



# PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Epiphany Season

*9 February 2025*

Our works, alas, are all in vain; in much the best life faileth. No man can glory in Thy sight, all must alike confess Thy might, and live alone by mercy. —Martin Luther

In one sense, Babylon is the acceptance of matter as the only meaning, the source of the mystery. That man could accept the shell for the total meaning, that his vanity could lead him a probing into can control matter and hence life, is the ultimate folly. —Andrew Nelson Lytle

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## 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—Romans 11:33

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways!

### Sung Response—O Worship The King, Vs. 1

The musical score is written for two staves, treble and bass clef, in a 3/4 time signature with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are placed between the two staves.

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—from Psalm 103:13-14, 17, 19, 22

Pastor: The Lord has established His throne in the heavens.

All: His kingdom rules over all.

Reader 1: As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear Him.

Reader 2: For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.

All: The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting... and His righteousness to children's children.

Pastor: Bless the Lord... in all places of His dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul!

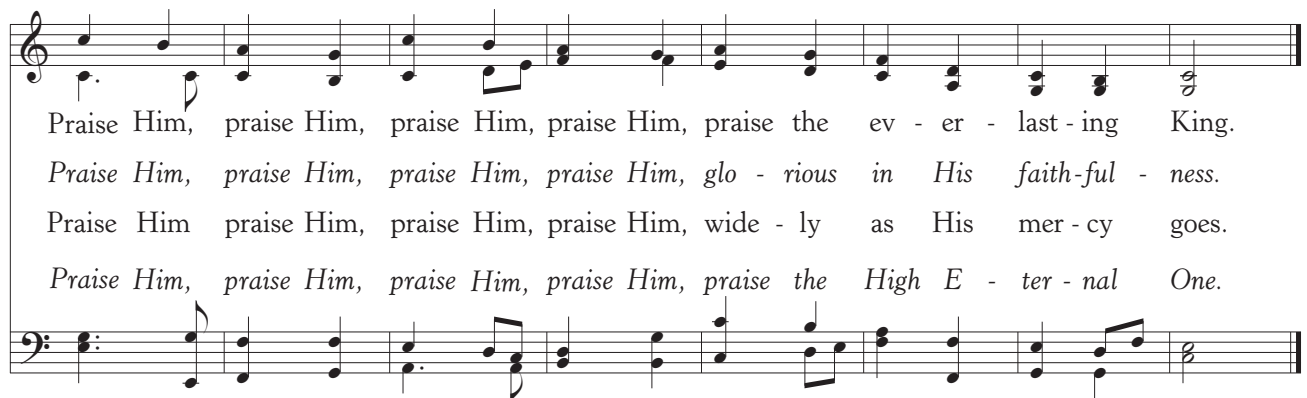
## Congregational Hymn—Praise, My Soul, The King Of Heaven



Praise, my soul, the King of Heav - en, to His feet your trib - ute bring;  
Praise Him for His grace and fa - vor, to our fa - thers in dis - tress;  
Fa - ther - like, He tends and spares us; well our fee - ble frame He knows;  
Frail as sum - mer's flow'r we flour - ish, blows the wind and it is gone;



Ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, who, like me, His praise should sing?  
Praise Him, still the same for - ev - er, slow to chide and swift to bless;  
In His hands He gent - ly bears us, res - cues us from all our foes;  
But while mor - tals rise and per - ish, God en - dures un - chang - ing on.



Praise Him, praise Him, praise Him, praise Him, praise the ev - er - last - ing King.  
Praise Him, praise Him, praise Him, praise Him, glo - rious in His faith - ful - ness.  
Praise Him praise Him, praise Him, praise Him, wide - ly as His mer - cy goes.  
Praise Him, praise Him, praise Him, praise Him, praise the High E - ter - nal One.

# 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—Colossians 1:9-14

May [you] be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. 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.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

## Congregational Hymn—God Be Merciful To Me (Psalm 51)



God, be mer - ci - ful to me, on Thy grace I rest my plea;  
I am ev - il, born in sin; Thou de - sir - est truth with - in.  
Gra - cious God, my heart re - new, make my spir - it right and true;  
Sin - ners then shall learn from me and re - turn, O God, to Thee;

Plen - teous in com - pas - sion Thou, blot out my trans - gres - sions now;  
Thou a - lone my Sav - ior art, teach Thy wis - dom to my heart;  
Cast me not a - way from Thee, let Thy Spir - it dwell in me;  
Sa - vior, all my guilt re - move, and my tongue shall sing Thy love;

Wash me, make me pure with - in, cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.  
Make me pure, Thy grace be - stow, wash me whit - er than the snow.  
Thy sal - va - tion's joy im - part, stead - fast make my will - ing heart.  
Touch my si - lent lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall praise ac - cord.

Text: Psalm 51:1-2,5-7,10-15, *The Psalter*, 1912; Music: REDHEAD, Richard Redhead, 1853.

## Reading of the Word—Acts 8:9-25

<sup>9</sup>But there was a man named Simon, who had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he himself was somebody great. <sup>10</sup>They all paid attention to him, from the least to the greatest, saying, “This man is the power of God that is called Great.” <sup>11</sup>And they paid attention to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his magic. <sup>12</sup>But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. <sup>13</sup>Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed.

<sup>14</sup>Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, <sup>15</sup>who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, <sup>16</sup>for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>17</sup>Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. <sup>18</sup>Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, <sup>19</sup>saying, “Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.” <sup>20</sup>But Peter said to him, “May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! <sup>21</sup>You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. <sup>22</sup>Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. <sup>23</sup>For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity.” <sup>24</sup>And Simon answered, “Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may come upon me.”

<sup>25</sup>Now when they had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

## Sung Response—Softly And Tenderly, Vs. 4



O for the won-der-ful love He has prom-ised, prom-ised for you and for me!



Though we have sinned, He has mer-cy and par-don, par-don for you and for me.



Come home, come home, you who are wear-y, come home;



Ear-nest-ly, ten-der-ly, Je-sus is call-ing, call-ing, O sin-ner, come home!

Text and Music: Will L. Thompson, 1880.

## Sermon—*Grace that Amazes*

—Pastor Emeritus, George Grant

## 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—from Romans 3:10-12; Psalm 25:1-2, 4-5

Pastor: Lord, we confess that there is no one righteous, no, not one.

All: No one understands; no one seeks for You, O God. We all have turned aside; together we have become worthless; none of us does good, not even one.

Pastor: So, to You, O Lord, do we lift up our souls. O Lord God, in You do we trust. Make us to know Your ways, O Lord; teach us Your paths.

All: Lead us in Your truth and teach us, for You are the God of our salvation.

*(Silent prayers of confession)*

## Sung Response—Kyrie

WOMEN

Lord have mer - cy — Christ have mer - cy —

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—based on Psalm 25:8, 10; Philippians 3:9-10; Matthew 28:19-20

Good and upright is the Lord. All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness. Therefore, we can now count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus our Lord. For we do not have a righteousness of our own that comes from the law. Rather, our righteousness is that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith; so now we may truly know Him and the power of His resurrection.

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—Blest Is The Man (Psalm 32)



Blest is the man, for - ev - er blest, whose guilt is par-doned by his God;  
Blest is the man to whom the Lord im - putes not his in - i - qui - ties;  
From guile his heart and lips are free; his hum-ble joy, his ho-ly fear,  
How glor-ious is that right-eous-ness that hides and can - cels all his sins,



Whose sins with sor - row are con-fessed, and cov-ered with his Sav-ior's blood.  
He pleads no mer - it of re - ward, and not on works, but grace re - lies.  
With deep re - pen-tance well a - gree, and join to prove his faith sin - cere.  
While a bright ev - i - dence of grace through his whole life ap-pears and shines!

© 2008 Greyfriars Press. Text: paraphrase of Psalm 32, Isaac Watts, 1719;  
Music: DISTRESS, William Walker, 1854, arr. Gregory Wilbur, 2008.

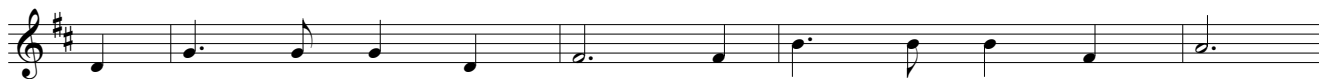
### Congregational Hymn—Not What My Hands Have Done



Not what my hands have done can save my guil - ty soul;  
Your voice a - lone, O Lord, can speak to me of grace;  
I praise the Christ of God; I rest on love div - ine;



Not what my toil - ing flesh has borne can make my spir - it whole.  
Your pow'r a - lone, O Son of God, can all my sin e - rase.  
And with un - fal - t'ring lip and heart I call this Sav - ior mine.



Not what I feel or do can give me peace with God;  
No oth - er work but Yours, no oth - er blood will do;  
My Lord has saved my life and free - ly par - don gives;



Not all my prayers and sighs and tears can bear my aw - ful load.  
No strength but that which is div - ine can bear me safe - ly through.  
I love be - cause He first loved me, I live be - cause He lives.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1861; Music: LEOMINSTER, George W. Martin, 1862.

# 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—Amazing Grace!



A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!  
'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears re - lieved;  
Thro' man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I have al - read - y come;  
The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His Word my hope se - cures;  
When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright shin - ing as the sun,

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.  
How pre - cious did that grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
He will my shield and por - tion be, as long as life en - dures.  
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1779; Music: NEW BRITAIN, Traditional American Melody,  
*Columbian Harmony*, 1829, Harm. Edwin O. Excell, 1900.

# 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 11:33, 36

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! From Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever. *Amen.*

## Sung Response—Gloria Patri

The musical score for the Gloria Patri is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. The first system is in 4/4 time and features a melody in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Glor - y be\_ to the Fath - er, and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;". The second system continues the melody and bass line, with lyrics: "As it was in the be - gin - ning, is\_ now, and ev - er shall be,". The third system concludes the piece with a key signature change to one sharp (F#) and a time signature change to 2/4, then back to 4/4. The lyrics are: "World\_ with - out end. A - men. A - - - men.".

Text: Lesser Doxology, 2<sup>nd</sup> century; Music: Nathan George, 2015, harm. Henry C. Haffner, 2015.

## Announcements

## Worship Notes:

In Acts 8, we come to the story of Simon the sorcerer, an early convert who foolishly believed he could attain spiritual gifts through bribery. He is rebuked by the apostles and seemingly follows their advice to “repent ... and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven” (Acts 8:22), asking Peter and John to “Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may come upon me” (Acts 8:24). In this morning’s service, like Simon we are warned not to “trust in treasured gold” (*Hear Me, All You People—Psalm 49*). Like Simon, we seek the Lord’s forgiveness, confessing that we are “evil, born in sin” and that none of our own striving can “save [our] guilty soul” (*God, Be Merciful To Me—Psalm 51; Not What My Hands Have Done*). And like Simon (presumably), we take heart that we serve a gracious God, who knows our feeble frame, who promises mercy and pardon, and covers our guilt with our Savior’s blood (*Praise, My Soul, The King Of Heaven; Softly And Tenderly; Blest Is The Man—Psalm 32*). Thank God that He deigns to save even greedy, bitter, sorcerous wretches like Simon—and like all of us. —Henry C. Haffner

**Key Words:** Magic, Great, Amazed, Holy Spirit, Repent

**Keystone Verse:** Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. (Acts 8:22)



Presbyterian Church in America  
4150 Clovercroft Rd. Franklin, TN 37067  
Mailing address: P.O. Box 1593, Franklin, TN 37065  
Web: [www.parishpres.org](http://www.parishpres.org)  
Church Office: Sarah Dye, 574-1029, [office@parishpres.org](mailto:office@parishpres.org)  
Prayer requests: [prayer@parishpres.org](mailto:prayer@parishpres.org)

Pastor: James Crampton, 943-1696, [jamie@parishpres.org](mailto:jamie@parishpres.org)  
Pastor Emeritus: George Grant, 574-1029 (office), [george@parishpres.org](mailto:george@parishpres.org)  
Associate Pastor: Brian Phillips, 429-8125, [brian@parishpres.org](mailto:brian@parishpres.org)  
Assistant Pastor: Mike Fennema, 931-215-1057, [mike@parishpres.org](mailto:mike@parishpres.org)  
Music Director: Henry C. Haffner, 497-6573, [henry@parishpres.org](mailto:henry@parishpres.org)  
Staff Accompanist: Mirandi Herrenbruck, [mirandi@parishpres.org](mailto:mirandi@parishpres.org)  
Audio Coordinator: Jonathan George, [jonathan@parishpres.org](mailto:jonathan@parishpres.org)  
Financial Administrator: Joanna Reategui, [joanna@parishpres.org](mailto:joanna@parishpres.org)  
Parish Nursery Coordinator: Chelsea Monroe, 495-0423, [chelsea@parishpres.org](mailto:chelsea@parishpres.org)  
Women’s Ministry Coordinator: Christian Barnes, [christian@parishpres.org](mailto:christian@parishpres.org)

### Elders

Keith Cannon (636-7137)	Tom Goddard (218-3654)	Brandon Herrenbruck (339-5516)
Michael Mastroberti (973-879-1368)	Mike Misericchi (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)
	Walt Yates (785-477-0990)	

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