



PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Ordinary Time

1 September 2024

Jesus has led captivity captive. Be therefore encouraged in this battle, knowing that the enemies of Christ will not rob one sheep, but that he who has the least strength will yet overcome and be crowned as conqueror. —Wilhelmus a Brakel

Though the learning and power of the Roman Empire were so great, and both were employed to the utmost against Christianity, yet all was in vain. They could neither root it out, nor stop its progress. In spite of all, the kingdom of Christ wonderfully prevailed, and Satan's heathen kingdom mouldered and consumed away before it.

—Jonathan Edwards

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—Ezekiel 36:27

I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes and be careful to obey My rules.

Sung Response—Come, Christians, Join To Sing, Vs. 1

Come, Chris-tians, join to sing: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Loud praise to Christ our King: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Let all, with heart and voice, be - fore His throne re - joice;

Praise is His gra - cious choice: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Text: Christian Bateman, 1843; Music: MADRID, Traditional Spanish melody,
arr. David Evans, 1927.

Call to Worship—from Psalm 68:18-20, 32, 35

Pastor: O kingdoms of the earth, sing to God; sing praises to the Lord.

All: Awesome is God from His sanctuary; the God of Israel—He is the one who gives power and strength to His people.

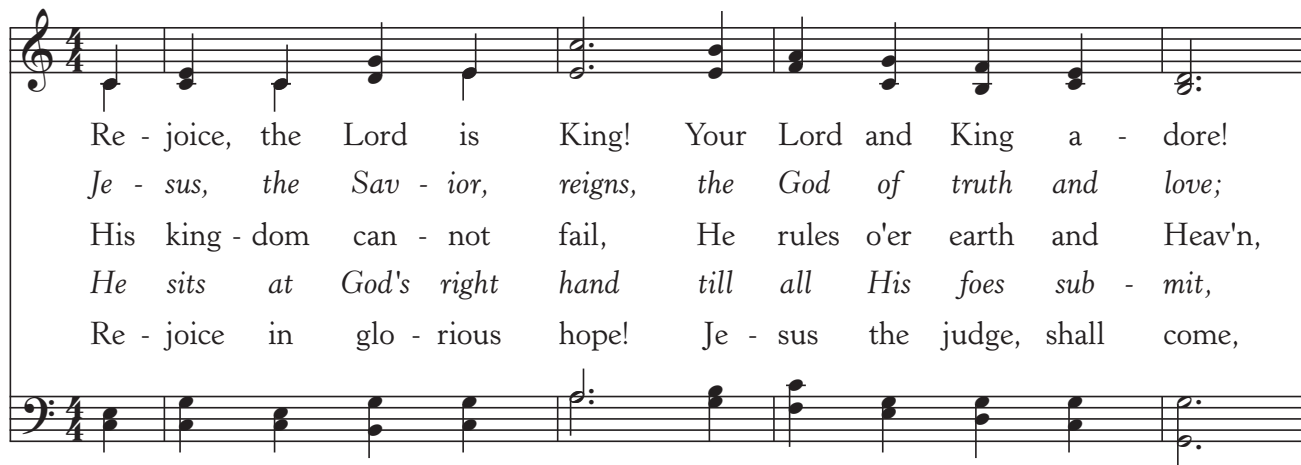
Reader 1: You ascended on high, leading a host of captives in Your train.

Reader 2: You received gifts among men, even among the rebellious, that the Lord God may dwell there.

All: Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation.

Pastor: Our God is a God of salvation, and to God, the Lord, belong deliverances from death. Blessed be God!

Congregational Hymn—Rejoice, The Lord Is King!

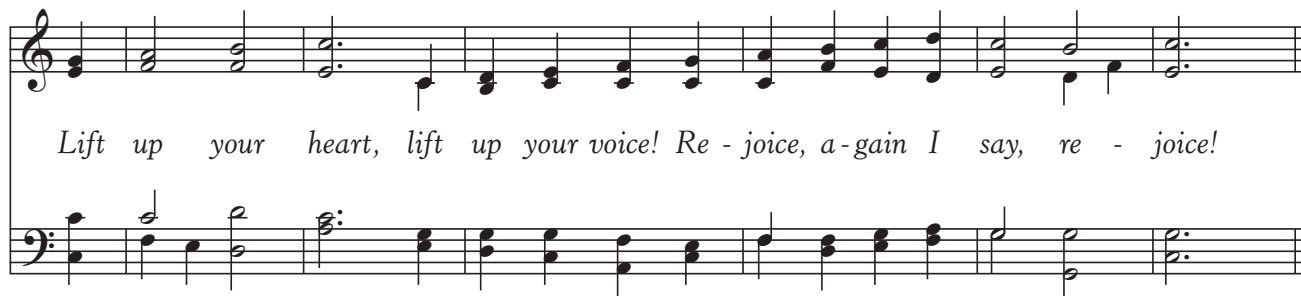


Re - joice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King a - dore!
Je - sus, the Sav - ior, reigns, the God of truth and love;
His king - dom can - not fail, He rules o'er earth and Heav'n,
He sits at God's right hand till all His foes sub - mit,
Re - joice in glo - rious hope! Je - sus the judge, shall come,



Re - joice, give thanks and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more;
When He had purged our stains He took His seat a - bove;
The keys of death and hell are to our Je - sus giv'n;
And bow to His com - mand, and fall be - neath His feet:
And take His ser - vants up to their e - ter - nal home.

Refrain




Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Re - joice, a - gain I say, re - joice!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1746; Music: DARWALL, John Darwall, 1770.


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 Lord I Will At All Times Bless (Psalm 34)




The Lord I will at all times bless; with praise my mouth employ;—
O children, come, and gather round for wisdom you should hear;—
The troubles that afflict the just in number many be;—



My soul shall in Jehovah boast, the humble hear with joy—
I'll teach you how to understand and seek the Lord with fear—
But God delivers from them all the righteous He sets free.—



O let us magnify the Lord, exalt His name with me.—
Restrain your lips from speaking lies, control your foolish tongue.—
Your bones He carefully will keep, whatever shall befall,—



Look up to Him, and so your faces radiant shall be.
Depart from ill, do good, seek peace, so shall your days be long.
For not so much as one of them can be broken at all.

Chorus



Taste— and see— that the Lord— is good;— Take refuge in— His blessing—

Last time, to Coda



Fear— Him, you saints:— those who fear— the Lord lack no— good thing.

Coda



The righteous cry unto the Lord salvation He imparts;—



The Lord is ever near to them who ache from broken hearts.— A— men.

Text: Psalm 34:1-22, *The Psalter with Music*, 1900, alt. 2021;
Music: BETHESDA/DUPLEX, Henry C. Haffner, 2021.

Scripture Reading—from 2 Kings 2:1, 7-15

Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. As they both were standing by the Jordan, Elijah took his cloak and rolled it up and struck the water, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you.” And Elisha said, “Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me.” And he said, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so.” And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it and he cried, “My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” And he saw him no more. And he took up the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. Then he took the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and struck the water, saying, “Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?” And when he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over. Now when the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho saw him opposite them, they said, “The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha.”

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Congregational Hymn—O Christ, Our Hope



O Christ, our hope, our heart's de - sire, re - demp-tion's on - ly spring;
How vast the mer - cy and the love which laid our sins on Thee,
But now the bonds of death are burst, the ran - som has been paid;
All praise to Thee, as - cend - ed Lord; all glo - ry ev - er be



Cre - a - tor of the world art Thou, its sav - ior and its king,
And led Thee to a cru - el death to set Thy peo - ple free,
And Thou art on Thy Fa - ther's throne in glor - ious robes ar - rayed,
To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost through all e - ter - ni - ty,



Its sav - ior and its king.
To set Thy peo - ple free.
In glor - ious robes ar - rayed.
Through all e - ter - ni - ty!

Reading of the Word—Acts 1:9-26

⁹ And when [Jesus] had said these things, as they were looking on, He was lifted up, and a cloud took Him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as He went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven.”

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³ And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴ All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, ¹⁶ “Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷ For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” ¹⁸ (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. ¹⁹ And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰ “For it is written in the Book of Psalms, ‘May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it’; and ‘Let another take his office.’” ²¹ So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from the baptism of John until the day when He was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to His resurrection.”

²³ And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴ And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two You have chosen ²⁵ to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” ²⁶ And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—A Hymn Of Glory Let Us Sing, Vs. 1

A hymn of glo-ry let us sing! New songs through-out the world shall ring,
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ by a road be-fore un - trod,
A - scend-eth to the throne of God! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: The Venerable Bede, 8th C. tr. Benjamin Webb, 1854; Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN,
Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Cologne, 1623.

Sermon—*Passing on the Mantle*

—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 John 14:1; 16:5-9

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. Jesus has gone back to You who sent Him, and sorrow has filled our heart. Nevertheless, You told us the truth: it is to our advantage that Jesus went away, for if He did not go away, the Helper would not come to us.

All: **But we have let our hearts be troubled. We have not believed in God; we have also not believed in Christ.**

Pastor: Because Jesus went, He sent the Helper to us. And when He comes, He convicts us concerning sin and righteousness and judgment.

All: **We have sinned because we do not believe in Jesus.**

Assurance of Pardon—Hebrews 9:24-26; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer Himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, He has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

Pastor: This is the promise of God.

All: **This is the Word of the Lord.**

Pastor: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: **He is the Father of mercies and God of all comfort.**

Pastor: He comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

Sung Response—Before The Throne Of God Above, Vs. 2

When Sa - tan tempts me to des - pair and tells me of the guilt with - in,
Up - ward I look and see Him there who made an end of all my sin.
Be - cause the sin - less Sav - ior died my sin - ful soul is count - ed free.
For God the just is sat - is - fied to look on Him and par - don me.
To look on Him and par - don me.

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:

WOMEN
Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow'r and might

MEN
Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow'r and might Hea-ven and Earth are
Hea-ven and Earth are full of Your glo-ry, Ho-san-na in the high-est.
full of Your glo-ry, Ho-san-na, Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hos-

Lord. Hos-san-na, Hos-san-na, Hos-san-na in the high-est.
san-na, Hos-san-na, Hos-san-na in the high-est.

Text: Traditional, based on Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 21:9; Music: CLOVERCROFT SANCTUS, Henry C. Haffner, 2019.

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 Psalm—The Wicked Man Fears Not The Lord (Psalm 36)



The wick - ed man fears not the Lord, But trusts in his own way.
But Your a - bun - dant love ex - tends To heav - en, Lord most high.
Let not Your stead - fast love de - part, Nor let us fall to — pride,

Vs.1 & 2, then Chorus



In his in - i - qui - ty as - sured He — sins both night and day.
In just - ice You pre - serve the men And beasts who to You cry.
But help us be up - right of heart, And Your name glor - i - fy.

Chorus



Un - der the sha - dow of Your wings Is a ri - ver of de - light.



In You, — we true a - bun - dance find, And in Your light, see light.

Text: based on Psalm 36, Elizabeth Dowdell, 2018; Music: FLAT CREEK, Henry C. Haffner, 2019.

Congregational Hymn—There Is No Greater Portrait



There is no great - er por - trait of love and sac - ri - fice
He ran the race be - fore Him though it was filled with pain,
The Son of Man was lift - ed be - fore cre - a - tion's eyes;
O Sav - ior, let this sin - ner be ran - somed by the flood



Than Je - sus leav - ing glo - ry and lay - ing down His life.
And walked the road to glo - ry in a - go - ny and shame.
Was mocked and scorned by sol - diers, by kings and priests de - spised.
Of mer - cy and for - give - ness a - bun - dant in Your blood.



When I look on the suf - fer - ings my Sav - ior chose to bear,
Then for the joy be - fore Him, He chose to bear the cross,
But now the Son is ris - en, as - cend - ed to the skies.
O Lord, be my sal - va - tion, Your Ho - ly Spir - it send



It fills my heart with sor - row to think I put Him there.
Pur - sued His Fa - ther's plea - sure and count - ed all else loss.
By an - gels He is wor - shipped; by na - tions glor - i - fied.
To change my heart and cause me to love You to the end.

CCLI #2844402 ©2005 ReformedPraise.org Text and Music: Eric Schumacher & David L. Ward, 2005.

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—Alleluia! Sing To Jesus!



Al - le - lu - ia! sing to Je - sus! His the scept-er, His the throne.
Al - le - lu - ia! not as or - phans are we left in sor - row now;
Al - le - lu - ia! bread of an - gels, Thou on earth our food, our stay;
Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Thee the Lord of lords we own;



Al - le - lu - ia! His the tri - umph, His the vic - to - ry a - lone.
Al - le - lu - ia! He is near us, faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how;
Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to Thee from day to day:
Al - le - lu - ia! born of Ma - ry, Earth Thy foot - stool, Heav'n Thy throne:



Hark! the songs of peace - ful Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood.
Though the cloud from sight re - ceived Him when the fort - y days were o'er
In - ter - ces - sor, Friend of sin - ners, Earth's Re - deem - er, plead for me,
Thou with-in the veil hast en - tered, robed in flesh our great High Priest;



Je - sus out of ev - ery na - tion has re - deemed us by His blood.
Shall our hearts for - get His pro - mise, "I am with you ev - er - more"?
Where the songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
Thou on earth both priest and vic - tim in the Euch - ar - is - tic feast.

Text: William C. Dix, 1867; Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland Hugh Pritchard, 1855.

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—Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. *Amen.*

Sung Response—Gloria Patri

Glor - y be - to the Fath - er, and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;

As it was in the be - gin - ning, is - now, and ev - er shall be,

World - with - out end. A - men. A - - - men.

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

Announcements

Worship Notes:

Most of the elements in this morning's service relate in some way to Jesus' ascension, a story found in the first three verses of this morning's sermon text (Acts 1:9-11). We are called into worship by Psalm 68, which foresees God Himself "ascend[ing] on high, leading a host of captives in [His] train." We'll sing several hymns, such as *O Christ, Our Hope, A Hymn Of Glory Let Us Sing*, and *There Is No Greater Portrait*, that describe Christ as our "ascended Lord" who "ascended to the skies," arriving at the throne of God "by a road before untrod." We hear the story of Elijah and Elisha in this morning's Scripture reading (2 Kings 2:1-15), in which one prophet is lifted up into heaven while another is left gazing at the sky in wonder. We are encouraged to "look up" in psalms and hymns like *The Lord I Will At All Times Bless—Psalm 34* and *Before The Throne Of God Above*, fixing our eyes on the work of our Savior rather than our own guilt and shame. Though we cannot see Him physically, as the Apostles did, we can sing *Alleluia! Sing To Jesus* which reminds us not to forget His promise, "I am with you evermore." As we lift up our eyes, faces, and hearts to Him, the Ascended Lord blesses us by lifting up His own countenance (Numbers 6:26) on us. —Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Lifted Up, Look, Prayer, Fulfilled, Witness, Apostle

Keystone Verse: And when He had said these things, as they were looking on, He was lifted up, and a cloud took Him out of their sight. (Acts 1:9)



Presbyterian Church in America
4150 Clovercroft Rd. Franklin, TN 37067

Web: www.parishpres.org

Church Office: Sarah Dye, 574-1029, office@parishpres.org

Prayer requests: prayer@parishpres.org

Pastor: James Crampton, 943-1696, jamie@parishpres.org

Pastor Emeritus: George Grant, 574-1029 (office), george@parishpres.org

Associate Pastor: Brian Phillips, 429-8125, brian@parishpres.org

Assistant Pastor: Mike Fennema, 931-215-1057, mike@parishpres.org

Music Director: Henry C. Haffner, 497-6573, henry@parishpres.org

Staff Accompanist: Mirandi Herrenbruck, mirandi@parishpres.org

Audio Coordinator: Jonathan George, jonathan@parishpres.org

Financial Administrator: Joanna Reategui, joanna@parishpres.org

Parish Nursery Coordinator: Chelsea Monroe, 495-0423, chelsea@parishpres.org

Elders

Keith Cannon (636-7137)

Tom Goddard (218-3654)

Brandon Herrenbruck (339-5516)

Michael Mastroberti (973-879-1368)

Mike Miserocchi (594-3880)

Matt Morrison (482-5107)

Jason Parolini (497-3337)

Jonathan Thornton (703-801-1355)

Elders Emeritus

Steve Nelson John Scherrer

Deacons

Aaron Anderson (973-1797)

Brandon Blair (575-430-6436)

Kevin Cowherd (967-5099)

Ben Crist (509-3040)

Nolan Reategui (829-0412)

Joshua Scheenstra (818-653-1113)

Robert Simmons (850-532-1075)

Nae Soundara (519-3720)

Jim Soyster (585-5980)

Walt Yates (785-477-0990)

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