



PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Kingdomtide
20 October 2024

True boldness for Christ is universal and overcomes all and carries men above the displeasure of friends or foes; so that they will forsake all rather than Christ; and will rather offend all parties, and be thought meanly of by all, than offend Christ. —Jonathan Edwards

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—Proverbs 18:10

The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe.

Sung Response—The Lord Is King, Vs. 1



The Lord is King! lift up thy voice, O Earth; and all ye heav'ns, re-joice!



From world to world the joy 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.

Call to Worship—Psalm 29:1-4, 8,10

Pastor: Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

All: **Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.**

Reader 1: The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over many waters.

Reader 2: The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

All: **The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

Pastor: The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.

Congregational Psalm—The Voice Of The Lord Is Over The Waters (Psalm 29)



The voice of the Lord is o - ver the wa - ters. The God of glo - ry thun - ders free!
The voice of the Lord will break down the ce - dars. The God of glo - ry thun - ders free!
 The voice of the Lord is flam - ing in fire. The God of glo - ry thun - ders free!



The voice of the Lord is o - ver the wa - ters. His voice is full of maj - es - ty!
The voice of the Lord will break down the ce - dars. Be - fore His voice the migh - ty flee!
 The voice of the Lord is shak - ing the for - ests. Cry a - loud in glo - ry!



Give to the Lord, in heav'n - ly chor - us; Give to the Lord, all glo - ry and strength!



Give to the Lord, the glo - ry due His name. Wor - ship the Lord

Women



in beau-ty of ho - li - ness. in beau-ty of ho - li - ness.

Men



in beau-ty of ho - li - ness. in beau-ty of ho - li - ness.

Text: based on Psalm 29:1-9, Nathan George, 2013; Music: Nathan George, 2013.

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—Do You Decree, O Earthly Gods (Psalm 58)



Do you de - cree, O earth - ly gods, with words of right - eous - ness?
The wick - ed are es - tranged from birth, de - part - ing from the way;
The right - eous shall re - joice__ to see God's ven - geance com - ing in;__



Do you, who judge the sons__ of men, speak forth in up - right - ness?
And speak - ing lies with ser - pent's tongues, they poi - son, spoil, and slay.__
The right - eous man shall wash his feet in blood of wick - ed men.



No, e - ven now your hearts are filled with wick - ed - ness and hurt;__
God break the teeth with - in their mouth, O hear me when I call;__
Then all shall say that right - eous folk re - ward shall ne - ver miss:__



And from your hands great vi - o - lence goes out up - on the earth.
My Lord, tear out__ the hor - rid fangs of these young li - ons all.
And sure - ly here up - on the earth a God to judge there is.

Text: Psalm 58:1-6, 10-11, *The Psalter with Music*, 1900, alt. 2021; Music: GALLAWAY, Henry C. Haffner, 2021.

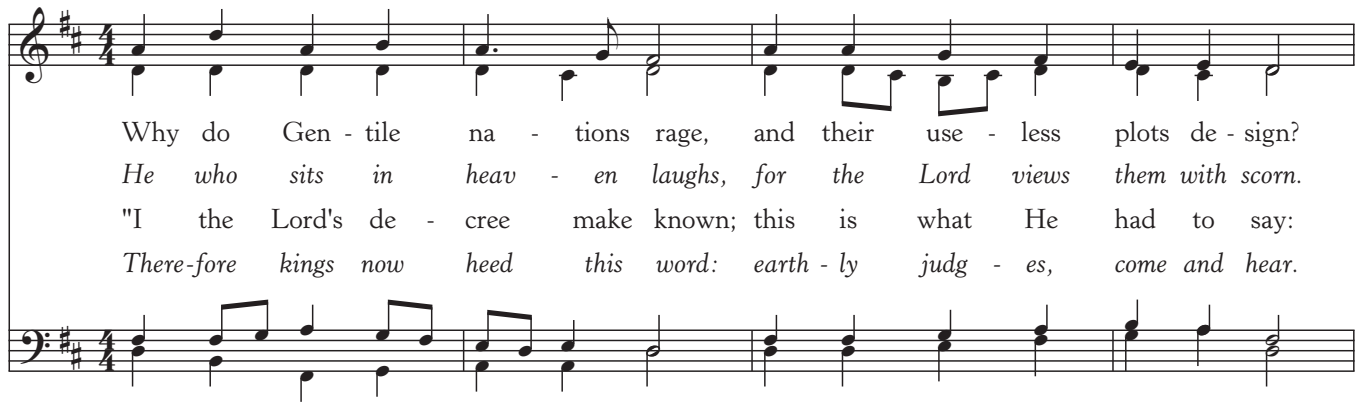
Scripture Reading—Psalm 2:1-12

Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us." He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. Then He will speak to them in His wrath, and terrify them in His fury, saying, "As for Me, I have set My King on Zion, My holy hill." I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to Me, "You are My Son; today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will make the nations Your heritage, and the ends of the earth Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, for His wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in Him.

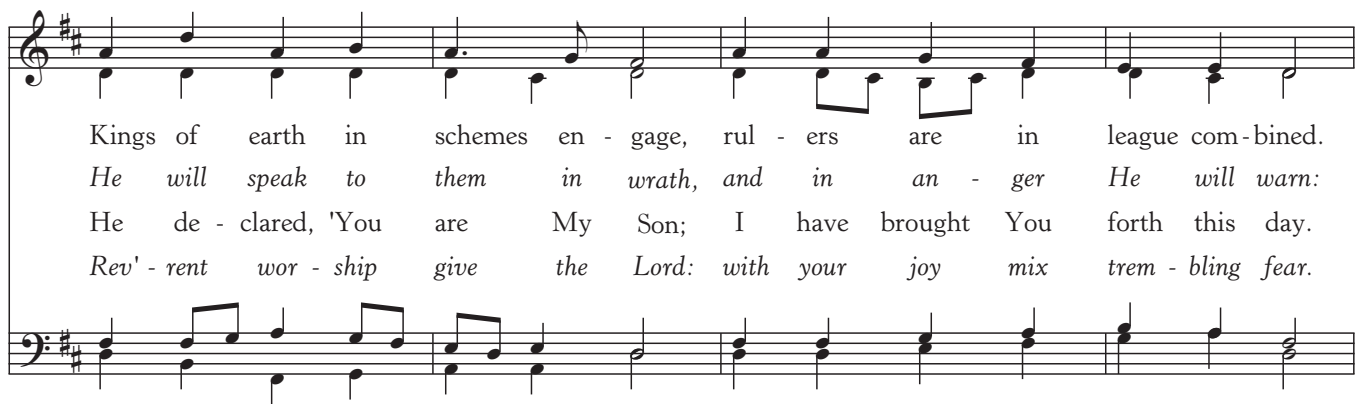
Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

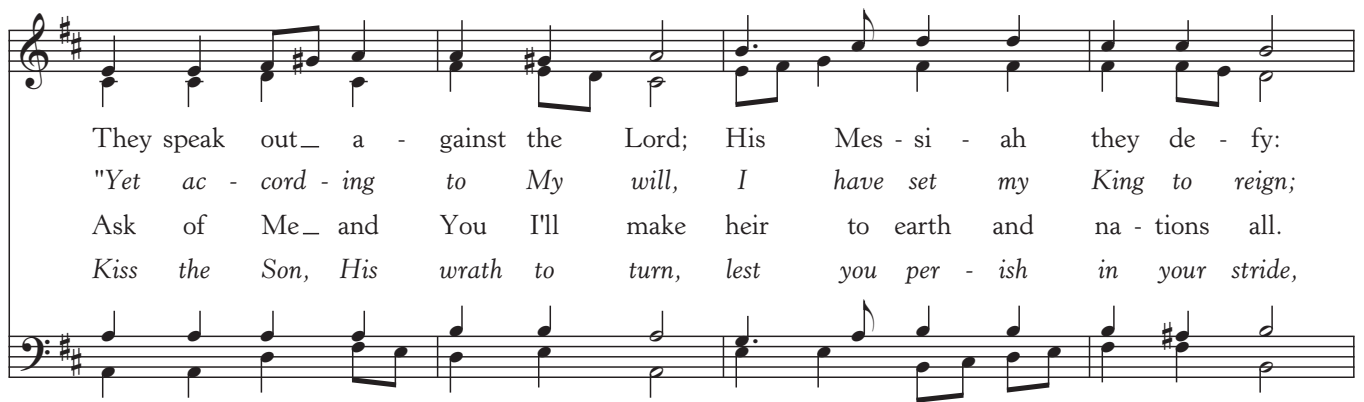
Congregational Psalm—Why Do Gentile Nations Rage (Psalm 2)



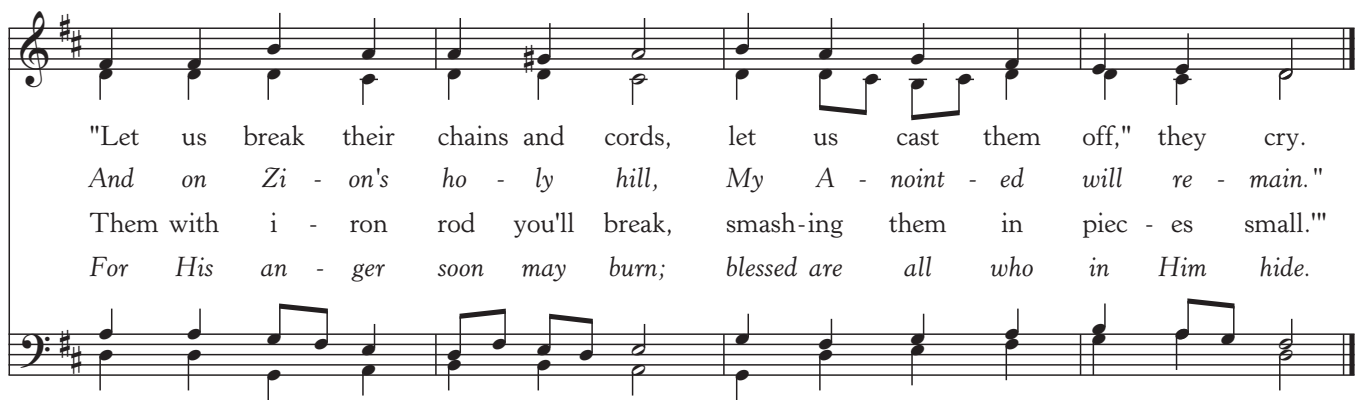
Why do Gen - tile na - tions rage, and their use - less plots de - sign?
He who sits in heav - en laughs, for the Lord views them with scorn.
"I the Lord's de - cree make known; this is what He had to say:
There-fore kings now heed this word: earth - ly judg - es, come and hear.



Kings of earth in schemes en - gage, rul - ers are in league com - bined.
He will speak to them in wrath, and in an - ger He will warn:
He de - clared, 'You are My Son; I have brought You forth this day.
Rev' - rent wor - ship give the Lord: with your joy mix trem - bling fear.



They speak out_ a - gainst the Lord; His Mes - si - ah they de - fy:
"Yet ac - cord - ing to My will, I have set my King to reign;
Ask of Me_ and You I'll make heir to earth and na - tions all.
Kiss the Son, His wrath to turn, lest you per - ish in your stride,



"Let us break their chains and cords, let us cast them off," they cry.
And on Zi - on's ho - ly hill, My A - noint - ed will re - main."
Them with i - ron rod you'll break, smash - ing them in piec - es small."
For His an - ger soon may burn; blessed are all who in Him hide.

Text: Psalm 2:1-12; *The Book of Psalms for Worship*, Copyright © 2010 Crown and Covenant Publications;
Music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1678, Harm. J. S. Bach, 18th c.

Reading of the Word—Acts 4:13-31

¹³ Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. ¹⁴ But seeing the man who was healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition. ¹⁵ But when they had commanded them to leave the council, they conferred with one another, ¹⁶ saying, “What shall we do with these men? For that a notable sign has been performed through them is evident to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. ¹⁷ But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name.” ¹⁸ So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹ But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, ²⁰ for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.” ²¹ And when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way to punish them, because of the people, for all were praising God for what had happened. ²² For the man on whom this sign of healing was performed was more than forty years old.

²³ When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. ²⁴ And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, “Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, ²⁵ who through the mouth of our father David, Your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, “‘Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? ²⁶ The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against His Anointed’—²⁷ for truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, ²⁸ to do whatever Your hand and Your plan had predestined to take place. ²⁹ And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to Your servants to continue to speak Your word with all boldness, ³⁰ while You stretch out Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.” ³¹ And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—O Church, Arise, Vs. 1



O Church, a - rise, and put your ar - mor on; hear the call of Christ our cap - tain.



For now the weak can say that they are strong, in the strength that God has giv - en.



With shield of faith and belt of truth, we'll stand a - gainst the dev - il's lies;



An ar - my bold, whose bat - tle cry is love, reach - ing out to those in dark - ness.

CCLI #2844402 © 2005 Thankyou Music; Text and Music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend, 2005.

Sermon—*Bold Proclamation Amidst Opposition*

—Associate Pastor, Brian Phillips

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 Psalm 32:3-7

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. When we kept silent, our bones wasted away through our groaning all day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon us.

All: **Our strength was dried up. Therefore, we have acknowledged our sin of not speaking Your word with boldness, and we have not covered our sin.**

Pastor: We confess our transgressions to You, O Lord. And You forgive all our iniquities. Even now, we offer prayer to You—at a time when You may be found.

All: **For You are our hiding place for us; You preserve us from trouble. You surround us with songs of deliverance.**

Assurance of Pardon—Psalm 32:1-2, 51:12-13; Colossians 2:6-7

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom You, O Lord, count no iniquity and in whose spirit there is no deceit. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will return to You.

Pastor: This is the promise of God.

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

Pastor: Therefore, in the same way you received Christ Jesus as Lord, so continue to walk in Him.

All: **So then, we are rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith.**

Pastor: Therefore, let us abound in thanksgiving.

Sung Response—O Lord, Teach Me To Follow You (Psalm 27), Vs. 4



With pa - tience wait up - on the Lord, O let your strength be great;



And so let cour-age fill your heart as on the Lord you wait.

Copyright © 2009 Crown and Covenant Publications, *Psalms for Worship*.
Text: Psalm 27:14; Music: LOUISE, Robert M. Copland, 1972.

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 Lift My Eyes And See The Hills (Psalm 121)



I lift my eyes and see_ the hills: from where will come my aid? ___
He'll not al - low your foot to slip, nor rest while you_ He keeps. ___
The Lord will keep you, He's your shade, the Lord stands at___ the right. ___
The Lord will keep you from all harm; He'll keep your life__ se - cure. ___



My help comes from the Lord a - bove, who Heav'n and Earth has made. ___
The one pre - serv - ing Is - ra - el, He slum - bers not, nor sleeps. ___
The sun will do no harm to you, nor will___ the moon at night. ___
Your go - ing out and com - ing in the Lord___ keeps ev - er - more. ___

Text: Psalm 121:1-8, *The Book of Psalms for Worship*, © 2010 Crown and Covenant Publications; Music: HOPE, D. Bruce Martin, 1920.

Congregational Psalm—My Shepherd Will Supply My Need (Psalm 23)



My_ shep - herd will sup - ply my need: Je - ho - vah is His name; ___
When I walk through the shades of_ death Thy pre - sence is my stay; ___
The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me all my days; ___



In_ past - ures fresh He makes me feed, be - side the liv - ing stream. ___
One word of_ Thy sup - por - ting breath drives all my fears a - way. ___
O_ may Thy house be my a - bode, and all my work be praise. ___



He brings my wand - 'ring spir - it___ back when I for - sake His ways, ___
Thy hand, in_ sight of all my foes, doth still my ta - ble spread; ___
There would I___ find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers go and come; ___



And leads me, for His mer - cy's sake, in_ paths of truth and grace. ___
My cup with bless - ings ov - er - flows, Thine oil a - noints my head. ___
No more a_ strang - er, nor a_ guest, but like a child at home. ___

Text: paraphrase of Psalm 23, Isaac Watts, 1719; Music: RESIGNATION, *The Southern Harmony*, 1835.

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—How Firm A Foundation



How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,
Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed;
When through the deep waters I call you to go,
When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
For I am your God, and will still give you aid;
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply;
What more can He say than to you He has said,
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
For I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
The flame shall not hurt you; I only design
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.
And sanctify to you your deepest distress.
Your dross to consume and your gold to refine.

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—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—Be Thou My Vision, Vs. 5



High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,



May I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!



Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



Still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Ancient Irish Poem, tr. Mary Byrne, 1905;
Music: SLANE, Traditional Irish Melody.

Announcements

Worship Notes:

In Acts 4, we see the Apostles presenting the gospel with tremendous courage in the face of intense opposition. The contrast between God and His people and their enemies is a theme found throughout the Scriptures, particularly in the psalms that make up much of our service this morning. The nations rage and plot vainly, but the voice of the Lord thunders over the waters and shakes the wilderness (Psalm 2:1; Psalm 29:3-4). While the wicked can be found “speaking lies with serpents’ tongues” (*Do You Decree, O Earthly Gods—Psalm 58*), the church is an “army bold” that “stand[s] against the devil’s lies” (*O Church, Arise*). Though our enemies may be terrifying, we pray for God to fill our hearts with courage as we wait on Him (*O Lord, Teach Me To Follow You—Psalm 27*), trusting that He will keep us secure (*I Lift My Eyes And See The Hills—Psalm 121*) even when we walk through the “shades of death” (*My Shepherd Will Supply My Need—Psalm 23*). We can rest on the firm foundation of His Word (*How Firm A Foundation*), secure in the knowledge that all the opposition we may encounter will serve to consume our dross and refine us like gold in the fire. —Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Boldness, Opposition, Speak, Name, Jesus, Prayer, Hand, Word, Seen, Heard

Keystone Verse: But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.
(Acts 4:19-20)



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