



PARISH
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Kingdomtide
October 19th, 2025

Quotes for reflection:

There are only two false futures that can be imagined by the world, the flesh, and the devil, the enemies of the soul: the future of desire and the future of fate.

—J.D. Bernal

The rise of Secularism was tied to the self-induced decline of the Christian faith. Christians who lament the triumph of Secularism should look long and hard in the mirror. They will see the culprit, and it is them. Three challenges, not one, now confront the Christian faith in the West and reinforce the strength of Secularism: a crisis of credibility, a crisis of plausibility, and a crisis of reality.

—Os Guinness

GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

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

Gospel Invitation—1 John 3:1

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God.

Sung Response—The Lord Is King, Vs. 1



The Lord is King! Lift up thy voice, O Earth; and all ye heav'ns, re-joice!



From world to world the joy shall ring, "The Lord omni - po - tent is King."

Text: Josiah Conder, 1824; Music: ROCKBRIDGE, Lucius Chapin,
from *The Harmonia Sacra*, 1812, alt. 2010.

Call to Worship—Psalm 97:1-2, 6, 9-12

Pastor: The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice!

All: Let all the many coastlands be glad!

Reader 1: The heavens proclaim His righteousness, and all the peoples see His glory.
For the Lord is most high over all the earth; He is exalted far above all gods.

Reader 2: O you who love the Lord, despise what is evil! And be sure that He will
preserve the lives of His saints; for He delivers them.

Pastor: Light is sown for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart.

All: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous.

Pastor: Give thanks to His holy name!

Congregational Hymn—Holy, Holy, Holy!

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and common time. It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody. The hymn concludes with a final chord in the piano part.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord — God Al - might - y!
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore Thee,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide Thee,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord — God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to Thee;
Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
Though the eye of sin - ful man Thy glo - ry may not see;
All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth and sky and sea;

Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y!
Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore Thee,
On - ly Thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side Thee,
Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
Who wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
Per - fect in power, in love, and pur - i - ty.
God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty.

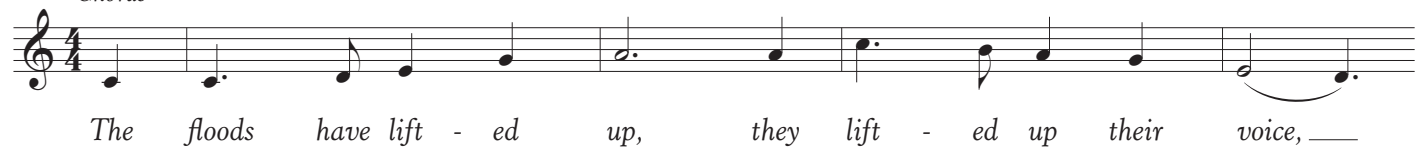
Text: Reginald Heber, 1826; Music: NICAEA, John B. Dykes, 1861.

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. In His Word, God particularly calls us to sing psalms: while all Scripture is appropriate for hymns and spiritual songs, there is a specific exhortation for us to use the Psalter as the church’s songbook.

Congregational Psalm—The Floods Have Lifted Up (Psalm 93)

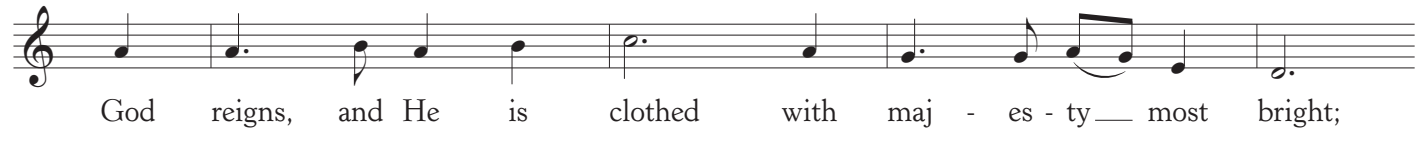
Chorus



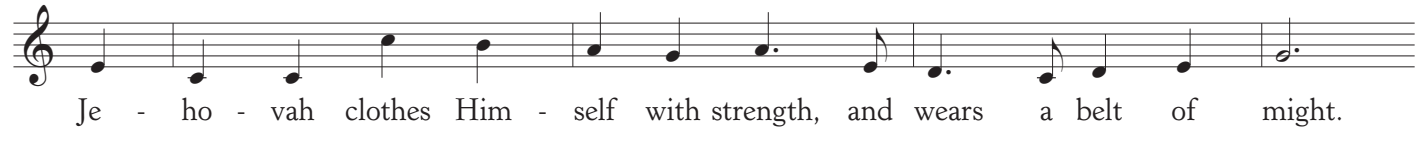
The floods have lift - ed up, they lift - ed up their voice, —



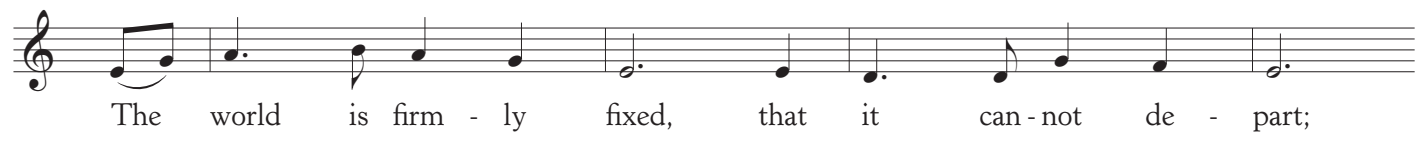
The floods have lift - ed up their waves and made a migh - ty noise. *Fine*



God reigns, and He is clothed with maj - es - ty — most bright;
But yet the Lord on high, is migh - ti - er — by far



Je - ho - vah clothes Him - self with strength, and wears a belt of might.
Than noise of man - y wat - ers is, or great sea bill - ows are.



The world is firm - ly fixed, that it can - not de - part;
Your tes - ti - mon - ies all in faith - ful - ness ex - cel;



D.C. al Fine
Your throne is fixed of old, and You from ev - er - last - ing are.
And hol - i - ness for - ev - er, Lord, Your house be - com - eth well.

Text: Psalm 93:1-5, *Psalter of the United Presbyterian Church*, 1887, alt. 2016;

Music: MT. HOPE, Henry C. Haffner, 2016.

Scripture Reading—1 John 4:1-6

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore, they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

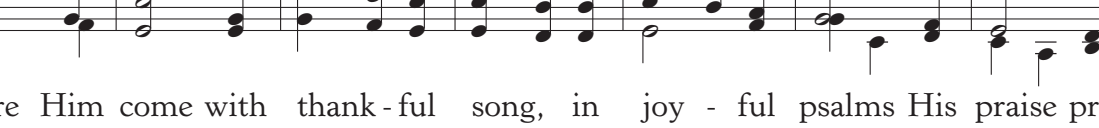
Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Congregational Psalm—O Come Before The Lord, Our King (Psalm 95)

O come be-fore the Lord, our King, and in_ His pres-ence let_ us sing;
Al-might-y pow'r the Lord main-tains, ex-alt-ed o-ver all_ He reigns;
 O come and let us wor-ship now, be-fore our Mak-er let_ us bow;

Let us in glad and joy - ful lays the rock_ of our sal - va - tion praise;
He holds the val - leys in_ His hand, He makes the might - y moun - tains stand;
 We are His sheep and He our God, He feeds our souls in pas - tures broad;



Be - fore Him come with thank - ful song, in joy - ful psalms His praise pro-long.
To Him be - long both land_ and sea, _ Cre - a - tor of the world is He.
 He safe - ly leads us in___ the way; O come and hear His voice to - day.

Text: Psalm 95:1-7, *The Psalter*, 1912;
Music: ST. PETERSBURG, Dimitri Bortniansky, 1825.

Sermon Text—Acts 19:8-20

⁸ And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God. ⁹ But when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation, he withdrew from them and took the disciples with him, reasoning daily in the hall of Tyrannus. ¹⁰ This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

¹¹ And God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, ¹² so that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were carried away to the sick, and their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them. ¹³ Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists undertook to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, “I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims.” ¹⁴ Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. ¹⁵ But the evil spirit answered them, “Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?” ¹⁶ And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. ¹⁷ And this became known to all the residents of Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. And fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was extolled. ¹⁸ Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices. ¹⁹ And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver. ²⁰ So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—God, My King, Thy Might Confessing, Vs. 6

The musical score is written for two voices, Treble and Bass, in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, consisting of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

All Thy works, O Lord, shall bless Thee; Thee shall all Thy saints a-dore:

King su-preme shall they con-fess Thee, and pro-claim Thy sov-'reign pow'r.

Text: Richard Mant, 1824; Music: STUTTGART, Christian F. Witt, 1715.

Sermon—*Credibility, Plausibility, and Reality*

—Pastor Emeritus, George Grant

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 1 John 1:5-10

Pastor: Lord, we know that if we say we have not sinned, we deceive ourselves and Your Word is not in us. Therefore, we come confessing.

All: This is the message we have heard from You, Lord. This is the message we proclaim: O God, You are light, and in You there is no darkness at all.

Pastor: If we say we have fellowship with You while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

All: But if we walk in the light, as You are in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin.

Pastor: If we confess our sins, You are faithful and just to forgive us our sins.

All: You will cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Assurance of Pardon—1 John 2:1-2, 12; Colossians 2:6-7

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for His name's sake.

Pastor: This is the promise of God.

All: This is the Word of the Lord.

Pastor: Therefore, in the same way you received Christ Jesus as Lord, so continue to walk in Him.

All: So then, we are rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith.

Pastor: Therefore, let us abound in thanksgiving.

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.

The image shows five staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first four staves contain the main body of the song, and the fifth staff is a concluding phrase.

CCLI #2844402 ©1997 Sovereign Grace Worship; Text: Charitie Bancroft, 1863; Music: Vikki Cook, 1997.

GOD INVITES HIS PEOPLE TO FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM

God feeds the faith of His people by giving them a meal. As God fellowships with them in faith, His people pledge their obedience to God and their love for one another.

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:

The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of three staves. The first staff is in 4/4 time and contains the lyrics 'Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly is the Lord God Al - might - y,'. The second staff continues in 4/4 time with 'Heav'n and Earth are full of Thy glor - y, glor - y_ be un - to_ Thee,'. The third staff begins in 5/4 time with 'O Lord most high,' and then changes to 2/4 time for 'O Lord most high,' and finally to 4/4 time for 'A - men.' The melody is simple and hymn-like, using eighth and quarter notes with various rests and phrasing slurs.

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—Not What My Hands Have Done

Not what my hands have done can save my guilt - ty soul;
Your voice a - lone, O Lord, can speak to me of grace;
I praise the Christ of God; I rest on love div - ine;

Not what my toil - ing flesh has borne can make my spir - it whole.
Your pow'r a - lone, O Son of God, can all my sin e - rase.
And with un - fal - t'ring lip and heart I call this Sav - ior mine.

Not what I feel or do can give me peace with God;
No oth - er work but Yours, no oth - er blood will do;
My Lord has saved my life and free - ly par - don gives;

Not all my prayers and sighs and tears can bear my aw - ful load.
No strength but that which is div - ine can bear me safe - ly through.
I love be - cause He first loved me, I live be - cause He lives.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1861; Music: LEOMINSTER, George W. Martin, 1862.

Congregational Hymn—Nothing But The Blood



What can wash a - way my sin? Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus;
For my par - don, this I see, Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus;
Noth-ing can for sin a - tone: Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.
This is all my hope and peace, Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus;



What can make me whole a - gain? Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.
For my cleans - ing this my plea, Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.
Naught of good that I have done: Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.
This is all my right - eous - ness, Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.

Refrain



Oh! pre - cious is the flow that makes me white as snow;—



No oth - er fount I know, Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.

Text: Robert Lowry, 1876; Music: PLAINFIELD, Robert Lowry, 1876.

GOD’S PEOPLE GRATEFULLY RESPOND WITH THEIR PETITIONS, TITHES & OFFERINGS, AND PRAISE

Praying, serving, and giving are essential aspects of worship, moving our faith from our heads and hearts into our lives and callings. Offering boxes for both tithes and alms are located in the foyer.

Pastoral Prayer

Corporate Prayer—*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—How Great Thou Art



O Lord my God, when I in awes - ome won - der
And when I think that God, His Son not spar - ing,
When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion



Con - si - der all the worlds Thy hands have made, I see the stars,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow



I hear the roll - ing thun - der, Thy power through - out the un - i - verse dis - played:
My bur - den glad - ly bear - ing, He bled and died to take a - way my sin:
In hum - ble ad - o - ra - tion, and there pro - claim, "My God, how great Thou art!"

Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to Thee: How great Thou art! How great Thou art!



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to Thee: How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

CCLI #2844402 Text: Stuart K. Hine, 1949; Music: O STORE GUD, Swedish Folk melody,
harm. Stuart K. Hine, 1949.

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—based on 1 John 4:4

Little children, you have overcome the evil one—for He who is in you is greater than he that is in the world. Go forth in hope. *Amen.*

Sung Response—Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above ye heav'nly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. A - men.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1674; Music: OLD 100TH, Louis Bourgeois, 1551.

Announcements

Worship Notes:

Though this morning's sermon text contains some rather intriguing elements (miraculous handkerchiefs, traveling demon hunters, and wisecracking evil spirits), one theme is clearly threaded throughout both the passage and this morning's service: God's greatness. We will hear twice from 1 John that "He who is in you is greater than he that is in the world" (1 John 4:4). In the first half of the service, the psalms remind us that "the Lord is most high over all the earth; He is exalted far above all gods" (Psalm 97:9), that He is "mightier by far than noise of many waters is and great sea billows are" (Psalm 93:4), and that "Almighty power the Lord maintains, exalted over all He reigns" (Psalm 95:3-4). We read that He does "extraordinary miracles" (Acts 19:11) and that His Word will "increase and prevail mightily" (Acts 19:20), and we respond by blessing and adoring our "supreme King" and proclaiming His "sovereign power" (*God, My King, Thy Might Confessing*). In the second half of the service, we acknowledge the inadequacy of our own abilities in comparison to God's, confessing that "no strength but that which is divine can bear me safely through," and declaring that "nothing but the blood of Jesus" can make us whole and clean (*Not What My Hands Have Done; Nothing But The Blood Of Jesus*). The world around us contains many foes, both spiritual and physical. Instead of trusting in our own power, let us take to heart the words of our final hymn (*How Great Thou Art*), bowing in "humble adoration" before the God who displays His greatness by setting the universe in place and by sending His Son to die for His people.

—Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Extraordinary, Miracles, Evil Spirit, Fear, Confessing, Prevail

Keystone Verse: Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you? (19:15)



PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Officers Emeritus

Steve Nelson, Elder Emeritus; Jimmy Allen, Tim Simmons, Deacons Emeritus

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