



PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Lent

30 March 2025

The Holy Spirit, in His indwelling, His influences and fruits, is the sum of all grace, holiness, comfort and joy, or in one word, of all the spiritual good Christ purchased for men in this world; and is also the sum of all perfection, glory, and eternal joy, that He purchased for them in another world. —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—John 1:12

To all who do receive Him, who believe in His name, He gives the right to become children of God.

Sung Response—What Wondrous Love Is This, Vs. 1

What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!

What won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this

That caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul,

For my soul, to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul?

The musical score consists of four systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 2/2. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff of each system.

Text: American Folk Hymn; Music: WONDROUS LOVE, William Walker,
The Southern Harmony, 1835.

Call to Worship—from Psalm 84:1-4, 9, 12

Pastor: How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

All: Our soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord; our heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.

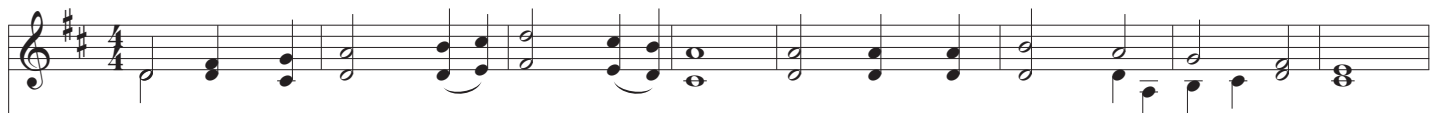
Reader 1: Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young at Your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

Reader 2: Blessed are those who dwell in Your house, ever singing Your praise!

All: Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of Your anointed!

Pastor: O Lord of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in You!

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 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—He Who Trusts In The Lord (Psalm 125)

Chorus

He who trusts in the Lord shall be like Zi-on's hill; Like a moun-tain ne-ver mov-ing,
Through storm-y gales and win-ter's i - cy chill, He is stand-ing still. *Fine*

Verse

Like the moun - tains stand-ing tall watch-ing o - ver Zi - on's walls,
Let no wick - ed rod com-mand in the right - eous peo - ple's land
Do Your good un - to the good, to the up - right hearts, O Lord;
So the Lord de - fends His peo - ple from their foes both great and small.
Lest His folk, in bit - ter an - ger, they stretch out a - veng - ing hands
Those who turn down crook - ed path - ways meet the end that e - vil should.

AFTER VS. 3, TO BRIDGE

Bridge

WOMEN
Peace be to the Is - ra - el of
MEN
Peace be to the Is - ra - el of God!
God! Peace be to thee!
Peace be to the Is - ra - el of God! *D.C. al Fine*

Text: based on Psalm 125:1-5, Henry C. Haffner, 2025;
Music: CLINGMAN'S DOME, Henry C. Haffner, 2025.

Scripture Reading—Ezekiel 37:1-6

The hand of the Lord was upon me, and He brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. And He led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. And He said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And I answered, “O Lord God, You know.” Then He said to me, “Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord.”

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Congregational Hymn—To Our Redeemer’s Glorious Name



To our Re - deem - er's glor - ious name a - wake the sac - red song:
Let won - der still with love u - nite, and gra - ti - tude and joy;
Dear Lord, while we a - dor - ing pay our hum - ble thanks to Thee,
O may the sweet, the bliss - ful theme fill ev - ery heart and tongue,



O may His love— im - mor - tal flame—tune ev - ery heart and tongue.
Be Jes - us our su - preme de - light, His praise our best em - ploy.
May ev - ery heart with glad - ness say, the Sav - ior died for me.
Till stran - gers love Thy charm - ing name, and join the sa - cred song.

Text: Anne Steel, 1760; Music: MCKEE, Irish Melody, arr. H. T. Burleigh, 1939.

Reading of the Word—Acts 10:24-48

The next day [Peter] rose and went away with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa accompanied him. ²⁴ And on the following day they entered Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. ²⁵ When Peter entered, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. ²⁶ But Peter lifted him up, saying, “Stand up; I too am a man.” ²⁷ And as he talked with him, he went in and found many persons gathered. ²⁸ And he said to them, “You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with or to visit anyone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean. ²⁹ So when I was sent for, I came without objection. I ask then why you sent for me.”

³⁰ And Cornelius said, “Four days ago, about this hour, I was praying in my house at the ninth hour, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing ³¹ and said, ‘Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God. ³² Send therefore to Joppa and ask for Simon who is called Peter. He is lodging in the house of Simon, a tanner, by the sea.’ ³³ So I sent for you at once, and you have been kind enough to come. Now therefore we are all here in the presence of God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord.”

³⁴ So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears Him and does what is right is acceptable to Him. ³⁶ As for the word that He sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all), ³⁷ you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. ³⁹ And we are witnesses of all that He did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put Him to death by hanging Him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised Him on the third day and made Him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with Him after He rose from the dead. ⁴² And He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that He is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ To Him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name.”

⁴⁴ While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. ⁴⁵ And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶ For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, ⁴⁷ “Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸ And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—Great And Marvelous, Vs. 2



All the na - tions soon will come and wor - ship be - fore Your throne; For these all, Your right - eous deeds, have been made known.



Who will not fear You, O Lord, and glor - i - fy Your name? You a - lone are ho - ly; You a - lone are ho - ly!

Text: based on Revelation 15:3-4; Music: George Grant, 1999, arr. Nathan George, 2011.

Sermon—*The Spirit With The Word*

—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—from Psalm 51:3, 10-13

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Behold, we were brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did our mothers conceive us. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.

All: Cast us not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from us.

Pastor: Restore to us the joy of Your salvation, and uphold us with a willing spirit.

All: Then we will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will return to You.

(Silent prayers of confession)

Sung Response—Lamb Of God

UNISON

O Lamb of God, that takes a - way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us. —

O Lamb of God, that takes a - way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us. —

O Lamb of — God, that takes a - way the sins of the world,

Slightly faster WOMEN

Grant us Thy peace, Grant us Thy, Grant us Thy peace,

MEN

Grant us Thy peace, Grant us Thy peace, Grant us Thy peace.

Text: Traditional, based on John 1:29; Music: CLOVERCROFT AGNUS DEI, Henry C. Haffner, 2019.

Assurance of Pardon—Ezekiel 36:25-28; Mark 12:30

Thus says the Lord God, “I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes and be careful to obey My rules. You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be My people, and I will be your God.”

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

All: Therefore, let us love the Lord our God with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our mind and with all our strength.

Sung Response—Twofold Amen

A - men, a - men

Text: Traditional; Music: DRESDEN, Johann Naumann, 18th century.

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:

UNISON



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to His peo-ple on earth. —

WOMEN

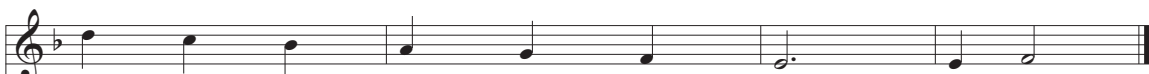


We praise You, we bless You, we wor-ship You, we glo-ri-fy You,

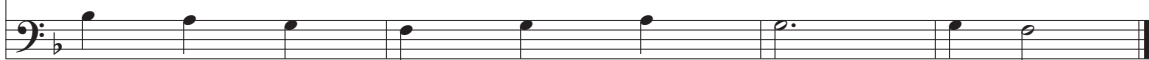
MEN



We praise You, we bless_ You, we wor-ship You, we glo-ri-fy You,



We give You thanks for Your great glo - ry.



We give You thanks for Your great glo - ry.

Text: Traditional, based on Luke 2:14; Music: CLOVERCROFT GLORIA, 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 Psalm—My Soul Waits In Expectation (Psalm 62)

My soul waits in ex - pec - ta - tion, and de - pends on God in - deed.
In my God I rest and glo - ry, for sal - va - tion is most sure.
All you peo - ples, all you na - tions, all times place in Him your trust!

All my strength and my sal - va - tion, does from Him a - lone pro - ceed.
In the God and Rock of strength, — is — my — re - fuge most se - cure.
Pour out all your heart be - fore Him, trust in — no - thing but His love.

He a - lone is my — Sal - va - tion, He a - lone my sure de - fense;
I shall not be great - ly shak - en, from my strong - hold and de - fense.
God is a re - fuge for — His peo - ple; pow'r be - longs to God a - lone!

He — a - lone my sure de - fense.
From — my strong - hold and de - fense.
Pow - er be - longs to God a - lone.

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

Congregational Hymn—How Sweet And Awful Is The Place

How sweet and aw - ful is the place with Christ with - in the doors,
While all our hearts and all our songs join to ad - mire the feast,
"Why was I made to hear Thy voice, and en - ter while there's room,
Pit - y the na - tions, O our God, con - strain the earth to come;

While ev - er - last - ing love dis - plays the choic - est of her stores.
Each of us cry, with thank - ful tongues, "Lord, why was I a guest?
When thou - sands make a wretch - ed choice, and rath - er starve than come?"
Send Thy vic - to - rious Word a - broad, and bring the strang - ers home.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1707; Music: ST. COLUMBA, Irish melody, harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906.

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—Man Of Sorrows!

Man of Sor - rows! what a name for the Son of God, who came
Bear - ing shame and scoff - ing rude, in my place con - demned He stood;
Guilt - y, vile, and help - less we; spot - less Lamb of God was He;
Lift - ed up was He to die; "It is fn - ished!" was His cry;

Ru - ined sin - ners to re - claim. Hal - le - lu - jah! What a Sav - ior!
Sealed my par - don with His blood. Hal - le - lu - jah! What a Sav - ior!
"Full a - tone - ment!" can it be? Hal - le - lu - jah! What a Sav - ior!
Now in Heav'n ex - alt - ed high. Hal - le - lu - jah! What a Sav - ior!

Text and Music: Phillip P. Bliss, 1875.

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—Christ Be With Me



Christ be with me, Christ with-in me, Christ be-hind me, Christ be-fore me,



Christ be - side me, Christ to win me, Christ to com-fort and re - store me,



Christ be - neath me, Christ a - bove me, Christ in qui - et, Christ in dan-ger,



Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stran-ger.

Text: attr. St. Patrick, 5th Century, tr. C. F. Alexander, 1889; Music: CLONMACNOISE, Traditional Irish melody, arr. Richard Terry, *The Westminster Hymnal*, 1912.

Announcements

Worship Notes:

In this morning's sermon text from Acts, we return to the story of Cornelius which Pastor Jamie began walking through two weeks ago. Here we find Peter breaking Jewish custom by visiting the house of a gentile and the Holy Spirit falling on those who heard his preaching. You'll notice many references to these themes throughout the service. Readings from Ezekiel prophesy the coming of the Holy Spirit, bringing life to dry bones (Ezekiel 37:6) and making them into a people for Himself (Ezekiel 36:28). We'll sing hymns that look forward to the day when "people and realms of every tongue dwell on His love" (*Jesus Shall Reign*) and "strangers ... join the sacred song" (*To Our Redeemer's Glorious Name*). We'll also sing Scripture songs from both the Old and New Testaments that call "all the nations" to worship before God's throne (*Great and Marvelous*, based on Revelation 15) and "all peoples" to place their trust in Him (*My Soul Waits In Expectation*, based on Psalm 62). Finally, we'll pray in song that the work of bringing the gentiles into the covenant that we see in Acts 10 would continue in our day, asking the Lord to "send Thy victorious Word abroad and bring the strangers home" (*How Sweet And Awful Is The Place*). —Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Partiality, Peace, Jesus, Judge, Forgiveness, Gift, Holy Spirit, Baptize
Keystone Verse: While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word.
(Acts 10:44)



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Steve Nelson, Elder Emeritus; Jimmy Allen, Tim Simmons, Deacons Emeritus

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