



PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Ordinary Time

28 July 2024

What, then, does the activity of knowing God involve?... We must say that knowing God involves, first, listening to God's word and receiving it as the Holy Spirit interprets it, in application to oneself; second, noting God's nature and character, as His word and works reveal it; third, accepting His invitations and doing what He commands; and fourth, recognizing and rejoicing in the love that He has shown in thus approaching you and drawing you into this divine fellowship.—J. I. Packer

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—Colossians 1:13-14

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

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!

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

Call to Worship—from Psalm 25:1-5, 8,10

Pastor: To You, O Lord, we lift up our souls. O our God, in You we trust; let us not be put to shame; let not our enemies exult over us.

All: **Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.**

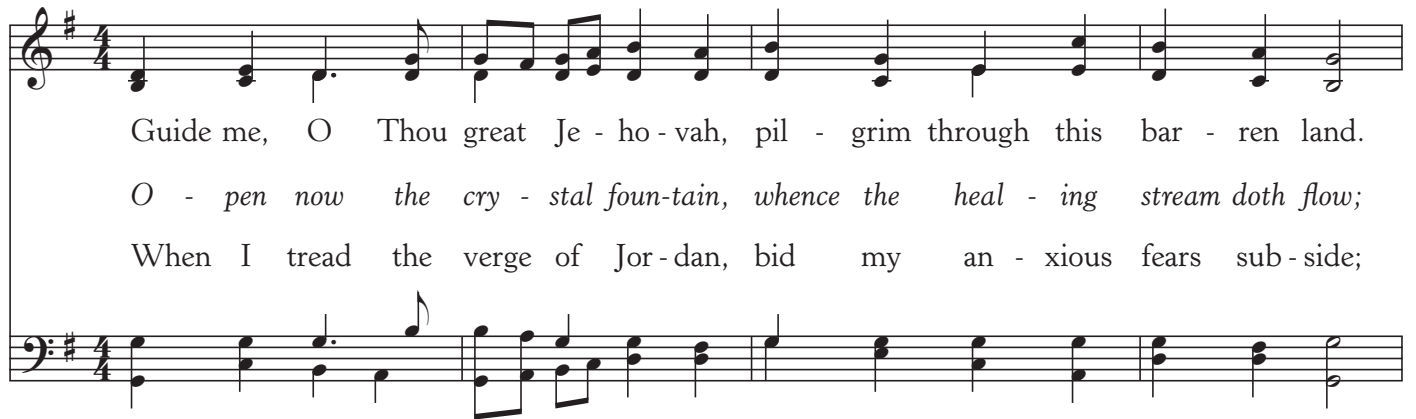
Reader 1: Make us to know Your ways, O Lord; teach us Your paths.

Reader 2: Lead us in Your truth and teach us, for You are the God of our salvation; for You we wait all the day long.

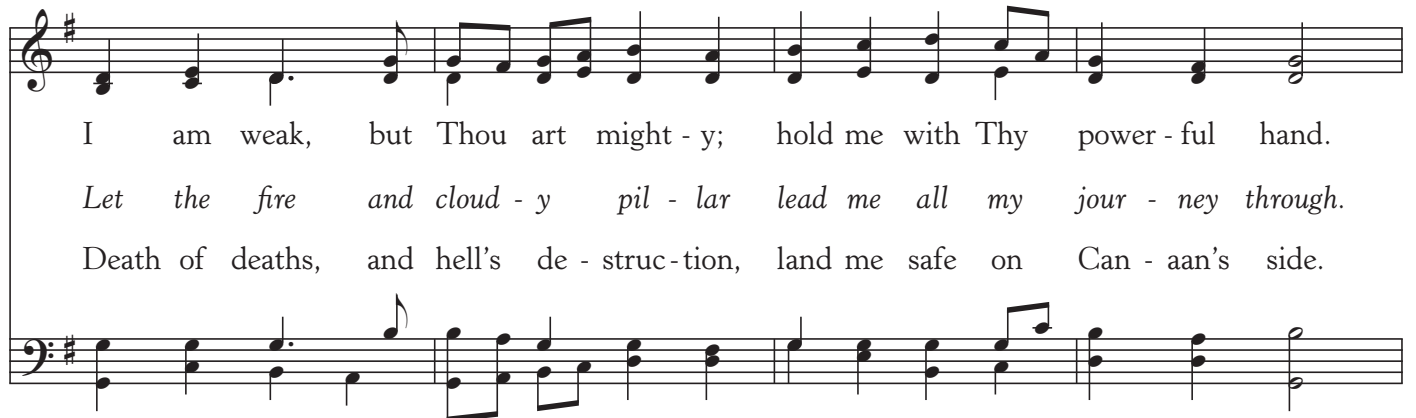
All: **Good and upright is the Lord; therefore He instructs sinners in the way.**

Pastor: All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.

Congregational Hymn—Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah



Guide me, O Thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this bar - ren land.
O - pen now the cry - stal foun-tain, whence the heal - ing stream doth flow;
When I tread the verge of Jor-dan, bid my an - xious fears sub - side;



I am weak, but Thou art might - y; hold me with Thy power - ful hand.
Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me all my jour - ney through.
Death of deaths, and hell's de - struc-tion, land me safe on Can - aan's side.



Bread of Heav - en, Bread of Heav - en, feed me till I want no
Strong De - liv - 'rer, strong De - liv - 'rer, be Thou still my Strength and
Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es, I will ev - er give to



More; (want no more) feed me till I want no more.
Shield; (Strength and Shield) be Thou still my Strength and Shield.
Thee; (give to Thee) I will ev - er give to Thee.

Text: William Williams, 1745; Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1907.

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—O Come Before The Lord, Our King (Psalm 95)



O come be - fore the Lord, our King, and in — His pres - ence let — us sing;
Al - might - y pow'r the Lord main - tains, ex - alt - ed o - ver all — He reigns;
O come and let us wor - ship now, be - fore our Mak - er let — us bow;

Let us in glad and joy - ful lays the rock — of our sal - va - tion praise;
He holds the val - leys in — His hand, He makes the might - y moun - tains stand;
We are His sheep and He our God, He feeds our souls in pas - tures broad;

Be - fore Him come with thank - ful song, in joy - ful psalms His praise pro - long.
To Him be - long both land — and sea, — Cre - a - tor of the world is He.
He safe - ly leads us in — the way; O come and hear His voice to - day.

Text: Psalm 95:1-7, *The Psalter*, 1912; Music: ST. PETERSBURG, Dimitri Bortniansky, 1825.

Scripture Reading—Romans 15:8-13

For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise You among the Gentiles, and sing to Your name." And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people." And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol Him." And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even He who arises to rule the Gentiles; in Him will the Gentiles hope." 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.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Congregational Hymn—There's A Wideness In God's Mercy



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 - demption 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.

Reading of the Word—Psalm 18:30-50

³⁰This God—His way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; He is a shield for all those who take refuge in Him.

³¹For who is God, but the Lord? And who is a rock, except our God? —³²the God who equipped me with strength and made my way blameless. ³³He made my feet like the feet of a deer and set me secure on the heights. ³⁴He trains my hands for war, so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze. ³⁵You have given me the shield of Your salvation, and Your right hand supported me, and Your gentleness made me great. ³⁶You gave a wide place for my steps under me, and my feet did not slip. ³⁷I pursued my enemies and overtook them, and did not turn back till they were consumed. ³⁸I thrust them through, so that they were not able to rise; they fell under my feet. ³⁹For You equipped me with strength for the battle; You made those who rise against me sink under me. ⁴⁰You made my enemies turn their backs to me, and those who hated me I destroyed. ⁴¹They cried for help, but there was none to save; they cried to the Lord, but He did not answer them. ⁴²I beat them fine as dust before the wind; I cast them out like the mire of the streets.

⁴³You delivered me from strife with the people; You made me the head of the nations; people whom I had not known served me. ⁴⁴As soon as they heard of me they obeyed me; foreigners came cringing to me. ⁴⁵Foreigners lost heart and came trembling out of their fortresses. ⁴⁶The Lord lives, and blessed be my rock, and exalted be the God of my salvation—⁴⁷the God who gave me vengeance and subdued peoples under me, ⁴⁸who rescued me from my enemies; yes, You exalted me above those who rose against me; You delivered me from the man of violence. ⁴⁹For this I will praise You, O Lord, among the nations, and sing to Your name. ⁵⁰Great salvation He brings to His king, and shows steadfast love to His anointed, to David and his offspring forever.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—O Lord Most High (Psalm 9), Vs. 1



O Lord most high, with all my heart, Your great works I will pro-claim;



I will be glad and give You thanks and sing the prais-es of Your name.



Hope of the poor, to You we cry! A-rise, O Lord, de-fend the weak!



Sing praise to the Lord en-throned on high! De-clare to all His might-y deeds!

Text: Psalm 9:1-2, 18-19, *The Psalter*, 1912, alt. Nathan George, 2013; Music: Nathan George 2013.

Sermon—*God's Perfect Ways*

—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 25:6-7, 11, 18

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. We confess that we do not take refuge in You as we ought. Remember Your mercy, O Lord, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

All: Remember not the sins of our youth or our transgressions; according to Your steadfast love remember us, for the sake of Your goodness!

Pastor: For Your name's sake, O Lord, pardon our guilt, for it is great.

All: Consider our affliction and our trouble, and forgive all our sins.

Assurance of Pardon—Psalm 103:6-7, 10-12; Romans 1:16-17

The Lord works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the people of Israel. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us.

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 Heart Is Filled With Thankfulness, Vs. 1



My heart is filled with thank-ful - ness to Him who bore my pain;
Who plumbed the depths of my dis - grace and gave me life a - gain;
Who crushed my curse of sin - ful - ness and clothed me with His light
And wrote His law of right - eous - ness with pow'r up-on my heart.

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—O Love That Will Not Let Me Go



O Love that will not let me go, I rest my wea - ry soul in Thee.
O Light that fol - lows all my way, I yield my flick' - ring torch to Thee.
O Joy that seek - est me through pain, I can - not close my heart to Thee.
O Cross that lift - est up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee.



I give Thee back the life I owe, that in Thine oce - an depths its flow
My heart re - stores its bor - rowed ray, that in Thy sun - shine's blaze its day
I trace the rain - bow through the rain, and feel the pro - mise is not vain,
I lay in dust, life's glo - ry dead, and from the ground there blos - soms red,



May rich - er, ful - ler be.
May bright - er, fair - er be.
That morn shall tear - less be.
Life that shall end - less be.

CCLI #2844402 Text: George Matheson, 1882; Music: Christopher Miner, 1997.

Congregational Hymn—Jesus Paid It All



I hear the Sav - ior say, "Thy strength in - deed is small;
Lord, now in - deed I find Thy power and Thine a - lone,
For noth - ing good have I where - by Thy grace to claim,
And when be - fore the throne I stand in Him com - plete,



Child of weak - ness, watch and pray, find in Me thine all in all."
Can change the le - per's spots and melt the heart of stone.
I'll wash my gar - ments white in the blood of Cal - v'ry's Lamb.
I'll lay my tro - phies down all down at Jesus' feet.

Refrain



Je - sus paid it all, all to Him I owe;



Sin had left a crim - son stain, He washed it white as snow.

Text: Elvina M. Hall, 1865; Music: ALL TO CHRIST, John T. Grape, 1865.

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,
By You I run a - gainst a troop; by You, my God, I leap a wall.
You cleared for me a path - way wide; my feet slide not while in my walk.
I praise You, Lord, for sav - ing me: a - mong the na - tions I will sing;



My God in whom I ref - uge seek, my horn of safe - ty, my strong tow'r.
This God, how per - fect is His way no prom - ise of the Lord can fall.
He makes my feet like feet of deer; He sets my feet up - on the rock.
Your glor - ious name will I pro - claim for You have great - ly saved Your king!



I call up - on the Lord for help how wor - thy is the Lord of praise!
A shield is He to ev - 'ry - one who ref - uge in His name has sought.
He trains my hands with skill for war, a bow of bronze my arms can break.
Great vic - tor - ies He gives His king; His stead-fast love will He out - pour



And I am saved from all my foes, the ad - ver - sar - ies of my ways.
For who is God, ex - cept the Lord? And who a rock, ex - cept our God?
Your right hand gives me vic - to - ry. Your gen - tle - ness has made me great.
On Dav - id, His a - noint - ed one, and His de - scen - dants ev - er - more.

Text: Psalm 18:1-10, 29-30, 32-38, 49-50, 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—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—Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here be - low;

praise Him a - bove 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:

Eight years ago, I moved to Franklin in one of the most tumultuous weeks of my life. A week and a half prior I had just had my wisdom teeth removed when we received a phone call that my grandfather had just been diagnosed with a rare form of Leukemia and had two weeks to live. We immediately packed up the car and made the 36 hour drive from Colorado to Pensacola, Florida. A week later, I said goodbye to my grandfather for what I thought was the last time so that I could fly back to Colorado and pack my bags to make it to Franklin in time for Freshmen orientation. Little did I know that I wouldn't just be spending the next four years in Franklin, but the next eight. Over the course of these eight years, I have seen the Lord's abundant kindness and generosity. For one thing, my wisdom teeth don't hurt anymore, but also my grandfather, who had been given two weeks to live, is still alive. There are other gifts too that I didn't even know I needed: the gift of living with some of my dearest friends, the gift of being on staff with some of the most gracious people I've ever met, and the gift of a church that seeks to live covenantally. I am joining David from our passage this morning in Psalm 18. Our God is a shield for those who take refuge in Him. His way is perfect, and though our lives may seem tumultuous, He is faithful. He is guiding us with His powerful hand and feeding us with the bread of heaven. As we seek to walk the path of righteousness, may we know that our feet stand on solid ground and that our God is a refuge to those who seek Him. —Emma Marsh

Key Words: Perfect, God, Lord, Refuge, Ways, Equipped, Delivered, Rock, Salvation

Keystone Verse: This God—His way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; He is a shield for all those who take refuge in Him. (Psalm 18:30)



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Steve Nelson John Scherrer

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