



PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Epiphany Season

2 February 2025

The more you mow us down, the thicker we rise; the blood of Christians is the seed of the church. —Tertullian

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—Acts 1:8

Jesus said, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Sung Response—O Worship The King, Vs. 1

The musical score is written in G major and 3/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a bass line. The vocal line begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The bass line begins with a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp. The lyrics are: "O wor-ship the King, all glor-ious a - bove, O grate-ful-ly sing His pow'r and His love;". The second system also has a vocal line and a bass line. The vocal line begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The bass line begins with a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp. The lyrics are: "Our shield and de-fend-er, the An-cient of Days, pa-vil-ioned in splen-dor, and gird - ed with praise." The score ends with a double bar line.

O wor-ship the King, all glor-ious a - bove, O grate-ful-ly sing His pow'r and His love;

Our shield and de-fend-er, the An-cient of Days, pa-vil-ioned in splen-dor, and gird - ed with praise.

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

Call to Worship—Psalm 30:1, 4-5, 11-12

Pastor: Sing praises to the Lord, O you His saints, and give thanks to His holy name.

All: For His anger is but for a moment, and His favor is for a lifetime.

Reader 1: Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

Reader 2: We will extol You, O Lord, for You have drawn us up and have not let our foes rejoice over us.

All: You have turned for us our mourning into dancing; You have loosed our sackcloth and clothed us with gladness.

Pastor: Our glory will sing Your praise and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to You forever!

Congregational Hymn—All Hail The Power Of Jesus' Name

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'All Hail The Power Of Jesus' Name'. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines.

All hail the power of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;
Ye seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race, ye ran - somed of the fall,
Let ev - ery kin - dred, ev - ery tribe, on this ter - res - trial ball,
O that, with yon - der sa - cred throng, we at His feet may fall,

Bring forth the ro - yal di - a - dem, and crown Him Lord of__ all.
Hail Him who saves you by__ His grace, and crown Him Lord of__ all.
To Him all ma - jes - ty__ as - cribe and crown Him Lord of__ all.
We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, and crown Him Lord of__ all.


Bring forth the ro - yal di - a - dem, and crown Him Lord__ of all.
Hail Him who saves you by__ His grace, and crown Him Lord__ of all.
To Him all ma - jes - ty__ as - cribe and crown Him Lord__ of all.
We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, and crown Him Lord__ of all.

Text: Edward Perronet, 1779, John Rippon, 1787; Music: CORONATION, Oliver Holden, 1793,
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. 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—All Nations Clap Your Hands (Psalm 47)



All na - tions clap your hands, let shouts of tri - umph ring,
He stilled the peo - ple's rage, ty - rants He cast a - side
With shouts a - scends our King, with trump - ets' stir - ring call;
O sing in joy - ful strains, with psalms His truth make known;
The heirs of gen - tile thrones as Abr - am's child - ren meet.

For migh - ty o - ver all the lands the Lord Most High is ___ King.
For us He chose our her - i - tage, be - lov - ed Ja - cob's pride.
O praise ye God, His prais - es sing, for God is Lord of ___ all.
He o - ver all ___ the na - tions reigns up - on His ho - ly ___ throne.
The shields of earth Je - ho - vah owns; ex - al - ted is ___ His seat.

Text: Psalm 47:1-9, *The Psalter of the United Presbyterian Church*, 1887, alt. 2018;

Music: THIRD AVENUE, Henry C. Haffner & Elizabeth Dowdell, 2018.

Scripture Reading—Jeremiah 31:10-14

Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock.” For the Lord has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall be like a watered garden, and they shall languish no more. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow. I will feast the soul of the priests with abundance, and My people shall be satisfied with My goodness, declares the Lord.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Congregational Psalm—How Sweet And Awful Is The Place

The image shows a musical score for a congregational psalm. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system ends with a fermata over the final note. The second system ends with a double bar line.

How sweet and aw - ful is the place with Christ with - in the doors,
While all our hearts and all our songs join to ad - mire the feast,
"Why was I made to hear Thy voice, and en - ter while there's room,
Pit - y the na - tions, O our God, con - strain the earth to come;

While ev - er - last - ing love dis - plays the choic - est of her stores.
Each of us cry, with thank - ful tongues, "Lord, why was I a guest?
When thou - sands make a wretch - ed choice, and rath - er starve than come?"
Send Thy vic - to - rious Word a - broad, and bring the strang - ers home.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1707; Music: ST. COLUMBA, Irish melody, harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906.

Reading of the Word—Acts 8:1-8

And Saul approved of [Stephen's] execution.

And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. ² Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. ³ But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.

⁴ Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. ⁵ Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. ⁶ And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. ⁷ For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed.

⁸ So there was much joy in that city.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sung Response—O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing, Vs. 2

My gra-cious mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,
To spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of Thy name.

The image shows a musical score for a two-part setting of the hymn 'O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing, Vs. 2'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/2. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system covers the first line of lyrics, and the second system covers the second line. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and moving lines.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1739; Music: Azmon, Carl G. Glaser, 1828, arr. Lowell Mason, 1839.

Sermon—*The Blood Of The Martyrs Is The Seed Of The Church*

—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 1 Peter 4:12-16

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. You have told us not to be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon us to test us, as though something strange were happening to us. Instead, we should rejoice insofar as we share Christ's sufferings, that we may also rejoice and be glad when His glory is revealed.

All: **But we are surprised when we suffer, and we are ashamed of Jesus and His words.**

Pastor: If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

All: **But we often suffer as evildoers or as meddlers instead of suffering as Christians.**

(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—1 Peter 3:18, 22; Matthew 28:19-20

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit. Jesus Christ has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to Him.

Pastor: This is the promise of God.

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

Pastor: Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

All: **Thanks be to God, our refuge, our strength, and our redeemer.**

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—I Waited Patient For The Lord (Psalm 40)



I wait-ed pa - tient for the Lord, He bowed to hear my cry;
Firm on a rock He made me stand, and taught my cheer - ful tongue
How man - y are Thy thoughts of love! Thy mer - cies, Lord, how great!



He saw me rest - ing on His Word, and brought sal - va - tion nigh.
To praise the won - ders of His hand, in a new thank - ful song.
We have not words nor hours e - nough their num - bers to re - peat.




He raised me from a hor - rid pit, where mourn - ing long I lay,
I'll spread His works of grace a - broad; the saints with joy shall hear,
When I'm af - flict - ed, poor, and low, and light and peace de - part,




And from my bonds re - leased my feet, deep bonds of mir - y clay.
And sin - ners learn to make my God their on - ly hope and fear.
My God be - holds my hea - vy woe, and bears me on His heart.

Text: paraphrase of Psalm 40, Isaac Watts, 1719; Music: FINGAL, Traditional Irish melody,
arr. Gregory Wilbur & Jeremiah Small, 2008.


Congregational Hymn—O Church, Arise




O Church, a - rise, and put your ar - mor on; hear the call of Christ our cap - tain.
Our call to war, to love the cap - tive soul, but to rage a - gainst the cap - tor;
Come see the cross, where love and mer - cy meet, as the Son of God is strick - en;



For now the weak can say that they are strong, in the strength that God has giv - en.
And with the sword that makes the wound - ed whole, we will fight with faith and val - or.
Then see His foes lie crushed be - neath His feet, for the con - quer - or has ris - en.



With shield of faith and belt of truth, we'll stand a - gainst the dev - il's lies;
When faced with trials on ev - 'ry side, we know the out - come is se - cure.
And as the stone is rolled a - way and Christ e - merg - es from the grave,



An ar - my bold, whose bat - tle cry is love, reach - ing out to those in dark - ness.
And Christ will have the prize for which He died, an in - her - i - tance of na - tions.
This vic - tory march con - tin - ues till the day ev - 'ry eye and heart shall see Him.

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—There's A Wideness In God's Mercy

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are as follows:

There's a wide - ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness of the sea;
There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and more grac - es for the good;
There is plen - ti - ful re - demp-tion in the blood that has been shed;
It is God: His love looks might - y, but is might - ier than it seems;

There's a kind - ness in His jus - tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.
There is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in His blood.
There is joy for all the mem - bers in the sor - rows of the Head.
'Tis our Fath - er: and His fond - ness goes far out be - yond our dreams.

There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in Heaven;
For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sure of our mind;
Souls of men! why will ye scat - ter like a crowd of fright-ened sheep?
Was there ev - er kind - er shep - herd half so gen - tle, half so sweet,

There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given.
And the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.
Fool - ish hearts! why will ye wan - der from a love so true and deep?
As the Sav - ior who would have us come and gath - er at His feet?

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1854; Music: HOLY MANNA, William Moore, 1825.

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—Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. *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:

Today's service begins with Jesus' command for His disciples to be His witnesses "in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Right from the start, the elements of worship this morning portray the spread of the gospel—from person to person and nation to nation. Hymns like *All Hail The Power Of Jesus' Name* and Psalms like *All Nations Clap Your Hands—Psalm 47* declare that "every kindred [and] every tribe" will call Christ their Lord, that "all nations" will shout His praises, and that He will raise up children for Abraham from among the gentiles. The reading from Jeremiah 31 envisions a time when even the "coastlands far away" will be gathered into His flock. We respond with *How Sweet And Awful Is The Place*, asking God to "send [His] victorious Word abroad and bring the strangers home." We read the story of the disciples who, though scattered from their homes, nonetheless "went about preaching the word," (Acts 8:4), and we ask God to help us "spread through all the earth abroad the honors of Thy name." *O Church, Arise* presents the "call of Christ our captain" to reach out to those lost in the darkness of sin, and *I Waited Patient—Psalm 40* (a psalm setting partially arranged by an actual martyred missionary) encourages us that our Lord hears our cries when faced with opposition. God's Word will go forth, and "sinners [will] learn to make [our] God their only hope and fear." —Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Persecution, Prison, Scatter, Bury, Preach, Heal, Joy

Keystone Verse: Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. (Acts 8:4)



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Elders

Keith Cannon (636-7137)	Tom Goddard (218-3654)	Brandon Herrenbruck (339-5516)
Michael Mastroberti (973-879-1368)	Mike Misericocchi (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)
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All Biblical quotes taken from the English Standard Version unless otherwise noted.