



PARISH  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Easter Season  
May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### *Quote for Reflection*

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The heart of Christianity is Good News. It comes not as a task for us to fulfill, a mission for us to accomplish, a game plan for us to follow with the help of life coaches, but as a report that someone else has already fulfilled, accomplished, followed, and achieved everything for us...the Good News concerning Jesus Christ saves us from sin's guilt and tyranny over our lives and the fear of death. It's Good News because it does not depend on us. It is about God and His faithfulness to His own purposes and promises.

—Michael Horton

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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: the King opens His gates and welcomes us into His courts.*

## Gospel Invitation—from Romans 8:31-32

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?

## Sung Response—Come, Thou Almighty King, Vs. 1

Come, Thou Al - might - y King, help us Thy name to sing,

Help us to praise! Fa-ther all glo - ri-ous, o'er all vic - to - ri-ous,

Come and reign o-ver us, An-cient of Days!

Text: Anonymous, 1757; Music: ITALIAN HYMN,  
Felice de Giardini, 1769.

## **Call to Worship—based on Psalm 103:1-8**

**Pastor:** Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name!

**All:** Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.

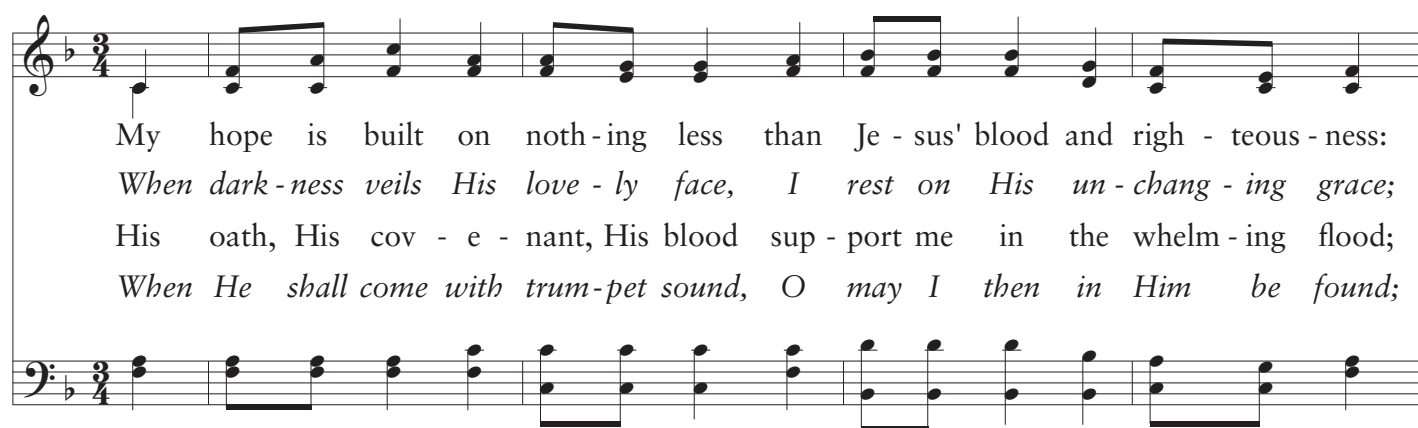
**Reader 1:** He forgives all our iniquity. He heals all our diseases. He redeems our life.

**Reader 2:** He crowns us with steadfast love and mercy. He satisfies us with good so that our strength is renewed like the eagle's.

**All:** The Lord works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known His ways to Moses and His acts to the people of Israel.

**Pastor:** The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

## 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;

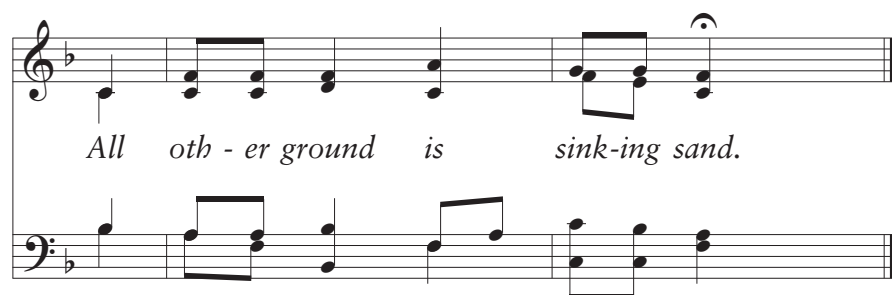


I dare not trust the sweet - est frame, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
In ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my an - chor holds with - in the veil.  
When all a - round my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.  
Dressed in His righ - teous - ness a - lone, fault - less to stand be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

# 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—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.

## **Baptism of Phillip and Mariam Johnson, children of Phillip and Abigail Johnson**

### **Scripture Reading—1 Corinthians 2:1-5**

And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.


Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

# 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.



## Sermon Text—Acts 13:13-43

<sup>13</sup> Now Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. And John left them and returned to Jerusalem,<sup>14</sup> but they went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down.<sup>15</sup> After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent a message to them, saying, “Brothers, if you have any word of encouragement for the people, say it.” <sup>16</sup> So Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said:

“Men of Israel and you who fear God, listen. <sup>17</sup> The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm He led them out of it. <sup>18</sup> And for about forty years He put up with them in the wilderness. <sup>19</sup> And after destroying seven nations in the land of Canaan, He gave them their land as an inheritance. <sup>20</sup> All this took about 450 years. And after that He gave them judges until Samuel the prophet. <sup>21</sup> Then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. <sup>22</sup> And when He had removed him, He raised up David to be their king, of whom He testified and said, ‘I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after My heart, who will do all My will.’ <sup>23</sup> Of this man's offspring God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as He promised. <sup>24</sup> Before His coming, John had proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. <sup>25</sup> And as John was finishing his course, he said, ‘What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but behold, after me one is coming, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.’

<sup>26</sup> “Brothers, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to us has been sent the message of this salvation. <sup>27</sup> For those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not recognize Him nor understand the utterances of the prophets, which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled them by condemning Him. <sup>28</sup> And though they found in Him no guilt worthy of death, they asked Pilate to have Him executed. <sup>29</sup> And when they had carried out all that was written of Him, they took Him down from the tree and laid Him in a tomb. <sup>30</sup> But God raised Him from the dead, <sup>31</sup> and for many days He appeared to those who had come up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now His witnesses to the people. <sup>32</sup> And we bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers, <sup>33</sup> this He has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus, as also it is written in the second Psalm, ‘You are My Son, today I have begotten You.’ <sup>34</sup> And as for the fact that He raised Him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, He has spoken in this way, ‘I will give you the holy and sure blessings of David.’ <sup>35</sup> Therefore He says also in another psalm, ‘You will not let Your Holy One see corruption.’ <sup>36</sup> For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep and was laid with his fathers and saw corruption, <sup>37</sup> but He whom God raised up did not see corruption.

<sup>38</sup> Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, <sup>39</sup> and by Him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses. <sup>40</sup> Beware, therefore, lest what is said in the Prophets should come about: <sup>41</sup> “Look, you scoffers, be astounded and perish; for I am doing a work in your days, a work that you will not believe, even if one tells it to you.”

<sup>42</sup> As they went out, the people begged that these things might be told them the next Sabbath. <sup>43</sup> And after the meeting of the synagogue broke up, many Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who, as they spoke with them, urged them to continue in the grace of God.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

### 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.

### Sermon—*Bringing the Good News*

—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 Psalm 32:3-7**

**Pastor:** Lord, we come confessing. When we kept silent, our bones wasted away through our groaning all day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon us.

**All:** Our strength was dried up. Therefore, we have acknowledged our sin to You, and we have not covered our sin.

**Pastor:** We confess our transgressions to You, O Lord. And You forgive all our iniquities. Even now, we offer prayer to You—at a time when You may be found.

**All:** For You are our hiding place for us; You preserve us from trouble. You surround us with songs of deliverance.

### **Assurance of Pardon—based on Psalm 32:1-2, 1 John 1:9; John 3:16-17**

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom You, O Lord, count no iniquity and in whose spirit there is no deceit. 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. This is the Word of the Lord.

**All:** For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

**Pastor:** For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

## Sung Response—Blest Is The Man (Psalm 32), Vs. 1



Blest is the man, for - ev - er blest, whose guilt is par-doned by his God;



Whose sins with sor-row are con-fessed, and cov-ered with his Sav-ior's blood.

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

## 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:

WOMEN

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly, Lord. Ho-ly, ho-ly, God of pow'r and might,

MEN

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly, Lord. Ho-ly, ho-ly, God of pow'r and might.

Heav'n and Earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Heav'n and Earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho san-na in the high - est.

Bless-ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est, Ho san-na in the high - est, Ho san-na in the high - est. A - men.

Bless-ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est, Ho san-na in the high - est, Ho san-na in the high - est. A - men.

## 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 Hymn—My Jesus, I Love Thee

My Je - sus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine;  
I love Thee, be - cause Thou hast first lov - ed me.  
I'll love Thee in life, I will love Thee in death,  
In man - sions of glo - ry and end - less de - light,

For Thee all the fol - lies of sin I re - sign.  
And pur - chased my par - don on Cal - va - ry's tree;  
And praise Thee as long as Thou lend - est me breath;  
I'll ev - er a - dore Thee in heav - en so bright;

My gra - cious Re - deem - er, my Sa - vior art Thou;  
I love Thee for wear - ing the thorns on Thy brow;  
And say when the death - dew lies cold on my brow,  
I'll sing with the glit - ter - ing crown on my brow,

If ev - er I loved Thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.

Text: William R. Featherston, 1864; Music: GORDON, Adoniram J. Gordon, 1876.

# Congregational Hymn—Christ Our Hope In Life And Death



What is our hope in life and death? Christ a-lone, Christ a-lone.  
*What truth can calm the trou-bled soul? Christ a-lone, Christ a-lone.*  
Un - to the grave, whatshall we sing? "Christ, He lives; Christ, He lives!"



What is our on - ly con - fi - dence? That our souls to Him be-long.  
*Where is His grace and good-ness known? In our great Re-deem-er's blood.*  
And what re - ward will hea - ven bring? Ev - er-last - ing life with Him.



Who holds our days with - in His hand? Who comes, a - part from His com-mand?  
*Who holds our faith when fears a - rise? Who stands a - bove the storm - y trial?*  
There we will rise to meet the Lord, then sin and death will be de - stroyed,



And what will keep us to the end? The love of Christ, in which we stand.—  
*Who sends the waves that bring us nigh un - to the shore, the rock of Christ?*  
And we will feast in end-less joy, when Christ is ours for - ev - er more.—

*Chorus*



O sing ha - le - lu - jah! Our hope springs e - ter - nal;



O sing ha - le - lu - jah! Now and ev - er we con-fess: Christ our hope in life and death.

CCLI #2844402; Text and Music: Keith Getty, Matt Boswell,  
Jordan Kauflin, Matt Merker and Matt Papa, 2020.

## **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—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.

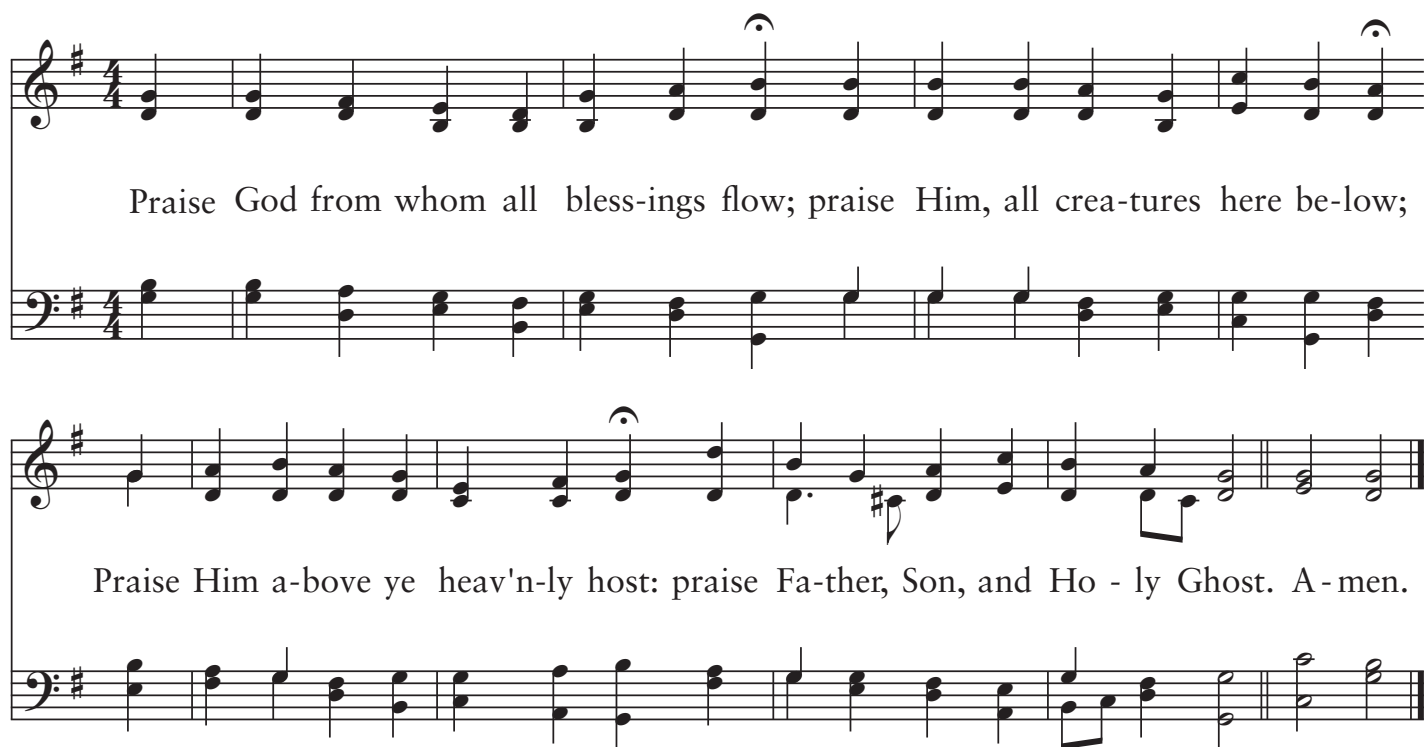
## GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT

*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—Jude 1:24-25

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. *Amen.*

## Sung Response—Doxology



Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures 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:

In staff meeting this past Monday, I asked Pastor Brian if he had any particular insights on this passage from Acts 13 that he would be preaching through this morning. After a moment's thought, he said, "Well ... it's straight gospel." Given an audience in the Antioch synagogue, Paul immediately takes his listeners to the person and work of Jesus Christ: "God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as He promised" (Acts 13:23). The hymns we'll be singing this morning do the same. We'll confess that we trust in "Jesus' blood and righteousness" and that we stand on "Christ, the solid rock" (*My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less*). We'll remember His sacrificial death on the cross (*When I Survey The Wondrous Cross*), how He washed us in His own blood to make us "kings and priests unto God" (*Unto Christ Who Loved Us*). We'll declare our love for Him (*My Jesus, I Love Thee*) and rejoice that He is our hope in life and death, the truth to calm the troubled soul, and the victor over death (*Christ Our Hope In Life And Death*). The final hymn reminds us that though He was "humbled for a season" on behalf of sinners (*At The Name Of Jesus*), this Lord Jesus shall return again—and every knee shall one day bow before Him. This simple gospel was certainly good news for the people of Antioch, and no less good news for us today.

—Henry C. Haffner

**Key Words:** Give, Encouragement, Message, Good News, Promise, Fulfilled, Jesus, Grace, Raising

**Keystone Verse:** And we bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers, this He has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus, as also it is written in the second Psalm, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you." (Acts 13:32-33)



# PARISH

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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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.*