



PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Ascension Sunday
12 May 2024

The Lord sees nothing in you but that which He delights in, for in the covenant He does not look at you as you are in yourself, but in your Head, Christ Jesus, and to the eye of God there is no sight in the universe so lovely as His own dear Son, and His people in His Son. Henceforth be it ours in every troubled hour to look to the Lord under this cheering name, 'the God of peace,' for as such the covenant reveals Him. —Charles Spurgeon

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—John 10:9, 11

Jesus said, "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep."

Sung Response—O Christ, Our Hope, Vs. 1

O Christ, our hope, our heart's de - sire, re - demp-tion's on - ly spring;

Cre - a - tor of the world art Thou, its sav - ior and its king,

Its sav - ior and its king.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three 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 has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are placed below the vocal line. The first system ends with a semibreve note on the vocal line. The second system ends with a quarter note on the vocal line. The third system ends with a quarter note on the vocal line and a double bar line.

Text: Latin Hymn, 8th century, tr. John Chandler, 1837;
Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1560.

Call to Worship—based on Psalm 95:6; Psalm 23:1-4, 6

Pastor: Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

All: **The Lord is our shepherd; we shall not want. He makes us lie down in green pastures.**

Reader 1: He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul.

Reader 2: He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

All: **Even though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we will fear no evil, for He is with us; His rod and His staff, they comfort us.**

Pastor: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives, and we shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Congregational Psalm—All People That On Earth Do Dwell (Psalm 100)



All peo - ple that on Earth do dwell, sing to the Lord with cheer - ful voice;
The Lord ye know is God in - deed; with - out our aid He did us make;
O en - ter then His gates with praise, ap - proach with joy His courts un - to;
For why? the Lord our God is good, His mer - cy is for ev - er sure;

Him serve with fear, His praise forth - tell come ye be - fore Him and re - joice.
We are His folk, He doth us feed, and for His sheep He doth us take.
Praise, laud, and bless His name al - ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.
His truth at all times firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.

Text: William Kethe, 1561; Music: OLD 100TH, Louis Bourgeois, 1551.

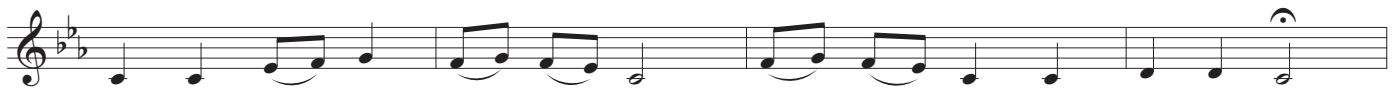
GOD SPEAKS TO HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

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—Hear Me, All You People (Psalm 49)



Hear me, all_ you peo - ple hear, folk of_ all the earth, give ear;
When with wick - ed - ness_ my foes shall sur - round me and op - pose,
If from death one would be_ free and cor - rup - tion ne - ver see,



All of high and low de - gree, rich and poor, give heed to me
Should I then to fear give way when I_ see the e - vil day?
Cost - ly is_ life's ran - som price, far_ be - yond all sac - ri - fice.



Truth with all my heart I_ seek, and_ my mouth shall wis - dom speak;
They that trust in trea - sured gold, though they boast of wealth un - told,
If men be not tru - ly_ wise, they_ are like the beast that dies,



Lis - ten how with mu - sic's strain I_ make hid - den wis - dom plain.
None can bid_ his bro - ther live; none to_ God a ran - som give.
Death their shep - herd, they the sheep; He_ with - in his fold will keep.



If men be not tru - ly_ wise, they are_ like the beast that dies,



But my Lord my soul shall save; God will raise me from the grave.

Text: Psalm 49:1-9, 12-14, *The Psalter*, 1912, alt. Henry C. Haffner, 2019;
Music: ROSE HILL, Henry C. Haffner, 2019.

Scripture Reading—Micah 5:2, 4-5

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for Me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. And He shall stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord His God. And they shall dwell secure, for now He shall be great to the ends of the earth. And He shall be their peace.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Congregational Hymn—Jesus, Shepherd Of Thy People



Je - sus, Shep - herd of Thy peo - ple, lead us through this des - ert land;
All Thy sheep shall come to Zi - on; with them Thou wilt nev - er part;
In Thy bos - om safe - ly lodg - ed, Thine shall rest from dan - ger free;



We are weak, and poor, and fee - ble, yet we trust Thy might - y hand;
Beasts of prey, nor roar - ing li - on, none shall pluck them from Thy heart;
They shall nev - er more be judg - ed, nor shall con - dem - na - tion see;



Great pro - tec - tor! By Thy power a - lone we stand.
All Thy cho - sen cost Thee wounds, and blood, and smart.
Bless - ed Je - sus, let us thus re - joice in Thee.

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Text: J. Adams, 1838; Music: Cathy Steere, 2008.

Reading of the Word—Hebrews 13:20-25

²⁰ 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, ²¹ 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. ²² I appeal to you, brothers, bear with my word of exhortation, for I have written to you briefly. ²³ You should know that our brother Timothy has been released, with whom I shall see you if he comes soon. ²⁴ Greet all your leaders and all the saints. Those who come from Italy send you greetings. ²⁵ Grace be with all of you.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—How Sweet The Name Of Jesus Sounds, Vs. 5

Je - sus! My shep-herd, bro - ther, friend, my Proph-et, Priest and King,

My Lord, my life, my way, my end, ac - cept the praise I bring.

The image shows a musical score for a sung response. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'Je - sus! My shep-herd, bro - ther, friend, my Proph-et, Priest and King, My Lord, my life, my way, my end, ac - cept the praise I bring.'

Text: John Newton, 1779; Music: ST. PETER, Alexander R. Reinangle, 1836.

Sermon—*Benediction of the Risen Shepherd*

—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 Matthew 26:31-35

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. As Jesus said to His disciples on the night He was betrayed, “You will all fall away because of Me this night. For it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ But I will be raised up and go before you.”

All: **But each of us says with Peter, “Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.”**

Pastor: Jesus tells us that that without a shepherd, we will deny Him three times before the rooster crows.

All: **Yet we all say that even if we must die with Christ, we will not deny Him.**

Assurance of Pardon—Jeremiah 31:33-34; John 3:16-17

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put My law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be My people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

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

All: **For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.**

Pastor: 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.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sung Response—O Thou In Whose Presence, Vs. 5



Dear Shep-herd, I hear and will fol-low Thy call; I know the sweet sound of Thy voice.



Re-store and de-fend me, for Thou art my all, and in Thee I will ev-er re-joice.

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



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—Give Me Jesus

In the morn - ing when I rise, in the morn - ing when I rise,
Dark — mid - night was my cry, dark — mid - night was my cry,
Just a - bout the break of day, just a - bout the break of day,
O, — when I come to die, O, — when I come to die,

In the morn - ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.
Dark — mid - night was my cry, give me Je - sus.
Just a - bout the break of day, give me Je - sus.
O, — when I come to die, give me Je - sus.

Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus,

You can have all this world; give me Je - sus.

Text and Music: Traditional African-American Spiritual, arr. Henry C. Haffner, 2017.

Congregational Hymn—My Jesus, I Love Thee

My Je - sus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine;
I love Thee, be - cause Thou hast first lov - ed me.
I'll love Thee in life, I will love Thee in death,
In man - sions of glo - ry and end - less de - light,

For Thee all the fol - lies of sin I re - sign.
And pur - chased my par - don on Cal - va - ry's tree;
And praise Thee as long as Thou lend - est me breath;
I'll ev - er a - dore Thee in heav - en so bright;

My gra - cious Re - deem - er, my Sa - vior art Thou;
I love Thee for wear - ing the thorns on Thy brow;
And say when the death - dew lies cold on my brow,
I'll sing with the glit - ter - ing crown on my brow,

If ev - er I loved Thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.

Text: William R. Featherston, 1864; Music: GORDON, Adoniram J. Gordon, 1876.

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—Jesus Shall Reign

Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does his suc - ces - sive jour - neys run;
To Him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es throng to crown His head;
Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue dwell on His love with sweet - est song,
Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er He reigns; the pris - 'ner leaps to lose his chains,
Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar hon - ors to our King;

His king - dom stretch from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
His name, like sweet per - fume, shall rise with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
And in - fant voic - es shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on His name.
The wea - ry find e - ter - nal rest, and all the sons of want are blest.
An - gels de - scend with songs a - gain, and Earth re - peat the loud a - men!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1719; Music: DUKE STREET, John Hatton, 1793.

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.

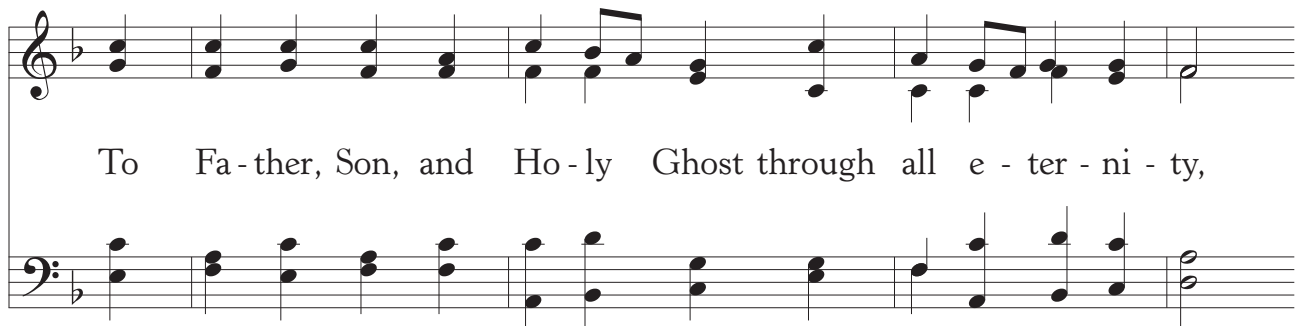
Benediction—Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. *Amen.*

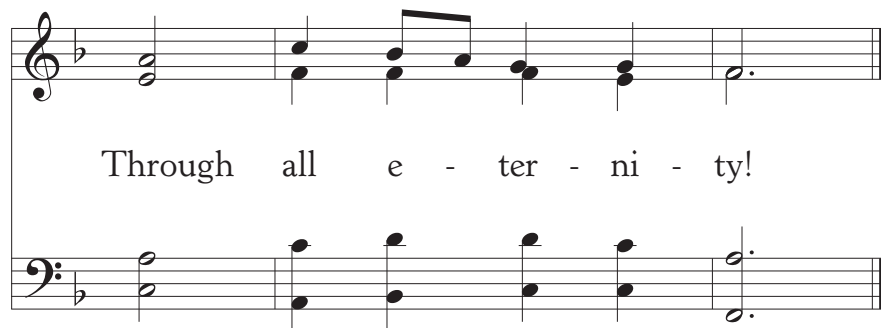
Sung Response—O Christ, Our Hope, Vs. 4



All praise to Thee, as - cend-ed Lord; all glo - ry ev - er be



To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost through all e - ter - ni - ty,



Through all e - ter - ni - ty!

Text: Latin Hymn, 8th century, tr. John Chandler, 1837;
Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1560.

Announcements

Worship Notes:

The author of Hebrews concludes his letter with a blessing from “Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep.” Pastoral images abound in this morning’s service: readings from Psalm 23 and Micah 5 describe Christ as our shepherd, along with the hymns *Jesus, Shepherd Of Thy People*, *How Sweet The Name Of Jesus Sounds*, and *O Thou In Whose Presence*. As we sing *All People That On Earth Do Dwell (Psalm 100)* and *Hear Me, All You People (Psalm 49)*, we give thanks that the Lord takes us as His own sheep and we are warned that those who trust in earthly riches and wisdom will find that death is their shepherd. The service concludes with a string of hymns that attempt to capture the central theme of the book of Hebrews. *Give Me Jesus, My Jesus, I Love Thee, Jesus Shall Reign*, and *O Christ, Our Hope* all proclaim the message that our pastors have emphasized to us so many times these past nine months—“Jesus is better.”

—Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Peace, Dead, Shepherd, Blood, Covenant, Pleasing, Grace

Keystone Verse: 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.* (Hebrews 13:20-21)



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