



PARISH
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Reformation Sunday
October 26th, 2025

Quotes for reflection:

Now the office of zeal is to overlook our own ease and interests, and to find our happiness in serving God... Let us labour, all of us in our respective spheres, and according to our abilities, to promote the salvation of our fellow-men, and to advance the kingdom of Christ to the utmost ends of the earth.

—Charles Simeon

The fact that there was a riot and so many people got stirred up in defense of Artemis is proof of how successful the preaching of the gospel had been. Not only had the gospel spread so that many had become Christians, but the Christians had started becoming serious about being Christians. Maybe that is where we ought to start when we think in terms of social reform today: with the transformation of Christians. These Christians had come under the power of the Spirit of God through the preaching of the Word so thoroughly that they were convicted of sin, confessed it, and then actually brought out and destroyed the things that were opposed to Christianity.

—James Montgomery Boice

GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

It is God Himself who calls His people to worship. We do not call ourselves: the King opens His gates and welcomes us into His courts.

Gospel Invitation—John 14:6

Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

Sung Response—The Lord Is King, Vs. 1



The Lord is King! Lift up thy voice, O Earth; and all ye heav'ns, re-joice!



From world to world the joy shall ring, “The Lord omni - po - tent is King.”

Text: Josiah Conder, 1824; Music: ROCKBRIDGE, Lucius Chapin,
from *The Harmonia Sacra*, 1812, alt. 2010.

Call to Worship—Psalm 86:5, 8-13

Pastor: You, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon You.

All: There is none like You among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like Yours.

Reader 1: Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth; unite my heart to fear Your name.

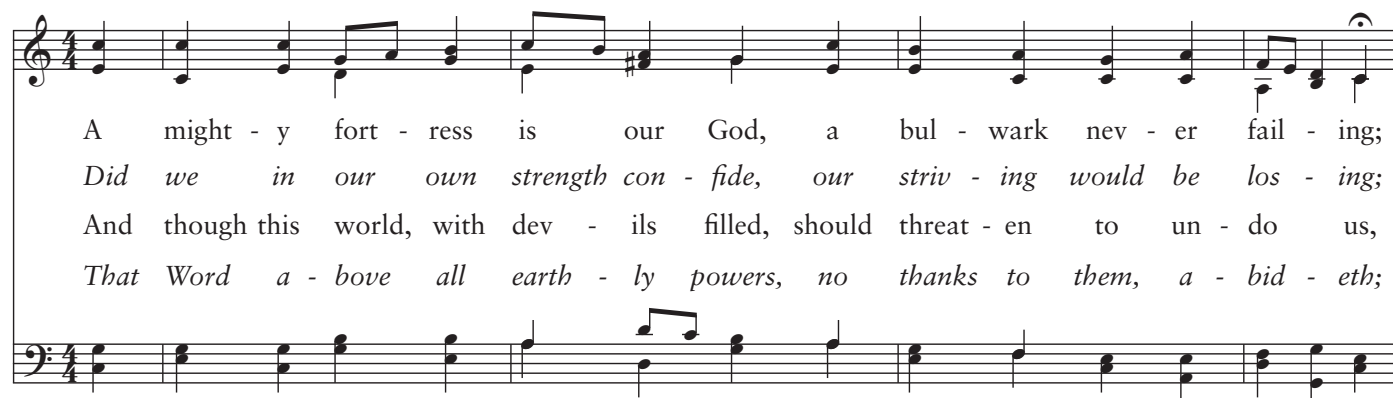
Reader 2: I give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify Your name forever.

Pastor: For great is Your steadfast love toward me; You have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

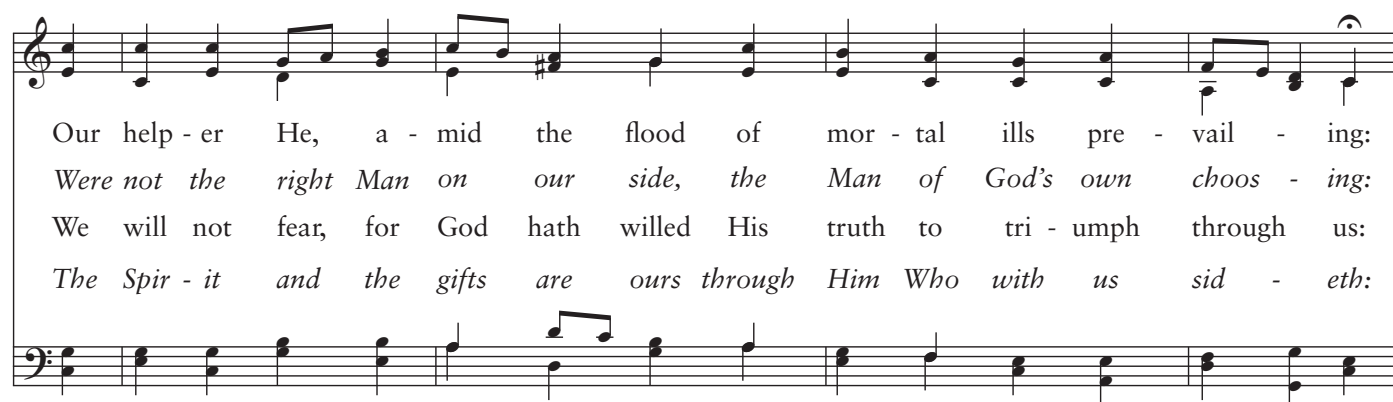
All: All the nations You have made shall come and worship before You, O Lord, and shall glorify Your name.

Pastor: For You are great and do wondrous things; You alone are God.

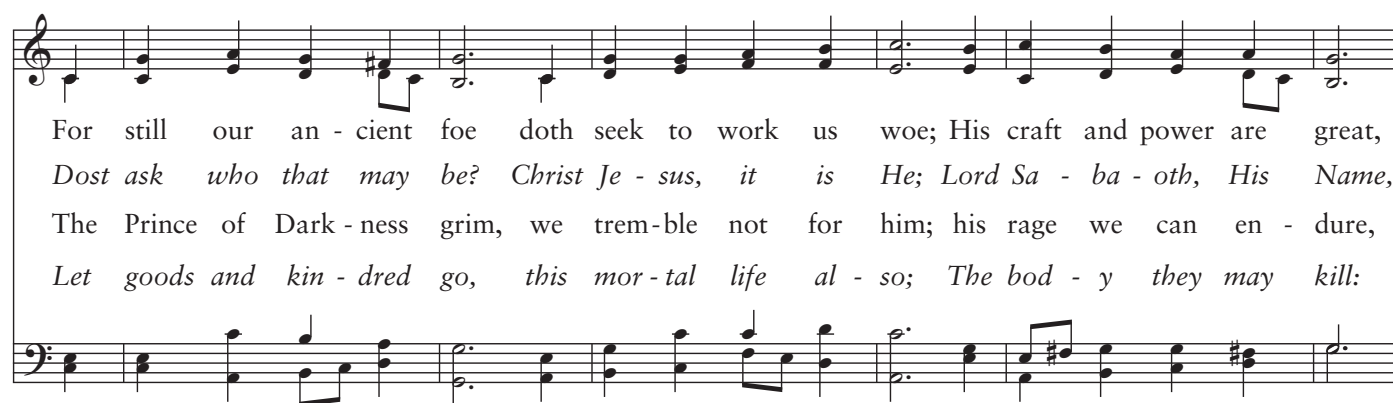
Congregational Hymn—A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



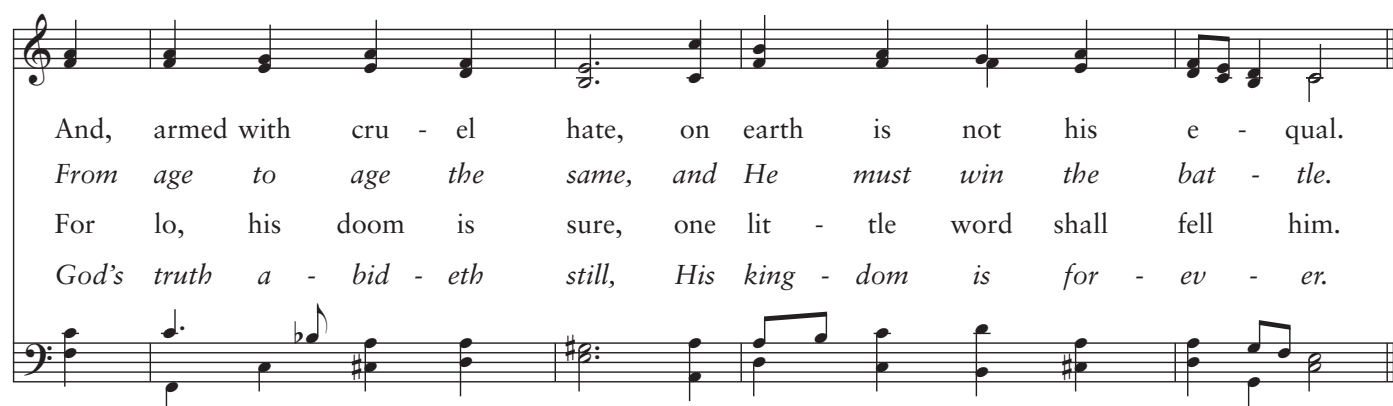
A might - y fort - ress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er fail - ing;
Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be los - ing;
And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un - do us,
That Word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a - bid - eth;



Our help - er He, a - mid the flood of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing;
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choos - ing;
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to tri - umph through us:
The Spir - it and the gifts are ours through Him Who with us sid - eth:



For still our an - cient foe doth seek to work us woe; His craft and power are great,
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus, it is He; Lord Sa - ba - oth, His Name,
The Prince of Dark - ness grim, we trem - ble not for him; his rage we can en - dure,
Let goods and kin - dred go, this mor - tal life al - so; The bod - y they may kill:



And, armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.
From age to age the same, and He must win the bat - tle.
For lo, his doom is sure, one lit - tle word shall fell him.
God's truth a - bid - eth still, His king - dom is for - ev - er.

Text: paraphrase of Psalm 46, Martin Luther, 1529, tr. Frederick H. Hedge, 1853;
Music: EIN'FESTE BURG, Martin Luther, 1529.

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. In His Word, God particularly calls us to sing psalms: while all Scripture is appropriate for hymns and spiritual songs, there is a specific exhortation for us to use the Psalter as the church's songbook.

Congregational Psalm—Blest Be The Lord, My Rock, My Might (Psalm 144)



Blest be the Lord, my rock, my might, who trains my fin - gers for the fight
Lord, bow Your heav'ns, in might de - scend, come touch the hills the moun - tains rend
O You to whom in trust I flee, stretch forth your hand and res - cue me
Now I will sing a glad new song, Your praise, O God, I will pro - long



My shield, my righ - teous - ness, — My — shield, my righ - teous - ness. —
And they shall smoke and flame, — And — they — shall smoke and flame. —
From all the for - eign throng, From all — the for - eign throng. —
For You have heard my prayer, For — You — have heard my prayer. —



My strong high tow'r, my Sa - vior true, who keeps my en - e - mies sub - dued
As ar - rows send Your light - ning out, to put Your en - e - mies to — rout
Their mouths are false for lies they speak, their hands of strength a - gainst the weak,
You give the vic - to - ry to kings, Your own You keep with shel - t'ring wings



My shel - ter in dis - tress, — My — shel - ter in dis - tress.
And fill Your foes with shame, — And fill — Your foes with shame.
Are filled with craft and wrong, — Are — filled with craft and wrong.
From cru - el sword and snare, — From cru - el sword and snare.

Text: Psalm 144:1-2, 5-10, *The Psalter*, 1912, alt. 2016;
Music: POLK COUNTY, Henry C. Haffner, 2016.

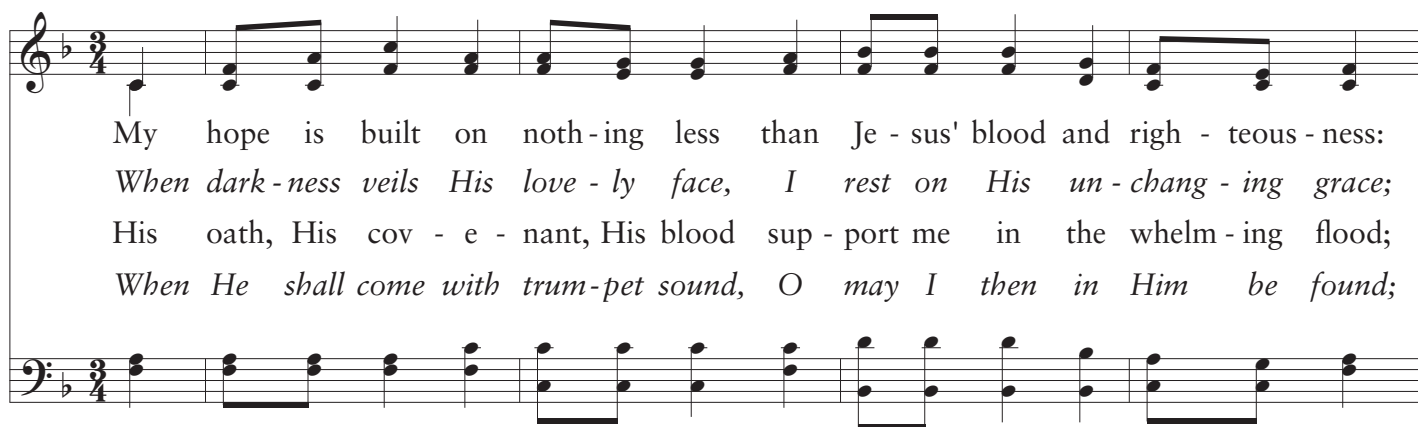
Scripture Reading—2 Corinthians 1:8-11

For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and He will deliver us. On Him we have set our hope that He will deliver us again. You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Congregational Hymn—My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less



My hope is built on noth - ing less than Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness:
When dark - ness veils His love - ly face, I rest on His un - chang - ing grace;
His oath, His cov - e - nant, His blood sup - port me in the whelm - ing flood;
When He shall come with trum - pet sound, O may I then in Him be found;

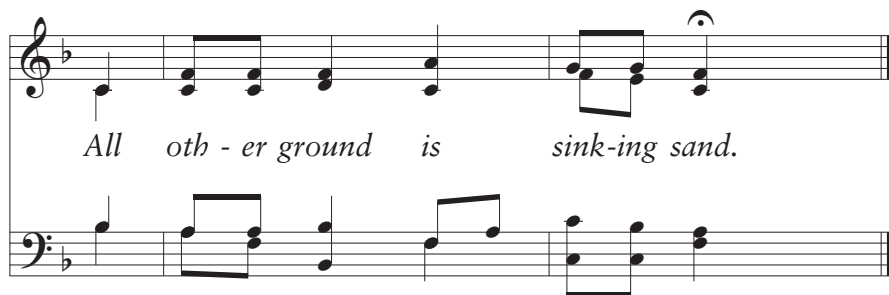


I dare not trust the sweet - est frame, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
In ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
When all a - round my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.
Dressed in His righ - teous - ness a - lone, fault - less to stand be - fore the throne.

Refrain



On Christ the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand,



All oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1834; Music: SOLID ROCK,
William B. Bradbury, 1863.

Sermon Text—Acts 19:21-41

Now after these events Paul resolved in the Spirit to pass through Macedonia and Achaia and go to Jerusalem, saying, “After I have been there, I must also see Rome.” ²² And having sent into Macedonia two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, he himself stayed in Asia for a while.

²³ About that time there arose no little disturbance concerning the Way. ²⁴ For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought no little business to the craftsmen. ²⁵ These he gathered together, with the workmen in similar trades, and said, “Men, you know that from this business we have our wealth. ²⁶ And you see and hear that not only in Ephesus but in almost all of Asia this Paul has persuaded and turned away a great many people, saying that gods made with hands are not gods. ²⁷ And there is danger not only that this trade of ours may come into disrepute but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis may be counted as nothing, and that she may even be deposed from her magnificence, she whom all Asia and the world worship.”

²⁸ When they heard this they were enraged and were crying out, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” ²⁹ So the city was filled with the confusion, and they rushed together into the theater, dragging with them Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians who were Paul's companions in travel. ³⁰ But when Paul wished to go in among the crowd, the disciples would not let him. ³¹ And even some of the Asiarchs, who were friends of his, sent to him and were urging him not to venture into the theater. ³² Now some cried out one thing, some another, for the assembly was in confusion, and most of them did not know why they had come together. ³³ Some of the crowd prompted Alexander, whom the Jews had put forward. And Alexander, motioning with his hand, wanted to make a defense to the crowd. ³⁴ But when they recognized that he was a Jew, for about two hours they all cried out with one voice, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”

³⁵ And when the town clerk had quieted the crowd, he said, “Men of Ephesus, who is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is temple keeper of the great Artemis, and of the sacred stone that fell from the sky? ³⁶ Seeing then that these things cannot be denied, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rash. ³⁷ For you have brought these men here who are neither sacrilegious nor blasphemers of our goddess. ³⁸ If therefore Demetrius and the craftsmen with him have a complaint against anyone, the courts are open, and there are proconsuls. Let them bring charges against one another. ³⁹ But if you seek anything further, it shall be settled in the regular assembly. ⁴⁰ For we really are in danger of being charged with rioting today, since there is no cause that we can give to justify this commotion.” ⁴¹ And when he had said these things, he dismissed the assembly.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—O God, Our Help In Ages Past (Psalm 90), Vs. 7

The musical score is written for two voices, Treble and Bass, in 4/4 time. The key signature has one sharp (F#), indicating D major or B minor. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with the lyrics written below the notes. The first line of music corresponds to the first line of text, and the second line corresponds to the second line of text. The score ends with a double bar line.

O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come:

Be Thou our guard while trou-bles last, and our e - ter - nal home.

Text: paraphrase of Psalm 90, Isaac Watts, 1719;
Music: ST. ANNE, William Croft, 1708.

Sermon—*From the Mouth of Enemies*

—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 Romans 2:13, 17-18, 21-24

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. We call ourselves Christians and rely on the law and boast in God and know his will and approve what is excellent, because we are instructed from the law.

All: We teach others, but we do not teach ourselves. While we preach against stealing, we steal? We who say that one must not commit adultery, we commit adultery. We who abhor idols, we rob temples. You who boast in the law dishonor God by breaking the law.

Pastor: We who boast in the law dishonor God by breaking the law.

All: The name of God is blasphemed among the nations because of us.

Assurance of Pardon—Romans 3:23-26; Colossians 2:6-7

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Pastor: This is the promise of God.

All: This is the Word of the Lord.

Pastor: Therefore, in the same way you received Christ Jesus as Lord, so continue to walk in Him.

All: So then, we are rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith.

Pastor: Therefore, let us abound in thanksgiving.

Sung Response—From Heaven On High, Vs. 3



Je - sus the Christ, our God and Lord, who in all need shall aid af - ford;



Him - self will your Sal - va - tion be, Him - self from sin will make you free.

Text: Martin Luther, 1535, tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1855;

Music: VOM HIMMEL HOCH, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1539.

GOD INVITES HIS PEOPLE TO FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM

God feeds the faith of His people by giving them a meal. As God fellowships with them in faith, His people pledge their obedience to God and their love for one another.

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—Answer, Father When I Call (Psalm 4)



An - swer, Fa - ther, when I call, O God of my right - eous - ness.
How long will you, sons of men, turn my ho - nor in - to shame?
Trem - ble now but then de - part, from all these be - set - ting sins;
Ma - ny say "Who brings us good? Lift your light and bless the ground!"



You have giv - en me re - lief, when in deep dis - tress.
How long will you love your lies, speak - ing them in vain?
Me - di - tate with - in your heart, rest, be si - lent.
But more joy is in my heart, Than when wine a - bounds.



An - swer Fa - ther, and be gra - cious to the ser - vant in Your care,
Know the Lord has called the god - ly, made them ho - ly, one and all.
Of - fer right - eous sa - cri - fi - ces; bring your faith un - to the judge.
So in per - fect peace now rest - ing, I will both lie down and sleep



Show Your mer - cy in my trou - ble, O Lord hear my prayer;
Know the Lord will sure - ly hear me when to Him I call;
Lay your si - lent hearts be - fore Him; place in Him your trust;
You a - lone, O Lord pro - tec - tor, my soul safe - ly keep;



O Lord hear my prayer.
When to Him I call.
Place in Him your trust.
my soul safe - ly keep.

Text & Music: Nathan George, 2012.

Congregational Psalm—The Lord Ever Hear You (Psalm 20)



The Lord ev - er hear you when trou - bles are near;
May He all the gifts of your love keep in mind,
For joy in sal - va - tion we'll shout to His praise:
Some trust in their char - iots pre - pared for the fray,
Our foes are bowed down and are fal - len at length,



The name of our God keep you safe from all fear.
And all of your off' - rings ac - cep - ta - ble find;
In God's ho - ly name all our ban - ners we'll raise.
And some in their hor - ses the foe to dis - may,
While we have a - ris - en and stand in Your strength.



The Lord send you help; from His tem - ple pro - claim
May He ev - er grant you the wish of your heart,
The Lord who has saved be your con - fi - dence still,
But we will make men - tion of one on - ly name;
O, Lord save the king! For You rule o - ver all;



That He'll out of Zi - on your weak - ness sus - tain.
Ful - fill all your yearn - ing, and wis - dom im - part.
And all your pe - ti - tions in mer - cy ful - fill.
The Lord God al - migh - ty, we'll ev - er ac - claim.
Give bless - ing and an - swer when - ev - er we call!

Text: Edward Collier, *Lyrics from the Psalter*, 1907, alt. 2021;
Music: STAR POINTER, Henry C. Haffner, 2021.

GOD’S PEOPLE GRATEFULLY RESPOND WITH THEIR PETITIONS, TITHES & OFFERINGS, AND PRAISE

Praying, serving, and giving are essential aspects of worship, moving our faith from our heads and hearts into our lives and callings. Offering boxes for both tithes and alms are located in the foyer.

Pastoral Prayer

Corporate Prayer—*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—Christ Jesus Lay In Death's Strong Bands



Christ Je - sus lay in death's strong bands, for our of - fens - es — giv - en;
It was a strange and dread - ful strife when life and death con - tend - ed;
So let us keep the fes - ti - val to which the Lord in - vites us;



But now at God's right hand He stands and brings us life from Heav - en:
The vic - tor - y re - mained with life: the reign of death was — end - ed.
Christ is Him - self the joy of all, the sun that warms and lights us.



There - fore let us joy - ful be and sing God's prais - es thank - ful - ly
Stripped of pow'r, no more it reigns, an emp - ty form a - lone re - mains;
Now His grace to us im - parts e - ter - nal sun - shine to our hearts;



With songs of al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
Death's sting is lost for - ev - er! Al - le - lu - ia!
The night of sin is end - ed. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Martin Luther, 1524, tr. Richard Massie 1858; Music: CHRIST LAG IN TODESBANDEN,
Medieval melody, arr. Johann Walther, 1524.

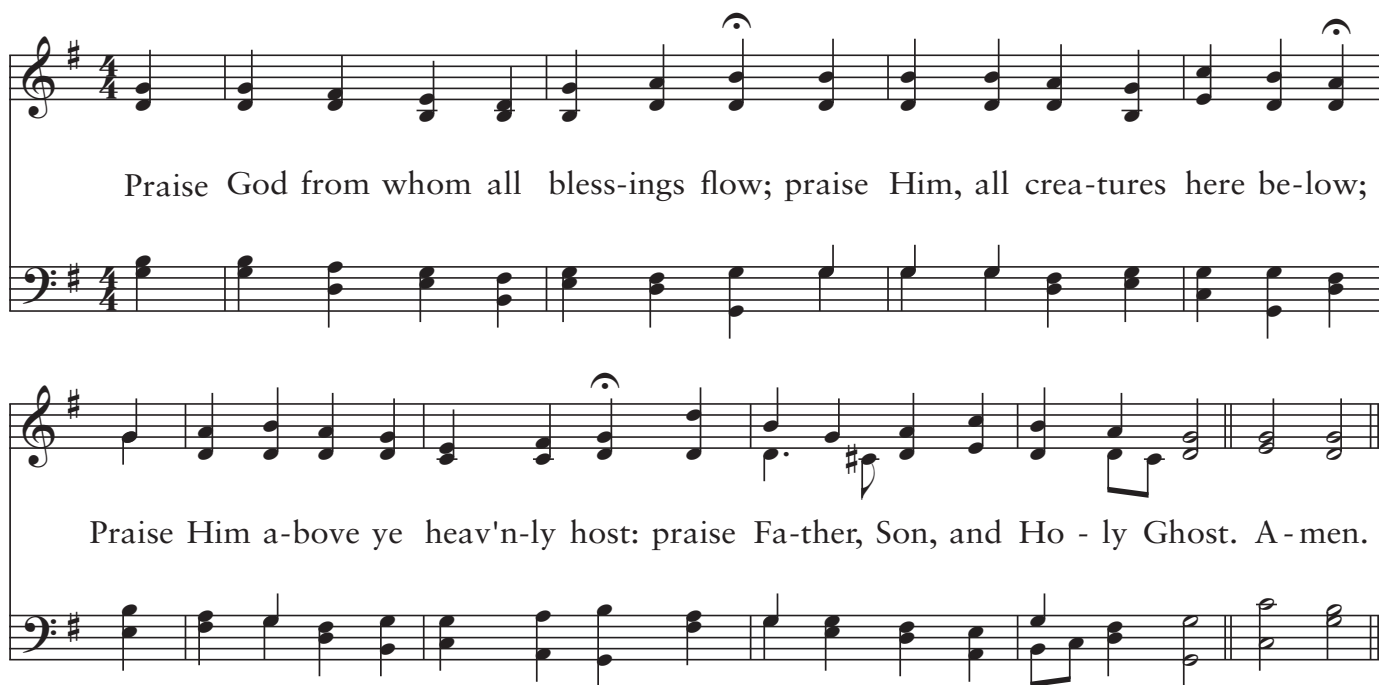
GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT

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—Doxology



Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; praise Him, all crea-tures 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, 1674; Music: OLD 100TH, Louis Bourgeois, 1551.

Announcements

Worship Notes:

This Sunday marks the annual observance of Reformation Sunday, when we remember with thanksgiving God's hand of providence in the 16th century Protestant Reformation. Martin Luther, the German monk who launched the Reformation by posting 95 theses on the door of the castle church in Wittenberg, had a prolific engagement with music and poetry. Hymnals which included either tunes or texts by Luther appeared as early as 1524, and he worked closely with Johann Walter (the composer of *CHRIST LAG IN TODESBANDEN*) to prepare music for a German language worship service. Luther famously wrote both the music and text of *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* (a paraphrase of Psalm 46), but he also provided the poetry for *Christ Jesus Lay In Death's Strong Bands* and adapted a previously existing folk song for use with his Christmas hymn, *From Heaven On High* (all of which we'll sing this morning). He also believed that music and singing were such vital practices for the Christian that he greatly encouraged the development of musical education in the emerging German states—an effort that certainly encouraged the flowering of German musical culture in the following centuries, an example of theology working its way out in the life of a people.

—Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Resolve, Disturbance, Way, Wealth, Turn, Gods, Confusion, Riot

Keystone Verse: And you see and hear that not only in Ephesus but in almost all of Asia this Paul has persuaded and turned away a great many people, saying that gods made with hands are not gods. (Acts 19:26)



PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Miles Foltermann (281) 793-3280	Tom Goddard (218-3654)	Brandon Herrenbruck (339-5516)
Michael Mastroberti (973-879-1368)	Mike Miserocchi (594-3880)	Matt Morrison (482-5107)
Jason Parolini (497-3337)	Jonathan Thornton (703-801-1355)	

Deacons

Aaron Anderson (973-1797)	Brandon Blair (336-0274)	Kevin Cowherd (967-5099)
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Officers Emeritus

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

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