dren now are ho - ly, and free — from Bab - el's fold: —



Jer - u - sa - lem — the gold - en, Jer - u - sa - lem — the free, —
One mind and mouth poss - ess - ing, they speak with one — ac - cord, —
God's church can be — no long - er ob - scured from hu - man sight; —
For it is fall - en, fall - en, and it shall rise — no more; —



With joy - ful hearts and voi - ces the ran - somed come to thee.
And in the heights of Zi - on they shout — and praise the Lord.
For see, on yon - der mount - ain, a ci - ty filled with light!
We cling a - lone — to Je - sus, as did — the saints of yore.

Text: Thomas Nelson, 1907; Music: D. O. Teasley, 1907, arr. Henry C. Haffner, 2016.

GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND IN GRATEFUL PRAISE, PETITIONS, TITHES & OFFERINGS

Our praying, serving, and giving are essential aspects of worship. It is here that our faith moves from our heads and hearts into our lives and callings.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession—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, forever. *Amen.*

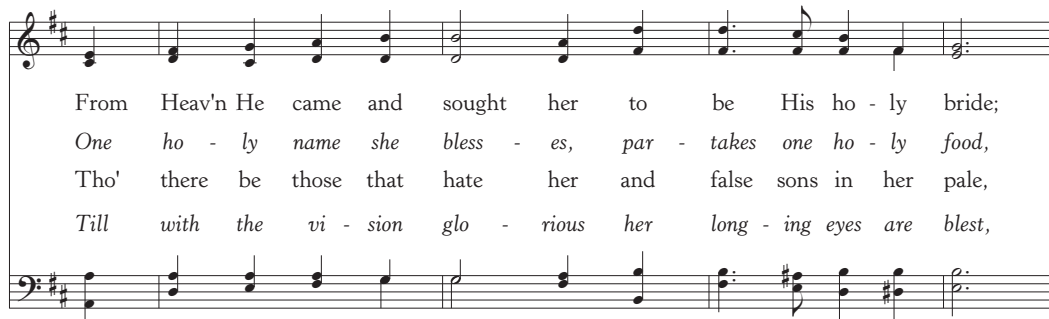
Congregational Hymn—The Church's One Foundation



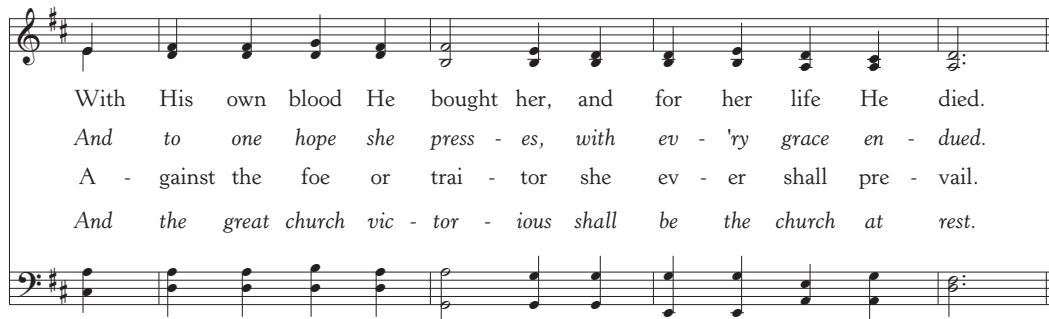
The Church - 's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord:
E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the Earth,
The church shall nev - er per - ish! Her dear Lord, to de - fend,
'Mid toil and tri - bu - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war,



She is His new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the Word;
Her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:
To guide, sus - tain, and cher - ish, is with her to the end;
She waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more,



From Heav'n He came and sought her to be His ho - ly bride;
One ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
Tho' there be those that hate her and false sons in her pale,
Till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,



With His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died.
And to one hope she press - es, with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
A - gainst the foe or trai - tor she ev - er shall pre - vail.
And the great church vic - tor - ious shall be the church at rest.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1866; Music: AURELIA, Samuel J. Wesley, 1864.

GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT

After calling His people into His presence, forgiving their sins, instructing them in His Word, and providing a foretaste of the marriage supper of the Lamb, God sends His people into the world to show His light in the darkness.

Benediction—Galatians 1:3-5

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. *Amen.*

Sung Response—Gloria Patri

The musical score for the Gloria Patri is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. The first system is in 4/4 time and contains the lyrics: "Glor - y be__ to the Fath - er, and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;". The second system is also in 4/4 time and contains the lyrics: "As it was in the be - gin - ning, is__ now, and ev - er shall be,". The third system features a key signature change to two sharps (D major) and includes a 2/4 time signature change. It contains the lyrics: "World__ with - out end. A - men. A - - - men." The piano accompaniment consists of chords and simple melodic lines in the right and left hands.

Text: Lesser Doxology, 2nd century; Music: Nathan George, 2015, harm. Henry C. Haffner, 2015.

Announcements

Worship Notes:

Continuing Saul's story from Acts 9 that we began last week, in today's sermon text we find that Saul's entire character has been turned upside down by his encounter with Jesus. This former persecutor of the church cannot help declaring the name of his Savior—as Luke writes, “*immediately* he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues” (Acts 9:20). Like Saul, our lives have also been radically transformed by Jesus. So like Saul, let's declare this morning that we stand on the solid rock of Christ, and all other ground is sinking sand (*My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less*). Let's confess our love for Him, and our desire to resign all the follies of sin because of His sacrificial love for us (*My Jesus, I Love Thee*). Let's proclaim to a world lost in sin our desire to labor for His glory throughout our lives (*To Live Is Christ*). Let's remember to “cling alone to Jesus as did the saints of yore” in the face of hardships and trials (*From Babel To Zion*). Jesus is our one foundation, and He promises to guide, sustain, and cherish us until the end (*The Church's One Foundation*). May this “loud refrain,” inherited from the prophets and apostles and continuing to this very day (*Holy God, We Praise Your Name*), be found in our church and all believing churches, “from morn to set of sun.” —Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Proclaim, Prove, Son of God, Jesus, Christ, Plot, Church, Built Up, Multiplied
Keystone Verse: And immediately [Saul] proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.” (Acts 9:20)



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All Biblical quotes taken from the English Standard Version unless otherwise noted.