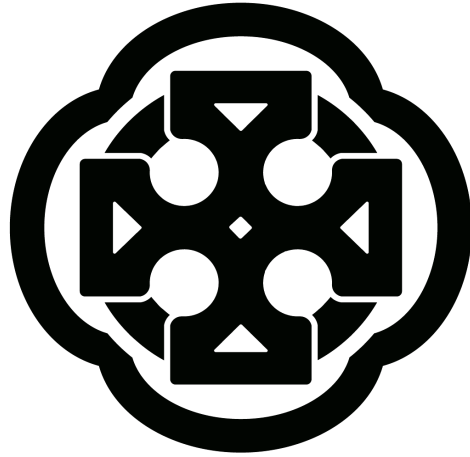




PARISH
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Ordinary Time
September 28th, 2025

Quotes for reflection:

Therefore, the most formidable of all evils—death—is nothing to us. When we exist, death is not present to us. When death is present, then we do not exist. It is no concern then either of the living or the dead. But people flee from death as the greatest of evils.

—Epicurus

If the dead cannot be brought back to life, however much we may beat our breasts; if destiny remains fixed and immovable forever, not to be changed by any sorrow, however great; and if death does not loose his hold of anything that he once has taken away, then let our futile grief be brought to an end. Let us, then, steer our own course, and no longer allow ourselves to be driven to leeward by the force of our misfortune. He is a sorry pilot who lets the waves wring his rudder from his grasp, who leaves the sails to fly loose, and abandons the ship to the storm: but he who boldly grasps the helm and clings to it until the sea closes over him, deserves praise even though he be shipwrecked.

—Seneca

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—Acts 3:19-20

Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus.

Sung Response—In All The Land Rejoice (Psalm 100), Vs. 1

In all the land re - joice and to the Lord cry out.

In Wor-ship glad-ly serve the Lord for joy be - fore Him shout.

Text: Psalm 100:1-5, *The Book of Psalms for Worship*, © 2010 Crown and Covenant Publications;
Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1894.

Call to Worship—Psalm 115:1-5, 16, 18

Pastor: Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to Your name give glory, for the sake of Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness!

All: Why should the nations say, “Where is their God?” Our God is in the heavens; He does all that He pleases.

Reader 1: Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands.

Reader 2: They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see.

Pastor: The heavens are the Lord's heavens, but the earth He has given to the children of man.

All: We will bless the Lord from this time forth and forevermore.

Pastor: Praise the Lord!

Congregational Hymn—Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing and si - lent as light,
 To all, life Thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,

In light in - ac - ces - i - ble hid from our eyes,
 Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, Thou rul - est in might;
 In all life Thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 Thine an - gels a - dore Thee, all veil - ing their sight;

Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 Thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree,
 All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

Al - might - y, vic - to - rious, Thy great name we praise.
 Thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 And with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth Thee.
 'Tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth Thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867; Music: ST. DENIO, Traditional Welsh melody.

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—O Lord, Our Lord, How Majestic (Psalm 8)



O Lord, our Lord, how ma - jes - tic__ is Your name in all the earth!

O, *when I gaze at the heavn's and all the works Your hands have made,*

Though You__ have made him__ low - er__than the an - gels for a time.

You set__ his feet up - on the earth to be a car - ing shield



For You__ have set Your glor - ious name a - bove the high-est heav'ns.

The moon and stars in the heavn's a - bove, which You have set in place,

You crown'd him in your__ maj - es - ty, in glo - ry and in light.

For flocks of sheep and__ herd - ing beasts and cat - tle in the fields,



Out of mouths of__ babes and in - fants, You es - tab - lished strength!

What is man that You are mind - ful, and re - mem - ber him,

You gave him do - min - ion o - ver all You did cre - ate;

Birds of heav - en,__ teem - ing wa - ters; all Your won - drous works.



All Your en - e - mies will then be si - lent at Your praise.

And the son of__ man that You will gen - tly care for him?

O - ver all the__ won-drous works and all Your hands have made.

Lord, our Lord, how ma - jes - tic is Your name in all the earth!

Text: based on Psalm 8:1-9, Nathan George, 2015; Music: Nathan George, 2015.

Scripture Reading—Isaiah 42:5-9

Thus says God, the Lord,
 who created the heavens and stretched them out,
 who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people on it
 and spirit to those who walk in it:
“I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness;
 I will take you by the hand and keep you;
I will give you as a covenant for the people,
 a light for the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
 from the prison those who sit in darkness.
I am the Lord; that is My name;
 My glory I give to no other,
 nor my praise to carved idols.
Behold, the former things have come to pass,
 and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth
 I tell you of them.”

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Congregational Psalm—The Earth Is The Lord's (Psalm 24)



The earth is the Lord's the en - tir - e - ty there - of, the whole world and
 O— *who shall a - scend to the mountain of the Lord? And who in His*
 This man will re - ceive man - y— bless - ings from the Lord: Sal - va - tion, and



all who on it dwell;— For— he has es - tab - lished His
ho - ly place shall stand?— This man does not lift— up his—
 right - eous - ness, and grace;— And His gen - er - a - tions shall

Verse 1 & 2, then Chorus



work up - on the seas, its found - ing where teem - ing wa - ters swell.
soul to what is false; His heart's pure and spot - less are his hands.
 fol - low on the way, They'll look for the God of Ja - cob's face.

Chorus



Lift up your heads,— O Lift them up you gates! Be lift - ed up,—



Lift up you an - cient doors! The King of glo - ry, the King is com - ing in;



Strong and migh - ty for the bat - tle is the Lord.

Text: based on Psalm 24:1-10, Henry C. Haffner, 2025;
 Music: KINGS'S MOUNTAIN, Henry C. Haffner, 2025.

Sermon Text—Acts 17:16-34

¹⁶ Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷ So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸ Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹ And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?” ²⁰ For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” ²¹ Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

²² So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³ For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵ nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶ And He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷ that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward Him and find Him. Yet He is actually not far from each one of us, ²⁸ for “‘In Him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, “‘For we are indeed His offspring.’” ²⁹ Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰ The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now He commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because He has fixed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom He has appointed; and of this He has given assurance to all by raising Him from the dead.”

³² Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, “We will hear you again about this.” ³³ So Paul went out from their midst. ³⁴ But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates, Vs. 1



Lift up your heads, ye migh-ty gates; be-hold, the King of_ glor-y waits;



The King of kings is draw - ing near; the Sav-ior of_ the world is here!

Text: George Weissel, 1642, tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1855;

Music: TRURO, Thomas Williams, 1789.

Sermon—*What Has Jerusalem To Do With Athens?*

—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 Hosea 14:1-3

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. You have said by the prophet, “Come, let us return to the Lord; for He has torn us, that He may heal us; He has struck us down, and He will bind us up. After two days He will revive us; on the third day He will raise us up, that we may live before Him.” We return to the Lord our God, for we have stumbled because of our iniquity. We bring words and return to the Lord.

All: We repent and say, “Take away all iniquity; accept what is good, and we will pay the vows of our lips.”

Pastor: The powerful in this world shall not save us; we will not ride on their horses.

All: We will say no more, “Our God,” to the work of our hands. In You the orphan finds mercy.

Assurance of Pardon—from Hosea 14:4-7; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Thus says the Lord: “I will heal your apostasy; I will love you freely, for My anger has turned from you. I will be like the dew to Israel; he shall blossom like the lily; he shall take root like the trees of Lebanon; his shoots shall spread out; his beauty shall be like the olive, and his fragrance like Lebanon. You shall return and dwell beneath My shadow; you shall flourish like the grain; you shall blossom like the vine; your fame shall be like the wine of Lebanon.”

Pastor: This is the promise of God.

All: This is the Word of the Lord.

Pastor: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: He is the Father of mercies and God of all comfort.

Pastor: He comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

Sung Response—Praise, My Soul, The King Of Heaven, Vs. 1



Praise, my soul, the King of Heav - en, to His feet your trib - ute bring;



Ran-somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, who, like me, His praise should sing?



Praise Him, praise Him, praise Him, praise Him, praise the ev - er - last - ing King.

Text: paraphrase of Psalm 103, Henry F. Lyte, 1834;
Music: LAUDA ANIMA, John Goss, 1869.

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 Nicene Creed*

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of the Father before all worlds;
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made.

Who, for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man;
He was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered, died, and was buried;
and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven, and now sits on the right hand of the Father;
and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end;

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
who together with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified;
who spoke by the prophets;

And we believe in one holy, catholic, and apostolic Church—both seen and unseen;
We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.

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. Ho -

Lord. Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - 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—Not Unto Us (Psalm 115)



Not un - to us, not us O Lord— but to Your ho - ly name ac - cord
The i - dols made of sil - ver, gold,— are works which hu - man hands shall mold—
God, mind - ful of His own, will bless,— bless Aar - on's house and Is - rael's race;



The glo - ry, which for it a - lone— His mer - cy and His truth have won.
A mouth they have, yet si - lent be,— and eyes they have, yet can - not see;
On all His saints, both great and small may His in - creas - ing bless - ings fall.



Why should the hea - then na - tions say, “Where is the God these men o - bey?”
No sound of words, no tune - ful note will form with - in— their voice - less throat.
Both you and yours shall taste the store of Him who made the earth of yore.

Vss. 1-3, then Coda



Our God a - bove in hea - ven dwells; Our God shall do— what - e - er He wills.
Like them shall those that make them be,— and all that trust them fool - ish - ly.
The heav - ens are the Lord's in - deed;— but earth He's giv - en to man's— seed.

Coda



The dead His prais - es can - not show, nor they that down to— si - lence go:—



But we, yes we, will bless the Lord;— from this time forth and ev - er - more

Text: Psalm 115:1-8, 12-18, *Lyra Regis*, 1885, alt. 2022;
Music: BLACK CREEK, Henry C. Haffner, 2022.

Congregational Hymn—At The Name Of Jesus



At the name of Je - sus ev - 'ry knee shall bow,
Hum - bled for a sea - son to re - ceive a name
In your hearts en - throne Him; there let Him sub - due
Broth - ers, this Lord Je - sus shall re - turn a - gain



Ev - 'ry tongue con - fess_____ Him King of glo - ry now;
From the lips of sin - ners un - to whom He came,
All that is not ho - ly, all that is not true;
With His Fath - er's glo - ry, with His ang - el train;



'Tis the Fa - ther's plea - sure we should call Him Lord,
Faith - ful - ly He bore_____ it spot - less to the last,
Crown Him as your Cap - tain in temp - ta - tion's hour;
For all wreaths of em - pire meet up - on His brow,



Who from the beg - in - ning was the might - y Word.
Brought it back vic - to - rious when from death He passed.
Let His will en - fold you in its light and pow'r.
And our hearts conf - ess Him King of glo - ry now.

Text: Caroline M. Noel, 1870; Music: KING'S WESTON,
Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1925.

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*

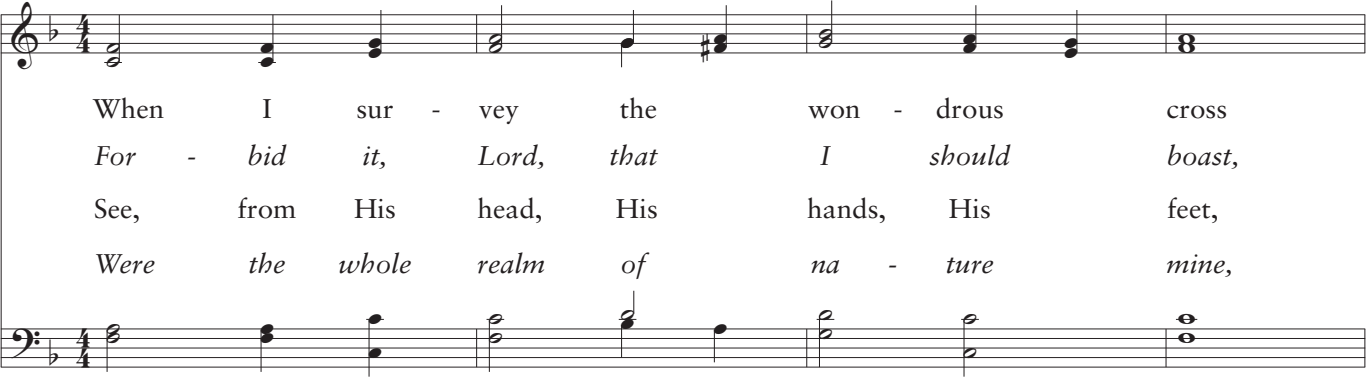
Our Father, who art in Heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done,
On Earth as it is in Heaven.

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.

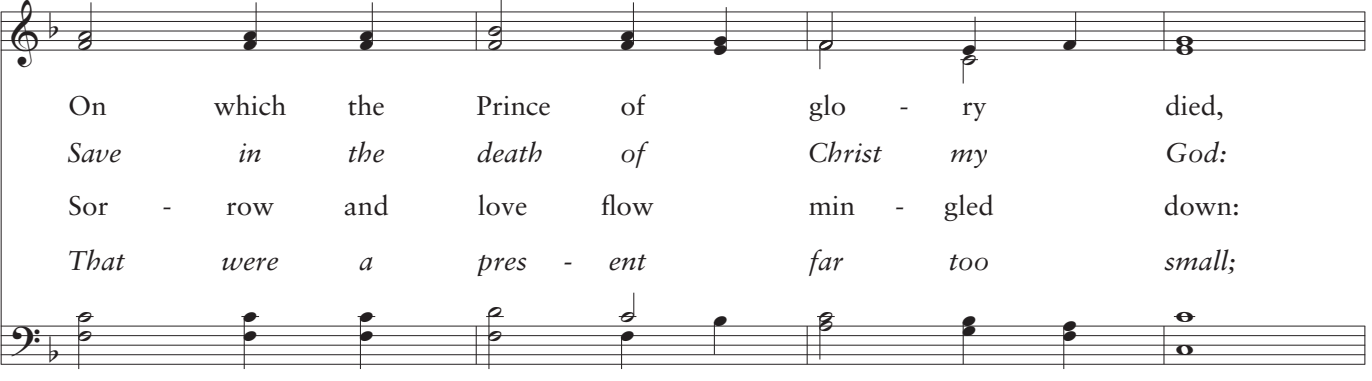
For Thine is the kingdom,
And the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

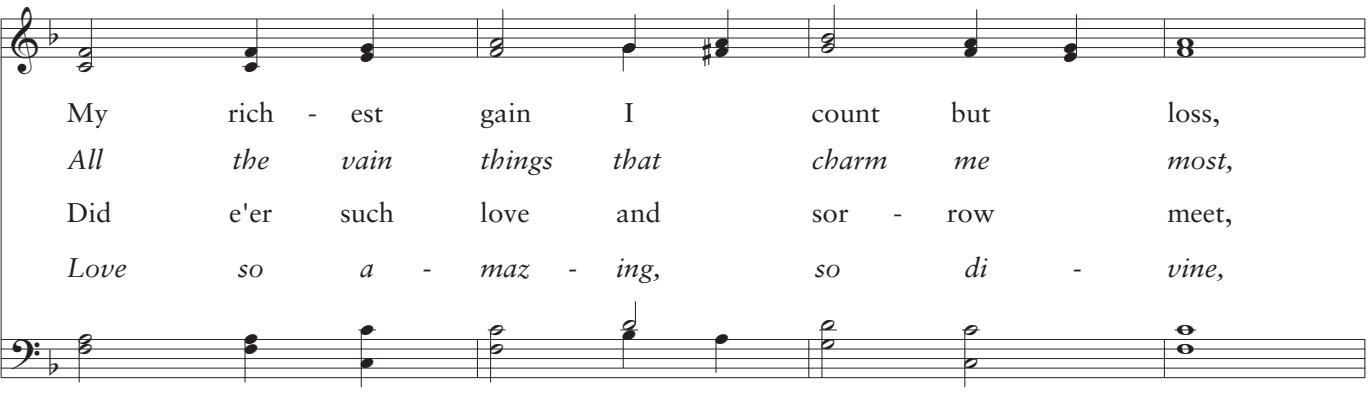
Congregational Hymn—When I Survey The Wondrous Cross



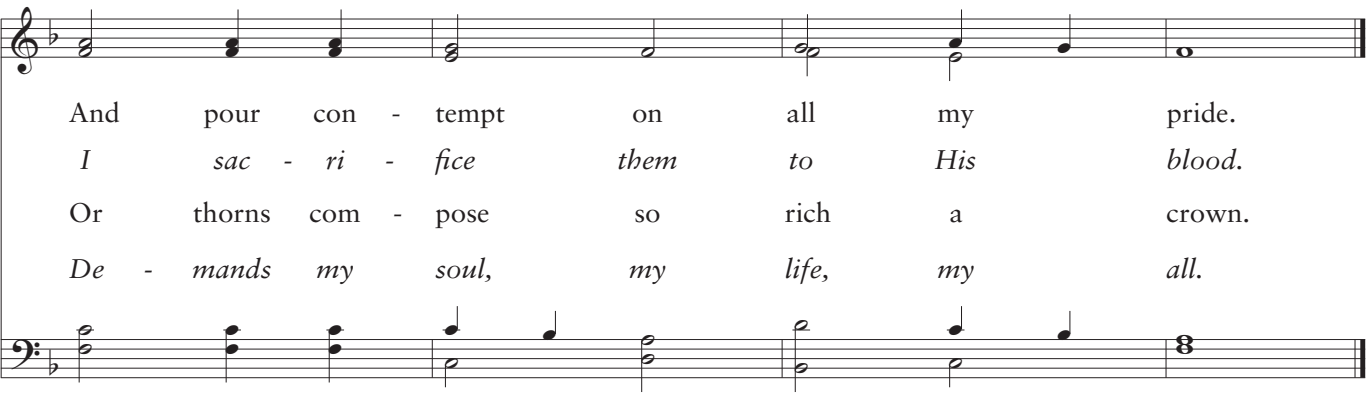
When I sur - vey the won - drous cross
 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast,
 See, from His head, His hands, His feet,
 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine,



On which the Prince of glo - ry died,
 Save in the death of Christ my God:
 Sor - row and love flow min - gled down:
 That were a pres - ent far too small;



My rich - est gain I count but loss,
 All the vain things that charm me most,
 Did e'er such love and sor - row meet,
 Love so a - maz - ing, so di - vine,



And pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.
 Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown.
 De - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1709; Music: HAMBURG, Gregorian Chant,
 arr. Lowell Mason, 1824.

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—from Psalm 115:12-15

May the Lord remember you and bless you. May the Lord bless those who fear the Lord, both the small and the great. May the Lord give you increase, you and your children! May you be blessed by the Lord, who made heaven and earth! *Amen.*

Sung Response—Gloria Patri

Glor - y be__ to the Fath - er, and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;

As it was in the be - gin - ning, is__ now, and ev - er shall be,

World__ with - out end. A - men. A - - - men.

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

Announcements

Worship Notes:

In his discourse with the philosophers of Athens, the Apostle Paul draws a contrast between the gods of the Greeks and the true and living God: “The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything” (Acts 17:24-25). Paul’s God is no mere household deity or regional patron: He is the creator of the universe. In a similar fashion, we sing hymns like *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise, O Lord, Our Lord, How Majestic—Psalm 8*, and *The Earth Is The Lord’s—Psalm 24*, which give praise to the Lord who gives life to all creatures, who set the moon and stars in place in the heavens, and who owns “the whole world and all who on it dwell.” Confronted with God’s greatness, and realizing our great need of Him, in the second half of the service we confess our sins, feed at His table, and sing hymns like *Not Unto Us—Psalm 115*, *At The Name Of Jesus*, and *When I Survey The Wondrous Cross*. We acknowledge the worthlessness of our idols (be they silver and gold, or something less tangible), we sacrifice “all the vain things that charm [us] most” to the blood of Jesus, and we confess Him to be the King who wears all wreaths of empire on His brow.

—Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Idols, Reason, Worship, Make, Mankind, Seek, Repent, Judge, Resurrection

Keystone Verse: The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now He commands all people everywhere to repent. (Acts 17:30)



PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Presbyterian Church in America
4156 Clovercroft Rd. Franklin, TN 37067
Mailing address: P.O. Box 1593, Franklin, TN 37065

Web: www.parishpres.org
Church Office: Sarah Dye, 574-1029, office@parishpres.org
Prayer requests: prayer@parishpres.org

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

Elders

Stephen Barnes (478-318-5513)	Keith Cannon (636-7137)	Caleb Faires (513-0659)
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)
Ben Crist (509-3040)	Ryan Gregory (714-5446)	Elliot Huck (843-540-6529)
Piotr Lorenc (931-996-9226)	Connor Neville (410-430-0760)	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)	

Officers Emeritus

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

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