



PARISH
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Epiphany Season
January 18th, 2026

Quote for reflection:

When I look at the world and think of the way our culture has fallen away not only from spiritual values but even from rationality, I can almost find myself sinking down into despair. I ask myself, ‘How can anyone speak to a culture like ours? How can anyone speak reasonable spiritual words to those who will not reason, or even listen?’ Humanly speaking, I suppose the task is impossible. But we are not left to merely human resources. Jesus says, “Take courage! I am with you. —James Montgomery Boice

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—John 3:17

For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.

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

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of staves, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: '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!' The piano accompaniment features a simple, rhythmic pattern of chords and single notes, providing a steady harmonic foundation for the vocal lines.

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

Call to Worship—Psalm 86:8-12, 14-15

Pastor: There is none like You among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like Yours.

All: All the nations You have made shall come and worship before You, O Lord, and shall glorify Your name.

Reader 1: O God, insolent men have risen up against me; a band of ruthless men seeks my life, and they do not set You before them.

Reader 2: But You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

Pastor: For You are great and do wondrous things; You alone are God.

All: Teach us Your way, O Lord, that we may walk in Your truth; unite our hearts to fear Your name.

Pastor: We give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with our whole heart, and we will glorify Your name forever.

Congregational Psalm—Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah (Psalm 146)

Hal - le - lu - jah, praise Je - ho - vah, O my soul, Je - ho - vah praise.
Hap - py is the man that choos - es Is - rael's God to be his aid;
 Food He dai - ly gives the hun - gry, sets the mourn - ing pris - 'ner free,
 Hal - le - lu - jah, praise Je - ho - vah, O my soul, Je - ho - vah praise;

I will sing the glo - rious prais - es of my God through all my days.
He is blessed whose hope of bles - sing on the Lord his God is stayed.
 Rais - es those bowed down with an - guish, makes the sight - less eye to see.
 I will sing the glo - rious prais - es of my God through all my days.

Put no con - fi - dence in princ - es, nor for help on man de - pend;
Heav'n and Earth the Lord cre - at - ed, seas and all that they con - tain;
 Well Je - ho - vah loves the righ - teous, and the strang - er He be - friends,
 O - ver all God reigns for - ev - er, through all a - ges He is King;

He shall die, to dust re - turn - ing, and his pur - pos - es shall end.
He de - liv - ers from op - pres - sion, righ - teous - ness He will main - tain.
 Helps the fa - ther - less and wid - ow, judg - ment on the wick - ed sends.
 Un - to Him, your God, O Zi - on, joy - ful hal - le - lu - jahs sing.

Text: Psalm 146:1-10, *The Psalter*, 1912; Music: RIPLEY, Gregorian Chant,
 arr. Lowell Mason, 1839.

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—Arise, O God (Psalm 82)

A - rise, O God, set forth Thy rights, pro - nounce Thy just de - cree;

The her - i - tage of Earth by right be - longs, O Lord, to Thee.

A - mong as - sem - bled men of might the might - y God doth stand:
"Give just - ice to the fath - er - less, de - fend the poor dis - tressed;

He stands to or - der judg - ment right to judg - es of the land.
and give de - liv' - rance to the weak by law - less pow'r op - pressed.

"How long will ye, with wrong - ful aid, the ty - rant's cause pro - tect?
All ye are gods, ye kings," I said, "and sons of God Most High;

How long, by gift and fa - vor swayed, the wick - ed man re - spect?"
Yet as the sons of men ye fade, and as the prin - ces die."

D.C. al Fine

Text: Psalm 82:1-8, *The Psalter of the United Presbyterian Church*, 1887, alt. 2015;
Music: WINSTEAD HILL, Henry C. Haffner, 2015.

Scripture Reading—Psalm 82:1-8

God has taken His place in the divine council;
in the midst of the gods he holds judgment:
“How long will you judge unjustly
and show partiality to the wicked? *Selah*
Give justice to the weak and the fatherless;
maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute.
Rescue the weak and the needy;
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”

They have neither knowledge nor understanding,
they walk about in darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

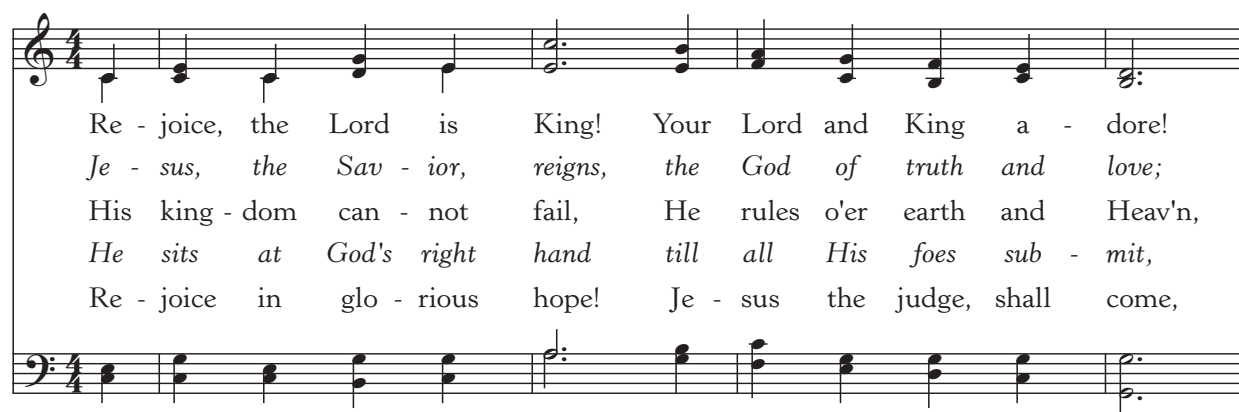
I said, “You are gods,
sons of the Most High, all of you;
nevertheless, like men you shall die,
and fall like any prince.”

Arise, O God, judge the earth;
for you shall inherit all the nations!

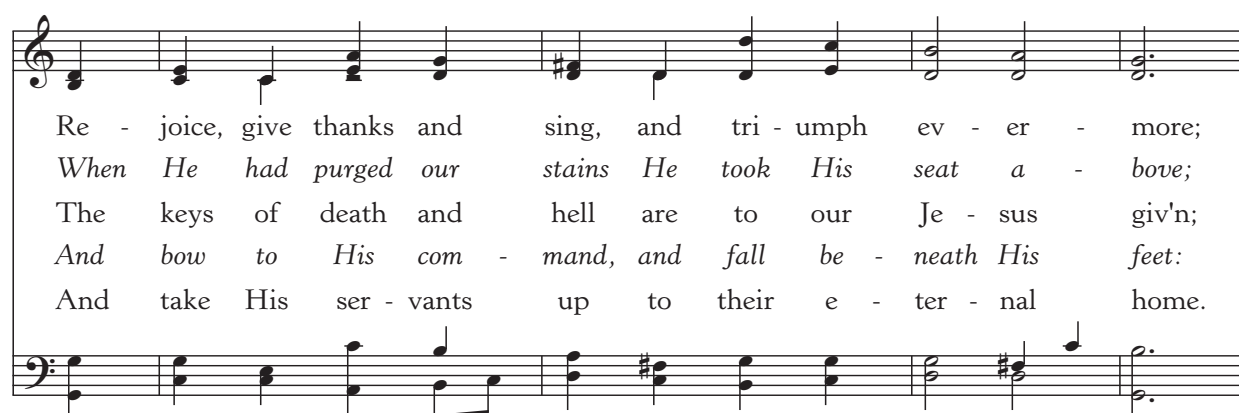
Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to 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.

Sermon Text—Acts 22:22-23:10

Up to this word they listened to him. Then they raised their voices and said, “Away with such a fellow from the earth! For he should not be allowed to live.” ²³ And as they were shouting and throwing off their cloaks and flinging dust into the air, ²⁴ the tribune ordered him to be brought into the barracks, saying that he should be examined by flogging, to find out why they were shouting against him like this. ²⁵ But when they had stretched him out for the whips, Paul said to the centurion who was standing by, “Is it lawful for you to flog a man who is a Roman citizen and uncondemned?” ²⁶ When the centurion heard this, he went to the tribune and said to him, “What are you about to do? For this man is a Roman citizen.” ²⁷ So the tribune came and said to him, “Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?” And he said, “Yes.”

²⁸ The tribune answered, “I bought this citizenship for a large sum.” Paul said, “But I am a citizen by birth.” ²⁹ So those who were about to examine him withdrew from him immediately, and the tribune also was afraid, for he realized that Paul was a Roman citizen and that he had bound him. ³⁰ But on the next day, desiring to know the real reason why he was being accused by the Jews, he unbound him and commanded the chief priests and all the council to meet, and he brought Paul down and set him before them.

^{23:1} And looking intently at the council, Paul said, “Brothers, I have lived my life before God in all good conscience up to this day.” ² And the high priest Ananias commanded those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth. ³ Then Paul said to him, “God is going to strike you, you whitewashed wall! Are you sitting to judge me according to the law, and yet contrary to the law you order me to be struck?” ⁴ Those who stood by said, “Would you revile God's high priest?” ⁵ And Paul said, “I did not know, brothers, that he was the high priest, for it is written, ‘You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.’”

⁶ Now when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, “Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. It is with respect to the hope and the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial.” ⁷ And when he had said this, a dissension arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. ⁸ For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor angel, nor spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all. ⁹ Then a great clamor arose, and some of the scribes of the Pharisees' party stood up and contended sharply, “We find nothing wrong in this man. What if a spirit or an angel spoke to him?” ¹⁰ And when the dissension became violent, the tribune, afraid that Paul would be torn to pieces by them, commanded the soldiers to go down and take him away from among them by force and bring him into the barracks.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—O Lord Most High (Psalm 9), Vs. 2



The Lord, the ev - er - last - ing King, seat - ed on His judg - ment throne;



The right - eous judge of all the world will make His per - fect jus - tice known.



Hope of the poor, to You we cry! A - rise, O Lord, de - fend the weak!



Sing Praise to the Lord en - throned on High! De - clare to all His might - y deeds!

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 Corinthians 4:1-6

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. We are servants of Christ and stewards of the gifts of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. But it is a very small thing that we should be judged by others or by any human court. In fact, we do not even judge ourselves.

All: For even if we are not aware of anything against ourselves, we are not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges us.

Pastor: Therefore, Lord, do not pronounce judgment before the time, before You come again.

All: You will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart.

Pastor: Then each one of us will receive his commendation from God.

All: Help us to learn not to go beyond what is written, that none of us may be puffed up in favor of one against another.

(Silent prayers of confession)

Sung Response—Kyrie

The musical score is written for two parts: WOMEN (treble clef) and MEN (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Lord have mer-cy — Christ have mer-cy — Up - on us." The Women part has a melodic line with a repeat sign at the end. The Men part has a harmonic line with a repeat sign at the end.

WOMEN

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

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—from Romans 4:22-25

[The Bible says of Abraham that] his faith was “counted to him as righteousness.” But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

Pastor: This is the promise of God.

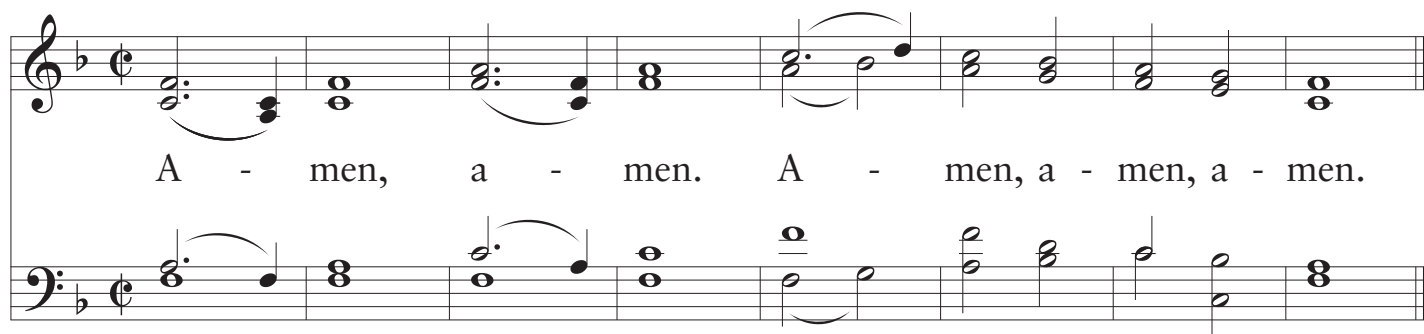
All: This is the Word of the Lord.

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



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

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.**

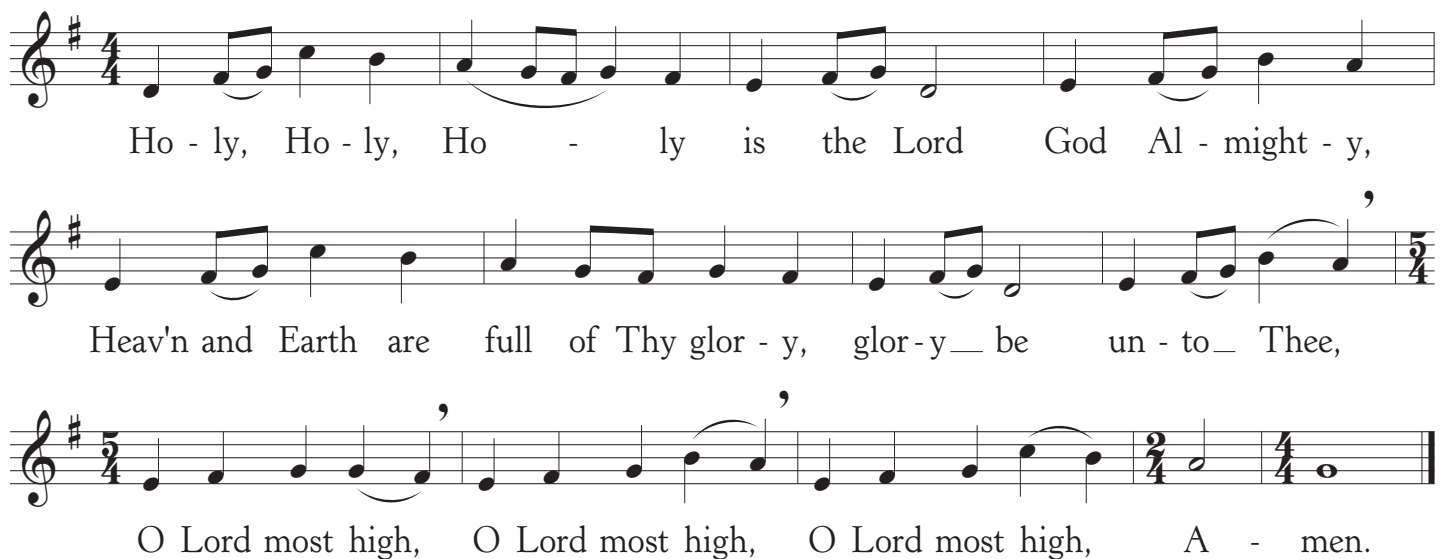
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

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:



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—The Lord Has Spoken To My Lord (Psalm 110)



The Lord has spo - ken to my Lord, "at My right hand take Your seat,
Your peo - ple in Your day of_ pow'r free-ly give them-selves to You;
And when the day of wrath has come; then the Lord at Your right hand



Un - til I make Your en - e - mies in - to a foot-stool for Your feet."
Your youth, all clothed in ho - li - ness, ap - pear each day like morn-ing's dew.
Will crush great kings and na - tions judge, with fall - en bod - ies fill the land.



The Lord from Zi - on will ex - tend the migh - ty scep - ter in Your hand:
The Lord has sworn a sol - emn oath from which He'll ne - ver be re - leased;
Just - ly con - demned be-neath His rule will heads of ma - ny na-tions die;



"Rule in the midst of en - e - mies, sub - due each un - der Your com - mand."
"In th'or - der of Mel - chi - ze - dek for - ev - er more You are a priest."
But from the brook He'll stop to drink, and His own head He'll lift up high.

Text: Psalm 110:1-7; *The Book of Psalms for Worship*, © 2010 Crown and Covenant Publications.
Music: JERUSALEM, Hubert Parry, 1916, arr. Brian E. Coombs and Andrew K. Schep, 2004.

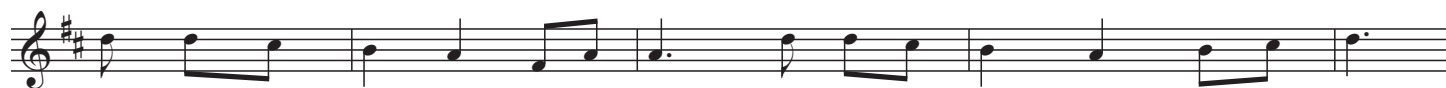
Congregational Hymn—Before The Throne Of God Above



Be - fore the throne of God a - bove I have a strong and per - fect plea.
When Sa - tan tempts me to des - pair and tells me of the guilt with - in,
Be - hold Him there the ris - en Lamb, my per - fect spot - less righteous - ness,



A great high Priest whose name is love who ev - er lives and pleads for me.
Up - ward I look and see Him there who made an end of all my sin.
The great un - change - a - ble I AM, the King of glo - ry and of grace,



My name is grav - en on His hands, my name is writ - ten on His heart.
Be - cause the sin - less Sav - ior died my sin - ful soul is count - ed free.
One in Him - self I can - not die, my soul is pur - chased by His blood,



I know that while in Heav'n He stands no tongue can bid me thence de - part.
For God the just is sat - is - fied to look on Him and par - don me.
My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my Sav - ior and my God!



No tongue can bid me thence de - part.
To look on Him and par - don me.
With Christ my Sav - ior and my God!

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

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 Firm A Foundation

How firm a foun - da - tion, you saints of the Lord,
Fear not, I am with you, O be not dis - mayed;
When through the deep wa - ters I call you to go,
When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way shall lie,

Is laid for your faith in His ex - cel - lent Word!
For I am your God, and will still give you aid;
The riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;
My grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply;

What more can He say than to you He has said,
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
For I will be with you, your trou - bles to bless,
The flame shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign

To you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
Up - held by My righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
And sanc - ti - fy to you your deep - est dis - tress.
Your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine.

Text: "K" in John Rippon's *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787;
Music: FOUNDATION, Traditional American melody.

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—from 2 Corinthians 4:14-15

He who raised the Lord Jesus raise you also with Jesus and bring you into His presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. *Amen.*

Sung Response—Unto Christ Who Loved Us



Un-to Christ, who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,
And has made us kings and priests un - to God and His Fa - ther:
Un-to Him be glo-ry and do-min-ion for - ev-er and ev-er. A - men.

CCLI #2844402 ©1936 Oxford University Press; Text: Revelation 1:5-6;
Music: UNTO HIM WHO LOVED US, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1936.

Announcements

Worship Notes:

Acts 22-23 tells the story of Paul defending himself to the Jewish authorities after his arrest, one of several legal trials he will endure before the end of his earthly Apostolic career. Courtroom imagery and language can be found throughout this morning's service: see how often you find terms like "judge," "justice," "acquitted," "condemned," and "plea" in the bulletin. *Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah* (a versification of Psalm 146) invites us to praise our God, who has the power to "set the mourning prisoner free" and sends "judgment on the wicked." We read and sing from Psalm 82, which pictures God holding judgment in a rather mysterious "divine council," warning against unjust partiality towards the wicked, and encouraging justice to the weak and poor. Hymns like *Rejoice, The Lord Is King* and *O Lord Most High (Psalm 9)* call Jesus "the judge," who is seated on His "judgment throne" where He makes "perfect justice known." In contrast to the Gospel Invitation from John 3, which declares that Christ did not come "into the world to condemn," Psalm 110 (which we sing in the second half of the service) looks forward to great kings and nations being "justly condemned beneath His rule." But the trial imagery can also be comforting: the hymn *Before The Throne Of God* reassures us with a courtroom scene in which God, who is indeed "just," is satisfied to look on Jesus and pardon guilty sinners like us.

—Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Shouting, Law, Citizen, Bound, Judge, Ruler, Resurrection, Dissension

Keystone Verses: It is with respect to the hope and the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial. (Acts 23:6)