



PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Season of Easter

21 April 2024

If it be inquired, then, by what things chiefly the Christian religion has a standing existence amongst us, and maintains its truth, it will be found that the following two not only occupy the principal place, but comprehend under them all the other parts, and consequently the whole substance of Christianity: *first*, a knowledge of the way in which God is duly worshipped; and, *secondly*, of the source from which salvation is to be obtained. —John Calvin

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 1:7

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.

Sung Response—Christ Is Risen! Hallelujah! Vs. 1

Christ is ris - en! Hal-le - lu - jah! Ris - en our vic - tor - ious Head!

Sing His prais - es! Hal-le - lu - jah! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

Grate - ful - ly our hearts a - dore Him, as His light once more ap - pears,

Bow - ing down in joy be - fore Him, ris - ing up from grief and tears,

Sing His prais - es! Hal-le - lu - jah! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

CCLI #2844402 Text: James S.B. Monsell, 1863; Music: BEACH SPRING (FOUNT OF GLORY),
attr. B. F. White, 1844, R.W. Thompson, 1854, arr. Gregory Wilbur, 2010.

Call to Worship—Psalm 48:1-3, 12-14

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

All: His holy mountain, beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth, Mount Zion, the city of the great King.

Reader 1: Within her citadels God has made Himself known as a fortress.

Reader 2: Walk about Zion, go around her, number her towers, consider well her ramparts, go through her citadels.

All: We will 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,

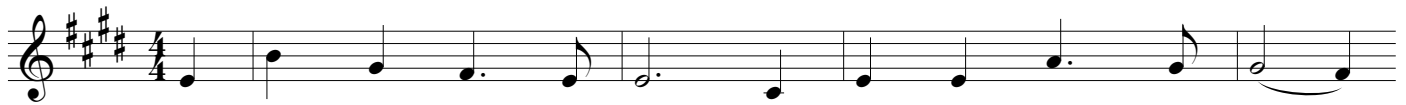
Our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days, pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor, and gird - ed with praise.
His char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form, and dark is His path on the wings of the storm.
It streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain, and sweet - ly dis - tills 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—The Mighty God, The Lord (Psalm 50)



The might - y God, the Lord, hath spo - ken un - to all;—
Our God shall sure - ly come, and si - lence shall not keep;—
“To - geth - er let My saints un - to Me gath - ered be,—



From ris - ing to the set - ting sun, He un - to Earth doth call.
Be - fore Him fire shall waste, and storms tem - pes - tuous round Him sweep.
Those that by sac - ri - fice have made a cov - e - nant with Me.”



From Zi - on, His own hill, where per - fect beau - ty dwells,
He to the heav’ns a - bove shall then send forth His call,
Then shall the heav’ns de - clare His righ - teous - ness a - broad;



Je - ho - vah hath His glo - ry shown, in bright - ness that ex - cels.
And like - wise to the earth, that He may judge His peo - ple all.
Be - cause the Lord Him - self is judge, yea, none is judge, but God.

Text: Psalm 50:1-5, *The Scottish Psalter*, 1650; Music: Traditional Scottish melody, 17th century,
arr. Gregory Wilbur, 1998.

Scripture Reading—Haggai 2:6-9

Thus says the Lord of hosts: Yet once more, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land. And I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this house with glory, says the Lord of hosts. The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine, declares the Lord of hosts. The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts. And in this place I will give peace, declares the Lord of hosts.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

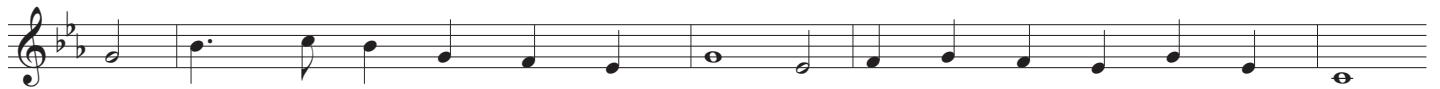
Congregational Psalm—By Babylon’s Great Riverside (Psalm 137)



By Ba - by - lon's great ri - ver - side we cap - tive peo - ples sat and wept;
 For there our cap - tors asked for songs; tor - ment - ing us, they asked for praise;
 Re - mem - ber Lord, how they laid bare our home up - on that dread - ful day;



While o - ver all our hearts the tide of Zi - on's me - mor - ies had swept.
 Re - quir - ing songs that hap - py throngs on Zi - on had been known to raise.
 Though wick - ed E - dom now seems fair, her sons are doomed to pass a - way.



On weep - ing wil - lows, droop - ing low, our si - lent, joy - less harps we hung;
 But how can we, in for - eign land, Je - ho - vah's songs be made to sing?
 Re - mem - ber Lord, the dread - ful day of our land's fall and bit - ter woe

Verse 1&2, then Chorus



Their strings were bro - ken, tuned with woe, when with such aw - ful grief they sung.
 If I for - get you, let this hand lose all its skill up - on the string.
 How hap - py he who shall re - pay the cru - el hat - red of her foe.

Chorus



If I do not re - mem - ber you, for - get my songs, let lan - guage cease



If I should place a - no - ther joy a - bove my care for Zi - on's peace.

Text: Psalm 137:1-6, Edward Collier, *Lyrics from the Psalter*, 1907; Psalm 137:7-9, *The Psalter*, 1912;

Music: WILLIAMSON, Henry C. Haffner, 2021.

Reading of the Word—Hebrews 12:18-29

¹⁸ For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest ¹⁹ and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. ²⁰ For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned.” ²¹ Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.” ²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴ and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

²⁵ See that you do not refuse Him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused Him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject Him who warns from heaven. ²⁶ At that time His voice shook the earth, but now He has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.” ²⁷ This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸ Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, ²⁹ for our God is a consuming fire.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—My Soul Waits In Expectation (Psalm 62), Vs. 2

In my God I rest and glo - ry, for sal - va - tion is most sure.

In the God and rock of strength, is my re - fuge most se - cure.

I shall not be great - ly shak - en, from my strong - hold and de - fense,

from my strong - hold and de - fense

Text: from Psalm 62, alt. Nathan George, 2011; Music: Nathan George, 2011.

Sermon—Worshipping on Mount Zion

—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 Isaiah 5:24-25; Jeremiah 8:9

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. As the tongue of fire devours the stubble, and as dry grass sinks down in the flame, so our root is as rotteness, and our blossom goes up like dust.

All: **For we have rejected the law of the Lord of hosts, and we have despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.**

Pastor: Therefore the anger of the Lord was kindled against His people, and He stretched out His hand against them and struck them, and the mountains quaked.

All: **We have rejected the word of the Lord, so what wisdom is in us?**

Assurance of Pardon—from Romans 3:25-26

God put forward Christ Jesus as a propitiation by His blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in His divine forbearance He had passed over former sins. It was to show His righteousness at the present time, so that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Pastor: This is the promise of God. This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **What is impossible with man is possible with God.**

Sung Response—O Lord Of Hosts How Lovely (Psalm 84), Vs. 3



Blest they who dwell in Zi-on whose joy and strength Thou art
For - ev - er they will praise Thee, Thy ways are in their heart
Though tired, their tears like show-ers shall fill the springs of peace
And all the way to Zi - on their strength shall be in - creased.

Text: Psalm 84:5-7, *The Psalter*, 1912, alt. Henry C. Haffner, 2016;
Music: CHAPEL HILL, Henry C. Haffner, 2016.

HEAVENLY GIFT—*EUCHARISTO*

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



MEN Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly, Lord. Ho-ly, ho-ly, God of pow'r and might,
Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly, Lord. Ho-ly, ho-ly, God of pow'r and might, -
Heav'n and Earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est.
Heav'n and Earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est.
Bless-ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the
Bless-ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est, Ho
high-est, Ho-san-na in the high-est, Ho-san-na in the high-est. A-men.
san-na in the high-est, Ho-san-na in the high-est. A-men.

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—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.

Congregational Hymn—We Will Feast In The House Of Zion

Chorus



We will feast in the house of Zi - on, We will sing with our hearts re - stored;



"He has done great things," We will say to - geth - er, We will feast and weep no more.



We will not be burned by the fire He is the Lord, our God
In the dark of night, be fore the dawn My soul, be not a - fraid
Ev - ery vow we've bro ken and be - trayed You are the faith - ful one



We are not con - sumed by the flood Up - held, pro - tect - ed, gath - ered up.
For the pro - mised morn ing, oh, how long? Oh, God of Jac - ob, be my strength.
And— from the gar den to the grave Bind us to - ge - ther, bring sha - lom.

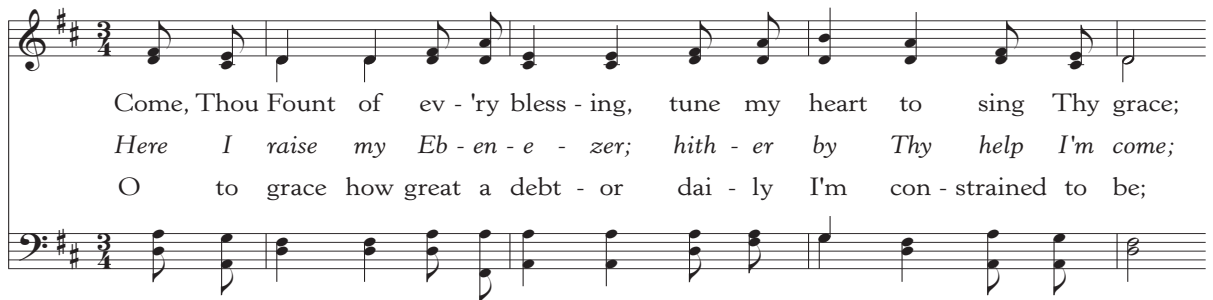
GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND IN GRATEFUL PRAISE, PETITIONS, TITHES & OFFERINGS

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.*

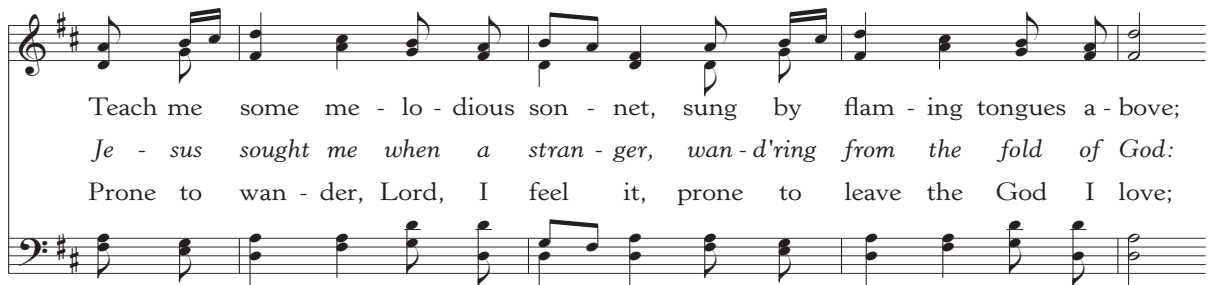
Congregational Hymn—Come, Thou Fount Of Every Blessing



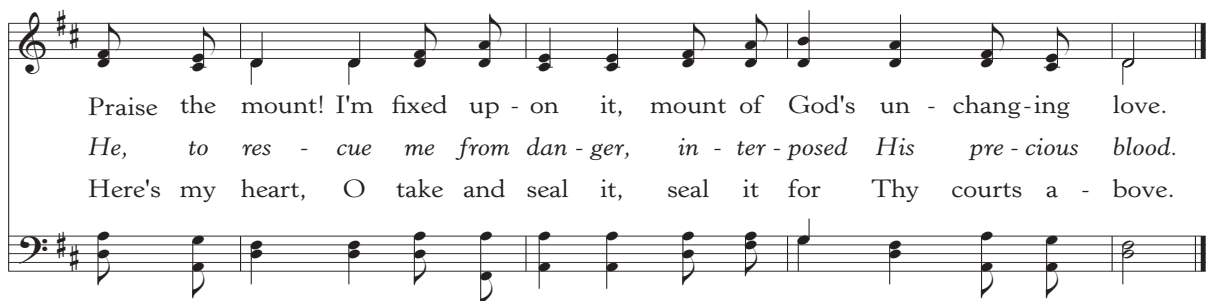
Come, Thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer; hith - er by Thy help I'm come;
O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be;



Streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
And I hope, by Thy good pleas - ure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - d'ring heart to Thee.



Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove;
Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger, wan - d'ring from the fold of God:
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



Praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love.
He, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed His pre - cious blood.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1758; Music: NETTLETON, Asahel Nettleton, 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—Hebrews 13:20-21

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. *Amen.*

Sung Response—Christ The Lord Is Risen Today, Vs. 3

Lives a - gain our glor - ious King, — Al - - - le - lu - ia!

Where, O death, is now thy sting? Al - - - le - lu - ia!

Once He died our souls to save, Al - - - le - lu - ia!

Where thy vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - - - le - lu - ia!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1739; Music: EASTER HYMN, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708.

Announcements

Worship Notes:

When we come to worship, we are in a sense coming (as the author of Hebrews puts it) to the heavenly Jerusalem (Hebrews 12:22). What an immense privilege we have every week as children of God! This morning, Psalm 48 calls us to worship with a description of the “city of our God,” “Mount Zion,” “His holy mountain,” a fortress with towers, ramparts, and citadels. We respond with awe and reverence, singing *O Worship The King* (a loose paraphrase of Psalm 104) and *The Mighty God The Lord—Psalm 50*, which tell of His might and power, the thunderclouds and “tempestuous storms” that surround Him and “Zion, His own hill.” *O Lord, Of Hosts How Lovely—Psalm 84*, *Jerusalem My Happy Home*, and *We Will Feast In The House Of Zion*, all speak of God’s house as our home, the goal of our journey in this life, and a place of feasting and restoration. By contrast, *By Babylon’s Great Riverside—Psalm 137* warns us of the curse that falls on those who forget Zion and her peace. In light of this, we conclude the service with *Come, Thou Fount Of Every Blessing*, asking God to bind our wandering hearts to Him and seal them for His heavenly courts. —Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Sinai, Zion, Fear, Assembly, Mediator, Refuse, Escape, Shaken, Kingdom, Worship
Keystone Verse: [But you have come] to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. (Hebrews 12:24)



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Steve Nelson John Scherrer

Deacons

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