



PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Ordinary Time

21 July 2024

Once you become aware that the main business that you are here for is to know God, most of life's problems fall into place of their own accord. —J.I. Packer

We must not forget that the Bible first reveals not the love of God but the intense, blazing holiness of God, with His love at the center of that holiness. —Oswald Chambers

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—Ephesians 2:13-14

Now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace.

Sung Response—Rejoice, The Lord Is King, Vs. 1

Re - joice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King a - dore!

Re - joice, give thanks and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more;

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

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of three systems. Each system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment line in the bass clef. The lyrics are placed below the vocal line. The first system ends with a double bar line. The second system ends with a double bar line. The third system ends with a double bar line.

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

Call to Worship—from Psalm 48:1, 9-14

Pastor: Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised in the city of our God!

All: We have thought on Your steadfast love, O God.

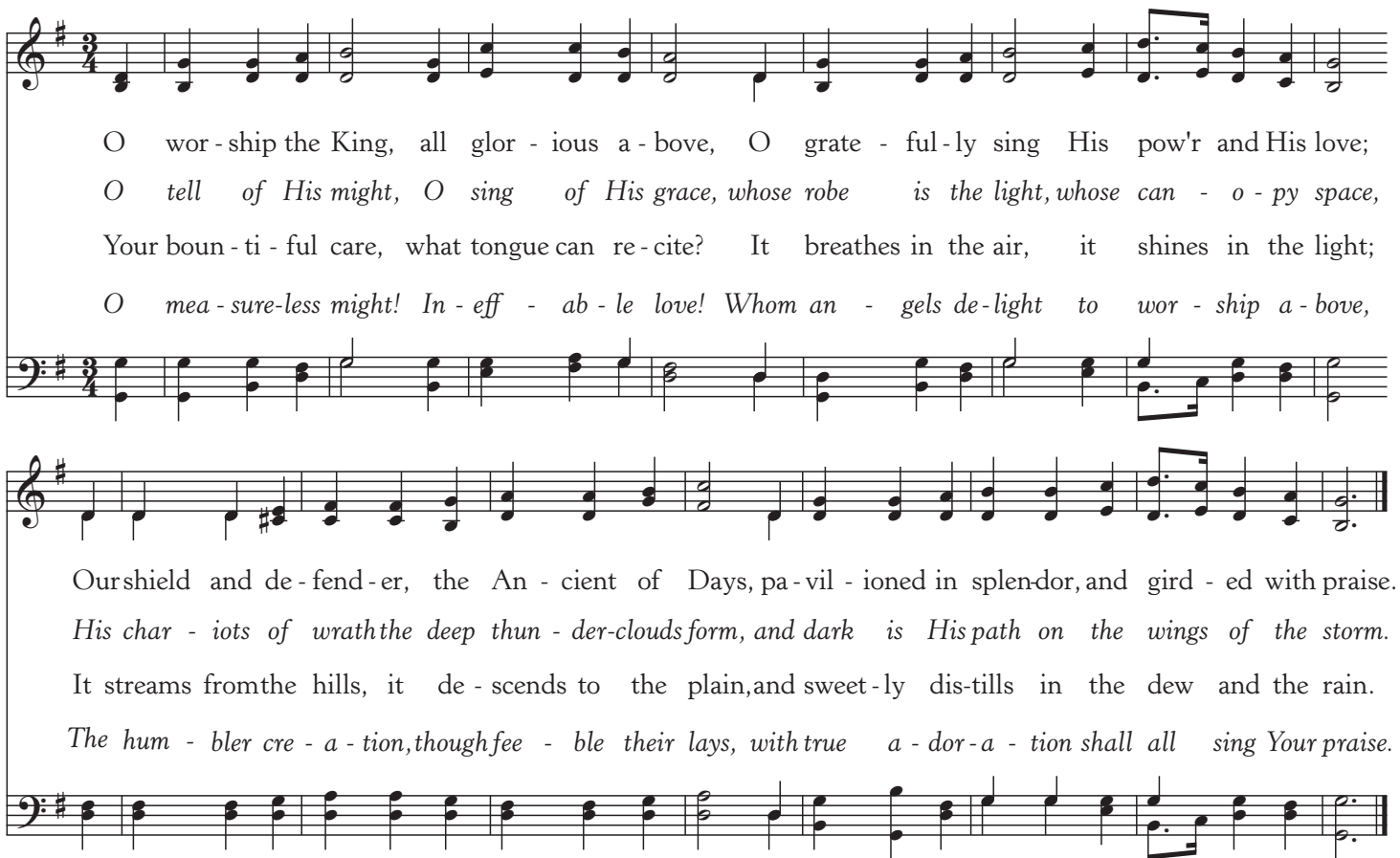
Reader 1: As Your name, O God, so Your praise reaches to the ends of the earth. Your right hand is filled with righteousness.

Reader 2: Let Mount Zion be glad! Let the daughters of Judah rejoice because of Your judgments!

All: Tell the next generation that this is God, our God forever and ever.

Pastor: He will guide us forever.

Congregational Hymn—O Worship The King



O wor - ship the King, all glor - ious a - bove, O grate - ful - ly sing His pow'r and His love;
O tell of His might, O sing of His grace, whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py space,
Your boun - ti - ful care, what tongue can re - cite? It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
O mea - sure - less might! In - eff - ab - le love! Whom an - gels de - light to wor - ship a - bove,
Our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days, pa - vil - ioned in splendor, and gird - ed with praise.
His char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form, and dark is His path on the wings of the storm.
It streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain, and sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.
The hum - bler cre - a - tion, though fee - ble their lays, with true a - dor - a - tion shall all sing Your praise.

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

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—Blest Be The Lord, My Rock, My Might (Psalm 144)



Blest be the Lord, my rock, my might, who trains my fin - gers for the fight
Lord, bow Your heav'ns, in might de - scend, come touch the hills the moun - tains rend
O You to whom in trust I flee, stretch forth your hand and res - cue me
Now I will sing a glad new song, Your praise, O God, I will pro - long



My shield, my righ - teous - ness, — My shield, my righ - teous - ness. —
And they shall smoke and flame, — And they shall smoke and flame. —
From all the for - eign throng, From all the for - eign throng. —
For You have heard my prayer, For You have heard my prayer. —



My strong high tow'r, my Sa - vior true, who keeps my en - e - mies sub - dued
As ar - rows send Your light - ning out, to put Your en - e - mies to rout
Their mouths are false for lies they speak, their hands of strength a - gainst the weak,
You give the vic - to - ry to kings, Your own You keep with shel - t'ring wings



My shel - ter in dis - tress, — My shel - ter in dis - tress.
And fill Your foes with shame, — And fill Your foes with shame.
Are filled with craft and wrong, — Are filled with craft and wrong.
From cru - el sword and snare, — From cru - el sword and snare.

Text: Psalm 144:1-2, 5-10, *The Psalter*, 1912, alt. Henry C. Haffner, 2016; Music: POLK COUNTY, Henry C. Haffner, 2016.

Scripture Reading—Ephesians 1:3-10

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us for adoption to Himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will to the praise of His glorious grace, with which He has blessed us in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight, making known to us the mystery of His will, according to His purpose, which He set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Him, things in heaven and things on earth.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Congregational Hymn—Great And Marvelous



Great and mar-ve-lous are Your deeds, — Lord, God Al - migh - ty.
All the na - tions soon will come and wor - ship be - fore Your throne;



Just and true are all Your ways, — King of the a - ges!
For these all, Your right-eous deeds, — have been made known.

Chorus



Who will not fear You, O Lord, and glor - i - fy Your name?



You a - lone are ho - ly; You a - lone are ho - ly!

Text: based on Revelation 15:3-4; Music: George Grant, 1999, arr. Nathan George, 2011.

Reading of the Word—Psalm 18:1-29

TO THE CHOIRMASTER. A PSALM OF DAVID, THE SERVANT OF THE LORD, WHO ADDRESSED THE WORDS OF THIS SONG TO THE LORD ON THE DAY WHEN THE LORD DELIVERED HIM FROM THE HAND OF ALL HIS ENEMIES, AND FROM THE HAND OF SAUL. HE SAID:

I love you, O Lord, my strength. ²The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. ³I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.

⁴The cords of death encompassed me; the torrents of destruction assailed me; ⁵the cords of Sheol entangled me; the snares of death confronted me.

⁶In my distress I called upon the Lord; to my God I cried for help. From His temple He heard my voice, and my cry to Him reached His ears. ⁷Then the earth reeled and rocked; the foundations also of the mountains trembled and quaked, because He was angry. ⁸Smoke went up from His nostrils, and devouring fire from His mouth; glowing coals flamed forth from Him. ⁹He bowed the heavens and came down; thick darkness was under His feet. ¹⁰He rode on a cherub and flew; He came swiftly on the wings of the wind. ¹¹He made darkness His covering, His canopy around Him, thick clouds dark with water. ¹²Out of the brightness before Him hailstones and coals of fire broke through His clouds.

¹³The Lord also thundered in the heavens, and the Most High uttered His voice, hailstones and coals of fire. ¹⁴And He sent out His arrows and scattered them; He flashed forth lightnings and routed them. ¹⁵Then the channels of the sea were seen, and the foundations of the world were laid bare at Your rebuke, O Lord, at the blast of the breath of Your nostrils.

¹⁶ He sent from on high, He took me; He drew me out of many waters. ¹⁷ He rescued me from my strong enemy and from those who hated me, for they were too mighty for me. ¹⁸ They confronted me in the day of my calamity, but the Lord was my support. ¹⁹ He brought me out into a broad place; He rescued me, because He delighted in me.

²⁰ The Lord dealt with me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands He rewarded me. ²¹ For I have kept the ways of the Lord, and have not wickedly departed from my God. ²² For all His rules were before me, and His statutes I did not put away from me. ²³ I was blameless before Him, and I kept myself from my guilt. ²⁴ So the Lord has rewarded me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands in His sight.

²⁵ With the merciful You show Yourself merciful; with the blameless man You show Yourself blameless; ²⁶ with the purified You show Yourself pure; and with the crooked You make Yourself seem tortuous. ²⁷ For You save a humble people, but the haughty eyes You bring down. ²⁸ For it is you who light my lamp; the Lord my God lightens my darkness. ²⁹ For by You I can run against a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—A Mighty Fortress Is Our God, Vs. 1

A musical score for the first verse of the hymn 'A Mighty Fortress Is Our God'. The score is written in 4/4 time and consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: 'A might-y fort - ress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er fail - ing;'. The second staff continues: 'Our help - er He, a - mid the flood of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing;'. The third staff continues: 'For still our an - cient foe doth seek to work us woe; His craft and power are great,'. The fourth staff concludes: 'And, armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.'

Text: paraphrase of Psalm 46, Martin Luther, 1529, tr. Frederick H. Hedge, 1853;
Music: EIN'FESTE BURG, Martin Luther, 1529.

Sermon—Sovereign God, Sovereign Grace

—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 Ephesians 2:1-3, 12

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. We were dead in the trespasses and sins in which we once walked.

All: We were following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience.

Pastor: We were carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

All: We were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

Assurance of Pardon—Ephesians 2:4-7; Romans 1:16-17

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Pastor: This is the promise of God.

All: This is the Word of the Lord.

Pastor: Therefore, I am not ashamed of the Gospel.

All: It is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.

Pastor: For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”

Sung Response—My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less, refrain

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

All oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

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 Hymn—The Lord Is King



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

Congregational Hymn—How Great Thou Art



O Lord my God, when I in awes-ome won-der con - si - der all the worlds Thy hands have made,
And when I think that God, His Son not spar-ing, sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in,
When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!



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



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'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 Psalm—I Love You, Lord, My Strength (Psalm 18)



I love you, Lord, my strength, my rock, the Lord my fort, my shield, my pow'r,
The cords of death entangled me; destruction struck me like a wave.
The earth before God's anger quaked; the mountains deep foundations shook.
Deep channels of the sea lay bare, with earth's foundations deep and vast,



My God in whom I refuge seek, my horn of safety, my strong tow'r.
Encircled by the snares of death, I faced the terrors of the grave.
His mouth blazed forth consuming flames; His nostrils billowed fire and smoke.
O Lord, when Your rebuke went forth the power of Your nostrils blast.



I call upon the Lord for help how worthy is the Lord of praise!
I called on God in my distress; I cried unto the Lord for aid.
The heavens parted He came down; dark clouds beneath His feet were laid.
From heav'n He reached to grasp my hand and lift me as the waters rose



And I am saved from all my foes, the adversaries of my ways.
He from His temple heard my voice, He listened to the pray'r I made.
He flew upon the cherubim; on wings of wind He made His way.
He saved me from the enemy, from all my overpowering foes.

Text: Psalm 18:1-10, 15-17, OPC/URCNA Psalter, 2016; Music: JORDAN, Joseph Barnby, 1872,
harm. Dale Grotenhuis, 2009.

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—Ephesians 2:8-10

By grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. *Amen.*

Sung Response—Doxology

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

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

Text: Thomas Ken, 1709; Music: OLD 100TH, Louis Bourgeois's *Genevan Psalter*, 1551.

Announcements

Worship Notes:

The first half of Psalm 18 depicts God's awesome power and majesty, vividly describing Him as a rock, fortress, deliverer, shield, a "horn of salvation," and a stronghold, among other things. Most of the music we sing in this morning's service picks up on or elaborates on these concepts. *Blest Be The Lord, My Rock, My Might (Psalm 144)* incorporates nearly all this language (rock, shield, tower, shelter) and depicts God wielding the storm and the clouds to harass His enemies—an image we also find in Psalm 18:7-15. Similarly, *O Worship The King* calls the Lord our "shield and defender," *My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less* calls Him a "solid rock" contrasted with sinking sand, and *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* calls him a "fortress," a "bulwark never failing," and a "helper amid the flood." *Great And Marvelous, The Lord Is King*, and *How Great Thou Art*, while not using the exact phrasing from Psalm 18, all point to God's awesome transcendence, glory, and omnipotence. The service concludes with singing selected verses of Psalm 18 itself, praising our glorious "horn of safety" and "strong tower," crying out to the Mighty God who shakes the foundations of the mountains, and giving thanks that He graciously saves us from our enemies.—Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Rock, Fortress, Deliverer, Refuge, Fire, Wind, Rescued, Merciful, Save

Keystone Verse: He rescued me because He delighted in me. (Psalm 18:19)



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