



# PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Epiphany Season

*26 January 2025*

We have no excuse for not yielding to God's yoke. For if we yield willingly, there is no doubt that we will find him sweeter and more gratifying than all the freedoms this world affords. —John Calvin

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## 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—Luke 23:34

Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

### Sung Response—Come Down, O Love Divine, Vs. 1

The musical notation is written on a single treble clef staff in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines. The lyrics are printed below the staff, aligned with the notes.

Come down, O Love di - vine, seek Thou this soul of mine,  
And vis - it it with Thine own ar - dor glow - ing.  
O Com - fort - er, draw near, with - in my heart ap - pear,  
And kin - dle it, Thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.

Text: Bianco da Siena, 15<sup>th</sup> century, tr. Richard Littledale, 1867;  
Music: DOWN AMPNEY, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906.

## Call to Worship—from Psalm 11:1-7

Pastor: Take refuge in the Lord!

All: **The Lord is in His holy temple; the Lord's throne is in heaven; His eyes see, His eyelids test the children of man.**

Reader 1: How can you say to my soul, "Flee like a bird to your mountain!"

Reader 2: "For behold, the wicked bend the bow; they have fitted their arrow to the string to shoot in the dark at the upright in heart."

All: **If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?**

Pastor: The Lord is righteous; He loves righteous deeds; the upright shall behold His face.

## Congregational Hymn—The Lord Is King



The Lord is king! Lift up thy voice, O Earth; and all ye heav'ns, re - joice!  
The Lord is king! Who then shall dare re - sist His will, dis - trust His care,  
The Lord is king! Child of the dust, the judge of all the earth is just;  
He reigns! Ye saints, ex - alt your strains; your God is king, your Fa - ther reigns;



From world to world the joy shall ring, "The Lord om - ni - po - tent is King."  
Or mur - mur at His wise de - crees, or doubt His ro - yal pro - mi - ses?  
Ho - ly and true are all His ways; let ev - ery crea - ture speak His praise.  
Through earth and heav'n one song shall ring, "The Lord om - ni - po - tent is King!"

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

# 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—My Trust Is In The Lord (Psalm 11)



My trust is in the Lord; how can you say to me,  
The Lord the righteous tries: but wicked men He hates,  
“A way with speed, and like a bird to your high mountain flee?  
For all whose hearts love violence His punishment awaits.  
What can the righteous do? What can for them avail,  
Fire, winds, and burning coals, on wicked men shall rain;  
If their foundations be destroyed and all they built on fail?”  
This is the portion of their cup, the cup which they shall drain.  
The Lord in Zion dwells, the Lord's throne is on high:  
Because the righteous Lord delights in righteousness;  
His eyes behold the sons of men; O they will surely be tried.  
And with His gracious countenance the upright He will bless.

Text: Psalm 11:1-7, *Psalter of the United Presbyterian Church*, 1887, alt. Henry C. Haffner, 2016;  
Music: GAINESBORO, Henry C. Haffner, 2016.

## Scripture Reading—1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30

Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands toward heaven and said, “Will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You; how much less this house that I have built! Yet have regard to the prayer of Your servant and to his plea, O Lord my God, listening to the cry and to the prayer that Your servant prays before You this day, that Your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which You have said, ‘My name shall be there,’ that You may listen to the prayer that Your servant offers toward this place. And listen to the plea of Your servant and of Your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. And listen in heaven Your dwelling place, and when You hear, forgive.”

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

## Congregational Psalm—O Lord Of Hosts, How Lovely (Psalm 84)



O Lord of Hosts, how love - ly Thy dwell - ing pla - ces are  
Be - neath Thy care the spar - row shall find a place of rest  
Blest they who dwell in Zi - on whose joy and strength Thou art



For them my heart is yearn - ing, though I have wan - dered far,  
To keep her young in safe - ty the swal - low finds a nest  
For - ev - er they will praise Thee, Thy ways are in their heart



My soul is near - ly faint - ing Thy sa - cred courts to see  
Then, Lord, my King al - migh - ty, Thy love will shel - ter me  
Though tired, their tears like show - ers shall fill the springs of peace



My heart and flesh are cry - ing O liv - ing God, to Thee.  
Be - side Thy ho - ly al - tar my home shall ev - er\_ be.  
And all the way to Zi - on their strength shall be in - creased.

Text: Psalm 84:1-7, *The Psalter*, 1912, alt. Henry C. Haffner, 2016; Music: CHAPEL HILL, Henry C. Haffner, 2016.

## Reading of the Word—Acts 7:44-60

<sup>44</sup>“Our fathers had the tent of witness in the wilderness, just as He who spoke to Moses directed him to make it, according to the pattern that he had seen. <sup>45</sup> Our fathers in turn brought it in with Joshua when they dispossessed the nations that God drove out before our fathers. So it was until the days of David, <sup>46</sup> who found favor in the sight of God and asked to find a dwelling place for the God of Jacob. <sup>47</sup> But it was Solomon who built a house for him. <sup>48</sup> Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made by hands, as the prophet says, <sup>49</sup> “Heaven is My throne, and the earth is My footstool. What kind of house will you build for Me, says the Lord, or what is the place of My rest? <sup>50</sup> Did not My hand make all these things?”

<sup>51</sup> “You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. <sup>52</sup> Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, <sup>53</sup> you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”

<sup>54</sup> Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. <sup>55</sup> But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup> And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” <sup>57</sup> But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. <sup>58</sup> Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup> And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup> And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

## Sung Response—'Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus, Vs. 4



I'm so glad I learned to trust Thee, pre-cious Je - sus, Sav - ior, Friend;



And I know that Thou art with me, wilt be with me to the end.



Je - sus, Je - sus, how I trust Him! How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!



Je - sus, Je - sus, pre - cious Je - sus! O for grace to trust Him more!

Text: Louisa M. R. Stead, 1882; Music: William J. Kirkpatrick, 1882.

## Sermon—*The King Stands for His Martyrs*

—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 Jeremiah 23:23-24, 26-28

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. Are You a God at hand, and not a God far away? Can any of us hide himself in secret places so that You cannot see him? Do You not fill heaven and earth? You see our sin.

All: We prefer prophets who prophesy lies, who prophesy the deceit of their own hearts. We would rather forget Your name, preferring instead the dreams that we tell one another.

Pastor: Is not Your Word like fire, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?

All: Help us to listen to those who speak Your Word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat?

*(Silent prayers of confession)*

## Sung Response—Kyrie

WOMEN

MEN

Lord have mer - cy — Christ have mer - cy —

— Lord have mer - cy — Up - on us.

Lord have mer - cy — Up - on us.

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

## Assurance of Pardon—Jeremiah 23:5-6; Matthew 11:28

Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and He shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which He will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”

Pastor: This is the promise of God.

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

Pastor: He says to us, “Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: Amen.

## Sung Response—Fivefold Amen

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

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 Psalm—Incarnate God! (Psalm 91)



In - car - nate God! the soul that knows Your name's mys - ter - ious pow'r,  
In\_ vain the fow - ler spreads his net to\_ draw them from Your care;  
No mid-night ter - rors haunt their bed, no\_ ar - row wounds by day;  
The an - gels' Lord Him-self is nigh to\_ them that love His name;



Will dwell in un - di - sturb'd re - pose nor fear the try - ing hour.  
Your time - ly call in - structs their feet to\_ shun the art - ful snare.  
Un - hurt on ser - pents they shall tread, if\_ found in du - ty's way.  
Is\_ quick to save them when they cry, and put their foes to shame.



Your\_ wis - dom, faith - ful - ness, and love to fee - ble, frail and worn,  
When, like a bane - ful pest - i - lence, sin mows its thou - sands down,  
An - gels, un - seen, at - tend the saints and bear them in their arms,  
The\_ Lord will an - swer when they call long as they so - journ here,



A\_ shel - ter and a\_ re - fuge prove from e - ne - my and storm.  
On ev - 'ry side with-out de - fense His\_ grace se - cures His own.  
To cheer the spir - it\_ when it faints, and guard their life from harms.  
Be - cause the Lord is\_ their de - fense what have the saints to fear?

Text: John Newton, *Olney Hymnal*, 1779; Music: Nathan George, 2013.

### Congregational Hymn—Jerusalem, My Happy Home



Je - ru - sa - lem my hap - py home, when shall I come to thee?  
Thy saints are crowned with glo - ry great; they see God face to face;  
There Da - vid stands with harp in hand as mas - ter of the choir:  
There Mag - da - len hath left her moan, and cheer - ful - ly doth sing  
Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - ru - sa - lem, God grant that I may see



When shall my sor - rows have an end? Thy joys when shall I see?  
They tri - umph still, they still re - joice: most hap - py is their case.  
Ten thou - sand times that man were blest that might this mu - sic hear.  
With bless - ed saints, whose har - mo - ny in ev - 'ry street doth ring.  
Thine end - less joy, and of the same par - tak - er ev - er be!

Text: Joseph Bromehead, 1795; Music: LAND OF REST, Traditional Appalachian melody.

# 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.*

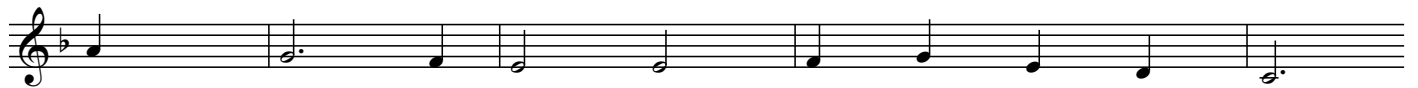
## Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession—The Lord's Prayer

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—For All The Saints



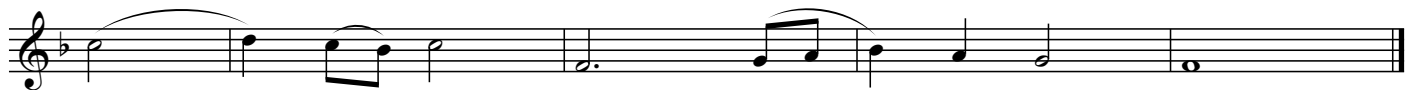
For all the saints, who from their labors rest,  
*Thou wast their rock, their fortress and their might;*  
O may Thy soldiers, faithful, true and bold,  
*But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day;*  
From Earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,



Who Thee by faith be - fore the world con - fessed,  
*Thou, Lord, their cap - tain in the well fought fight;*  
Fight as the saints who nob - ly fought of old,  
*The saints tri - um - phant rise in bright ar - ray;*  
Through gates of pearl streams in the count - less host,



Thy name, O Je - sus, be for - ev - er blessed.  
*Thou, in the dark - ness drear, their one true light.*  
And win with them the vic - tor's crown of gold.  
*The King of glo - ry pass - es on His way.*  
And sing - ing to Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost:



Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: William W. How, 1864; Music: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906.

# 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—Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here be - low;

praise Him a - bove ye heav'n-ly host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

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

## Announcements

## Worship Notes:

The Scripture readings, psalms, and hymns chosen for this morning's service were inspired by several different points in the final section of Acts 7. Just as Stephen chastises the Jewish authorities, declaring that they "always resist the Holy Spirit" (Acts 7:51), the opening hymn warns us not to "resist His will" or "distrust His care" (*The Lord Is King*). We read a portion of Solomon's prayer at the dedication of the temple (2 Kings 8), which Stephen references in the climax of his address (Acts 7:47). We respond by singing of the loveliness of God's dwelling place (*O Lord Of Hosts, How Lovely—Psalm 84*). Stephen's courage in the face of martyrdom is reflected in hymns and psalms that remind us that Jesus promises to be "with [us] to the end" (*'Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus*) and to be "nigh to them that love His name" (*Incarnate God!—Psalm 91*). The service concludes with a vision of heaven perhaps like Stephen's (Acts 7:56), in which he sees "the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." The final two hymns this morning describe the saints in glory who "see God face to face" (*Jerusalem, My Happy Home*), rising triumphantly in bright array to sing alleluias to the King of Glory (*For All The Saints*). —Henry C. Haffner

**Key Words:** Tent, Dwelling, House, Resist, Holy Spirit, Ear, Persecute, See  
**Keystone Verse:** But [Stephen], full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. (Acts 7:55)



Presbyterian Church in America  
4150 Clovercroft Rd. Franklin, TN 37067  
Mailing address: P.O. Box 1593, Franklin, TN 37065  
Web: [www.parishpres.org](http://www.parishpres.org)  
Church Office: Sarah Dye, 574-1029, [office@parishpres.org](mailto:office@parishpres.org)  
Prayer requests: [prayer@parishpres.org](mailto:prayer@parishpres.org)

Pastor: James Crampton, 943-1696, [jamie@parishpres.org](mailto:jamie@parishpres.org)  
Pastor Emeritus: George Grant, 574-1029 (office), [george@parishpres.org](mailto:george@parishpres.org)  
Associate Pastor: Brian Phillips, 429-8125, [brian@parishpres.org](mailto:brian@parishpres.org)  
Assistant Pastor: Mike Fennema, 931-215-1057, [mike@parishpres.org](mailto:mike@parishpres.org)  
Music Director: Henry C. Haffner, 497-6573, [henry@parishpres.org](mailto:henry@parishpres.org)  
Staff Accompanist: Mirandi Herrenbruck, [mirandi@parishpres.org](mailto:mirandi@parishpres.org)  
Audio Coordinator: Jonathan George, [jonathan@parishpres.org](mailto:jonathan@parishpres.org)  
Financial Administrator: Joanna Reategui, [joanna@parishpres.org](mailto:joanna@parishpres.org)  
Parish Nursery Coordinator: Chelsea Monroe, 495-0423, [chelsea@parishpres.org](mailto: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)	

### Elder Emeritus

Steve Nelson

### Deacons

Aaron Anderson (973-1797)	Brandon Blair (336-0274)	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.*