



PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Ordinary Time
9 June 2024

God's words are truth. He cannot lie, nor can He be in error. So He is true, even when every man is a liar. His truth, like all His attributes, is of the highest perfection. So in His lordship attributes of authority, He is the very standard of truth for His creatures. As with goodness and righteousness, truth is what God is and therefore what He says. There is no higher standard than God against which His truth may be measured. —John Frame

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—Matthew 1:21

You shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.

Sung Response—Come, Christians, Join To Sing, Vs. 1

The musical score is written in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: 'Come, Chris - tians, join to sing Al - le - lu - ia! A - men! Loud praise to Christ our King: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men! Let all, with heart and voice, be - fore His throne re - joice; Praise is His gra - cious choice. Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!' The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Text: Christian Bateman, 1843; Music: MADRID, Traditional Spanish melody, arr. David Evans, 1927.

Call to Worship—Psalm 33:1-6

Pastor: Shout for joy in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright.

All: Give thanks to the Lord with the lyre; make melody to Him with the harp of ten strings!

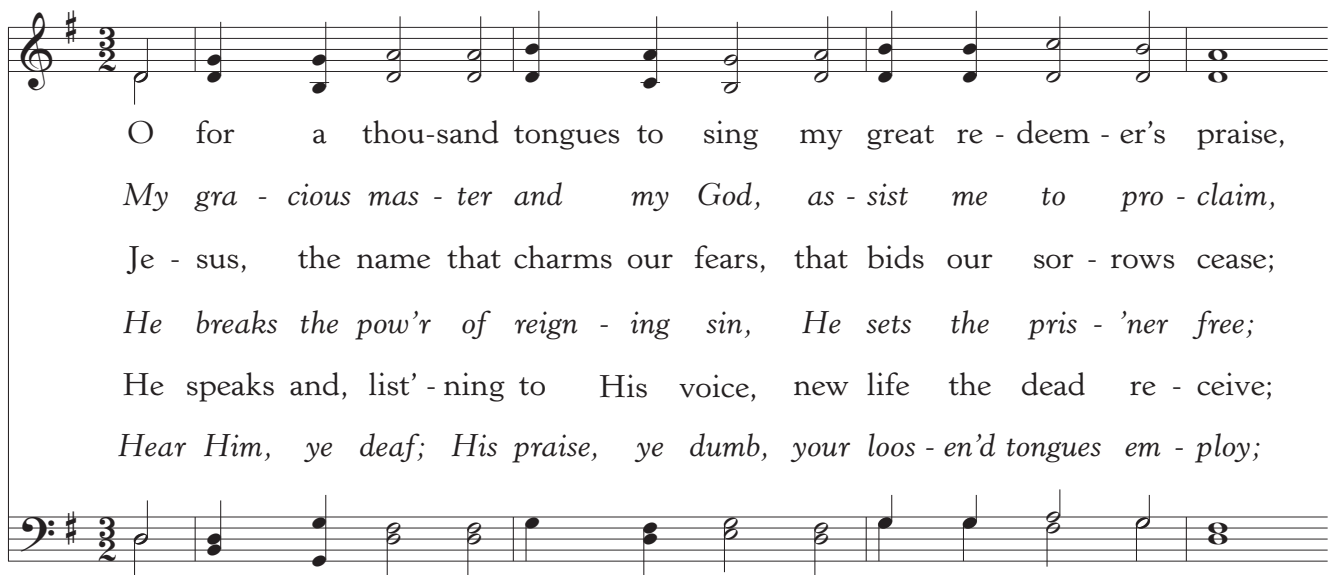
Reader 1: Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

Reader 2: For the word of the Lord is upright, and all His work is done in faithfulness.

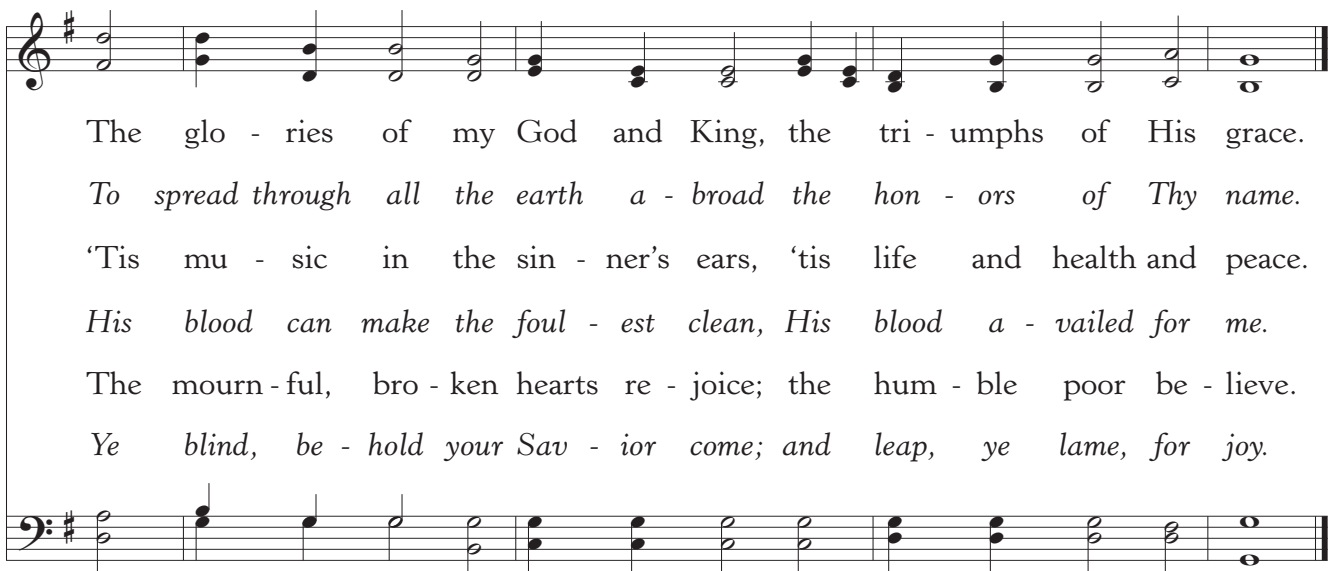
All: He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love the Lord.

Pastor: By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of His mouth all their host.

Congregational Hymn—O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing



O for a thousand tongues to sing my great re - deem - er's praise,
My gra - cious mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,
Je - sus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sor - rows cease;
He breaks the pow'r of reign - ing sin, He sets the pris - 'ner free;
He speaks and, list' - ning to His voice, new life the dead re - ceive;
Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb, your loos - en'd tongues em - ploy;



The glo - ries of my God and King, the tri - umphs of His grace.
To spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of Thy name.
'Tis mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
His blood can make the foul - est clean, His blood a - vailed for me.
The mourn - ful, bro - ken hearts re - joice; the hum - ble poor be - lieve.
Ye blind, be - hold your Sav - ior come; and leap, ye lame, for joy.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1739; Music: AZMON, Carl G. Glaser, 1828, arr. Lowell Mason, 1839.

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—Who Shall Abide In the Tents Of The Lord (Psalm 15)

Chorus



Who shall a-bide in the tents of the Lord, who shall dwell on His ho - ly hill?



Who shall a-bide in the tents of the Lord, who shall dwell on His ho - ly hill?

Verse



His walk is blame - less; He does what is right His heart shall speak truth to the end;

His eyes look scorn - ful - ly down on the vile, he hon - ors the fear of the Lord;



His tongue tells no lies, His hands do no e - vil He ne - ver brings shame on a friend.

He lends to the poor with-out seek-ing prof-it, when hurt-ing, he still keeps his word.

TO CHORUS

TO CHORUS, THEN BRIDGE

Bridge



He who does this, he who does this he shall ne - ver be moved.



He who does this, he who does this he shall ne - ver be moved.

TO CHORUS

Text: based on Psalm 15:1-5, Henry C. Haffner, 2024;
Music: STONE MOUNTAIN, Henry C. Haffner, 2024.

Scripture Reading—Psalm 119:89-96

Forever, O Lord, Your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You have established the earth, and it stands fast. By Your appointment they stand this day, for all things are Your servants. If Your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction. I will never forget Your precepts, for by them You have given me life. I am Yours; save me, for I have sought Your precepts. The wicked lie in wait to destroy me, but I consider Your testimonies. I have seen a limit to all perfection, but Your commandment is exceedingly broad.

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 strang - ers 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—Psalm 12:1-8

Save, O Lord, for the godly one is gone; for the faithful have vanished from among the children of man. ²Everyone utters lies to his neighbor; with flattering lips and a double heart they speak. ³May the Lord cut off all flattering lips, the tongue that makes great boasts, ⁴those who say, “With our tongue we will prevail, our lips are with us; who is master over us?” ⁵“Because the poor are plundered, because the needy groan, I will now arise,” says the Lord; “I will place him in the safety for which he longs.” ⁶The words of the Lord are pure words, like silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times. ⁷You, O Lord, will keep them; You will guard us from this generation forever. ⁸On every side the wicked prowl, as vileness is exalted among the children of man.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—Speak, O Lord, Vs. 3



Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds; help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us—



Truths un - changed from the dawn of time that will ech - o down through e - ter - ni - ty.



And by grace we'll stand on Your prom - is - es, and by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.



Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built and the Earth is filled with Your glo - ry.

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

Sermon—*The Battle of Words*

—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 James 3:2, 5-6, 8-9

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. We confess that we all stumble in many ways. Our tongues are small members, yet they boast of great things.

All: **Our tongues are a fire, a world of unrighteousness. Our tongues are set among our members staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of our lives, and set on fire by hell.**

Pastor: No human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

All: **With our tongues we bless You, our Lord and Father, and with them, we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. Forgive us for our lying lips through the work of Christ we pray.**

Assurance of Pardon—1 John 1:7-9; Acts 1:8

If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Pastor: This is the promise of God.

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

Pastor: For Christ Himself confirmed: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses."

All: **"In Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."**

Sung Response—God Be Merciful To Me (Psalm 51), Vs. 6

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are: "Sin - ners then shall learn from me and re - turn, O God, to Thee; Sa - vior, all my guilt re - move, and my tongue shall sing Thy love; Touch my si - lent lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall praise ac - cord." The score consists of three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The piano accompaniment is primarily chordal, providing harmonic support for the vocal lines.

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 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!

CCLI #2844402 © 2008 Greyfriars Press. Text: paraphrase of Psalm 32, Isaac Watts, 1719;
Music: DISTRESS, William Walker, 1854, arr. Gregory Wilbur, 2008.

Congregational Psalm—The Lord I Will At All Times Bless (Psalm 34)



The Lord I will at all times bless; with praise my mouth em - ploy; my soul shall in Je - ho - vah boast, the hum - ble hear with joy—
O chil - dren, come, and gath - er round for wis - dom you should hear; I'll teach you how to un - der - stand and seek the Lord with fear
The trou - bles that af - flict the just in num - ber man - y be;—but God de - liv - ers from them all the righ - teous He sets free.



O let us mag - ni - fy the Lord, ex - alt His name with me.—look up to Him, and so your fac - es ra - di - ant shall be.
Re - strain your lips from speak - ing lies, con - trol your fool - ish tongue. de - part from ill, do good, seek peace, so shall your days be long.
Your bones He care - ful - ly will keep, what - ev - er shall be - fall,—for not so much as one of them can be bro - ken at all.

Chorus



Taste — and see — that the Lord — is good; — Take re - fuge in — His bless - ing —



Fear — Him, you saints: — those who fear — the Lord lack no — good thing.

Coda, after verse 3



The righ - teous cry un - to the Lord sal - va - tion He im - parts; the Lord is ev - er near to them who ache from broken hearts.—



A - - - men.

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—Help, Lord, Because The Godly Ones (Psalm 12)



Help, Lord, be - cause the god - ly ones have van - ished;
May our Lord God cut off all lips which flat - ter,
"I will a - rise now, for the weak are plun - dered,"
Flaw - less are all the words the Lord has spo - ken,
O Lord, You will pre - serve Your peo - ple al - ways,



Gone are the faith - ful from the sons of man.
Proud tongues which speak with haugh - ty, boast - ful word,
Thus says the Lord who heeds the poor man's cries.
Pure as the sil - ver which by fire is tried.
And from this e - vil age keep us se - cure;



Each one with dou - ble heart speaks to his neigh - bor;
Those who have said, "Our tongues will sure - ly con - quer,
"I will re - gard his groans, for he is need - y.
When in the fur - nace sev - en times is test - ed,
On ev - ery side the wick - ed strut and swag - ger,



He ut - ters lies and false - ly flat - ters them.
Our lips are ours, who then can be our lord?"
I will pro - vide the safe - ty he de - sires."
It then e - merg - es ful - ly pur - i - fied.
As peo - ple hon - or all that is im - pure.

Text: Psalm 12:1-8, OPC/URCNA Psalter, 2018; Music: GENEVAN 12 (DONNE SECOURS), Louis Bourgeois, 1551.

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—2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort, and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word. *Amen.*

Sung Response—Unto Christ Who Loved Us



Un-to Christ, who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,



And has made us kings and priests un - to God and His Fa - ther:



Un-to Him be glo-ry and do-min-ion for - ev-er and ev-er. A - men.

CCLI #2844402 ©1936 Oxford University Press; Text: Revelation 1:5-6;
Music: UNTO HIM WHO LOVED US, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1936.

Announcements

Worship Notes:

Here at Parish, we have long enjoyed singing the psalms, often to musical settings produced in house. But psalm singing is a distinctive of the Reformed faith that goes back to the origins of the movement in the 16th century. The setting of Psalm 12 we will sing at the end of this morning's service was composed by Loys (Louis) Bourgeois (c. 1510-1561), one of the finest Huguenot musicians of his age. Bourgeois was the music director at Saint Peter's Cathedral in Geneva, pastored by John Calvin, and the man largely responsible for the music, editing, and publication of what we know today as the *Geneva Psalter*, published posthumously in 1562. His association with Calvin came in handy—the great reformer was instrumental in getting Bourgeois released from prison after the city authorities arrested the composer for altering some of their preferred tunes! Each setting in the 1562 psalter was uniquely fitted to each psalm (no recycling of tunes, as was common in English church music) and was intended to be sung in unison (no four-part harmony) by the congregation with a simple, somewhat austere musical style. This tune is called GENEVAN 12 or DONNE SECOURS, after the first words of Psalm 12 in French. So while it may be less familiar to us, this music has been associated with this passage of Scripture for nearly five centuries. —Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Save, Lord, Lies, Tongue, Lips, Words, Faithful, Wicked

Keystone Verse: Save, O Lord, for the godly one is gone; for the faithful have vanished from among the children of man. (Psalm 12:1)



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