



PARISH
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Lent
March 8th, 2026

Quotes for reflection:

The preacher is not to rest in general doctrine, although never so much cleared and confirmed, but to bring it home to special use, by application to his hearers.

—*Westminster Directory For Public Worship*

It is not simply that God entreats men everywhere that they should turn and repent; He commands them to do so. It is a charge invested with the authority and majesty of His sovereignty as Lord of all. The sovereign imperative of God is brought to bear on the overture of grace. And that is the end of all contention. From His command to all no one is excluded.

—John Murray

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 16:31

Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.

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 is written for two voices (Soprano and Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in 2/2 time and G major. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with the lyrics written below the notes. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes in the bass line.

Text: American folk hymn; Music: WONDROUS LOVE, William Walker,
The Southern Harmony, 1835.

Call to Worship—from Psalm 33:1, 4, 8-12

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

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

Reader 1: Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him!

Reader 2: For He spoke, and it came to be; He commanded, and it stood firm.

Pastor: The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; He frustrates the plans of the peoples.

All: The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of His heart to all generations.

Pastor: Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom He has chosen as His heritage!

Congregational Hymn—Glorious Things Of Thee Are Spoken

The musical score is written for a congregational hymn in E-flat major (three flats) and common time (C). It features a treble and bass staff with a soprano and alto line. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a clear melody and accompaniment.

Glo - rious things of thee are spo - ken, Zi - on, cit - y of our God!
See! the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring - ing from e - ter - nal love;
Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov-'ring, see the cloud and fire ap - pear!
Sav - ior, if of Zi - on's cit - y, I through grace a mem - ber am,

He, whose Word can - not be bro - ken, formed thee for His own a - bode.
Well sup - ply thy sons and daugh - ters, and all fear of want re - move:
For a glo - ry and a cov - 'ring show - ing that the Lord is — near.
Let the world de - ride or pit - y, I will glo - ry in Thy name.

On the Rock of Ag - es founded, what can shake thy sure re - pose?
Who can faint while such a riv - er ev - er flows their thirst t'as - suage?
Thus de - riv - ing from our ban - ner light by night and shade by day;
Fad - ing is — the world - ling's pleas - ure, all his boast - ed pomp and show;

With sal - va - tion's walls sur - rounded, Thou may'st smile at — all thy foes.
Grace, which like — the Lord, the giv - er, nev - er — fails from age to — age.
Safe they feed up - on the man - na which He gives them when they pray.
Sol - id joys — and last - ing treas - ure none but Zi - on's — chil - dren know.

Text: John Newton, 1789; Music: AUSTRIA, Joseph Haydn, 1779.

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—When The House Of Israel Out Of Egypt Came (Psalm 114)



When the house of Is - ra - el out of E - gypt came, Ja - cob left a peo - ple of strange speech;—
When they stood be-side the sea, it looked back and fled, Jor - dan riv - er turned a-way to flee;—
What must ail the migh-ty sea, roll - ing back its waves? Why did Jor-dan turn a-way to flee?—



Ju - dah then be - came for him a sanct - u - a - ry place, Is - ra - el a place to rest his feet.——
Moun-tains, in their ma - jes - ty, were made to skip like rams, Migh - ty hills laid down like lit - tle sheep.——
Who could tell the moun-tain-tops to dance and skip like rams? Who lays down the hills like lit - tle sheep? —

Vs. 1 & 2, then Chorus



Is - ra - el a place...
Migh - ty hills laid down...
Who lays down the hills...?

Chorus



Earth shall trem-ble at the pres-ence of the Lord, To Ja-cob's God the earth shall sing;——



He makes wa-ter out of dry and dust-y rocks, From flint He makes a pure and flow-ing spring.

Text: based on Psalm 114:1-8, Henry C. Haffner, 2025;
Music: MORGANS STEEP, Henry C. Haffner, 2025.

Baptism of Hannah Domingos, daughter of Kyle and Kayla Domingos

Scripture Reading—John 10:17-21, 24-30

[Jesus said,] “For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of My own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from My Father.” There was again a division among the Jews because of these words. Many of them said, “He has a demon, and is insane; why listen to Him?” Others said, “These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”

So the Jews gathered around Him and said to Him, “How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly.” Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name bear witness about Me, but you do not believe because you are not among My sheep. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one.”

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Congregational Psalm—All People That On Earth Do Dwell (Psalm 100)

All peo - ple that on Earth do dwell, sing to the Lord with cheer - ful voice;
The Lord ye know is God in - deed; with - out our aid He did us make;
O en - ter then His gates with praise, ap - proach with joy His courts un - to;
For why? the Lord our God is good, His mer - cy is for ev - er sure;

Him serve with fear, His praise forth - tell come ye be - fore Him and re - joice.
We are His folk, He doth us feed, and for His sheep He doth us take.
Praise, laud, and bless His name al - ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.
His truth at all times firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.

Text: William Kethe, 1561; Music: OLD 100TH, Louis Bourgeois, 1551.

Sermon Text—Acts 26:24-32

And as he was saying these things in his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, “Paul, you are out of your mind; your great learning is driving you out of your mind.” ²⁵ But Paul said, “I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I am speaking true and rational words. ²⁶ For the king knows about these things, and to him I speak boldly. For I am persuaded that none of these things has escaped his notice, for this has not been done in a corner. ²⁷ King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe.” ²⁸ And Agrippa said to Paul, “In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?” ²⁹ And Paul said, “Whether short or long, I would to God that not only you but also all who hear me this day might become such as I am—except for these chains.”

³⁰ Then the king rose, and the governor and Bernice and those who were sitting with them. ³¹ And when they had withdrawn, they said to one another, “This man is doing nothing to deserve death or imprisonment.” ³² And Agrippa said to Festus, “This man could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—'Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus, Vs. 4



I'm so glad I learned to trust Thee, pre-cious Je - sus, Sav - ior, Friend;



And I know that Thou art with me, wilt be with me to the end.



Je - sus, Je - sus, how I trust Him! How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!



Je - sus, Je - sus, pre - cious Je - sus! O for grace to trust Him more!

Text: Louisa M. R. Stead, 1882; Music: William J. Kirkpatrick, 1882.

Sermon—*Almost Persuaded To Be A Christian*

—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 Numbers 14: 2-4, 9, 11, 19, 27

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. How long shall this wicked congregation grumble against You? You have heard the grumbings of Your people, by which we grumble against You.

All: We have said, “Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in the wilderness! Why is the Lord bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Would it not be better for us to go back to Egypt?”

Pastor: Do not rebel against the Lord. Do not fear the people of the land, for they are bread for us. Their protection is removed from them, and the Lord is with us; do not fear them.

All: But we said to one another, “Let us choose a leader and go back to Egypt.”

Pastor: And the Lord said, “How long will this people despise Me? And how long will they not believe in Me, in spite of all the signs that I have done among them?”

All: Please pardon the iniquity of this people, according to the greatness of Your steadfast love, just as You have forgiven this people, from Egypt until now.

(Silent prayers of confession)

Sung Response—Agnus Dei

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.

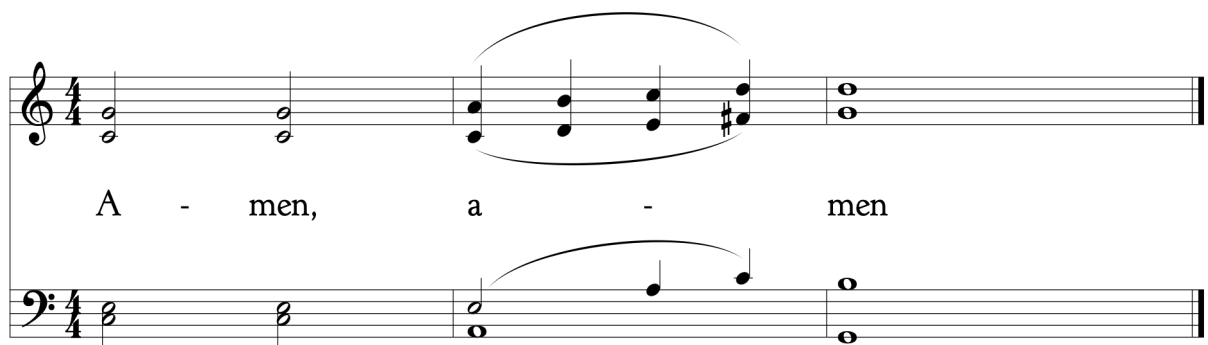
Assurance of Pardon—from Romans 8:37-39 (NKJV); Mark 12:30

We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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



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

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:

UNISON



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

WOMEN

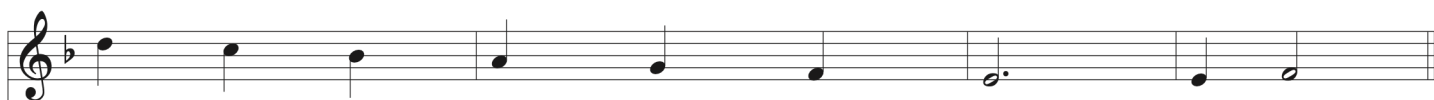


We praise You, we bless You, we wor-ship You, we glo-ri-fy You,

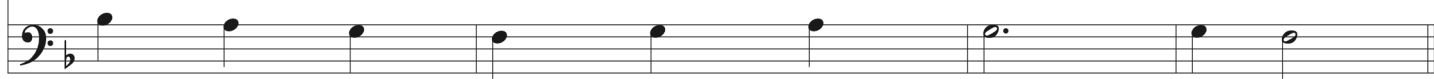
MEN



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 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.

Congregational Hymn—Jesus Loves Me, This I Know



Je - sus loves me, this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so.
Je - sus loves me, this I know, He loved child - ren long a - go.
Je - sus loves me, He will stay close be - side me all the way;
Je - sus loves me He who died heav - en's gate to o - pen wide.

Lit - tle ones to Him be - long; they are weak, but He is strong.
In His arms for all to see, say - ing, "Let them come to Me."
He's pre - pared a home for me, and some - day His face I'll see.
He will wash a - way my sin, let His lit - tle child come in.

Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!

Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

Text: Anna Bartlett Warner, 1859; Music: JESUS LOVES ME, William Bradbury, 1861.

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—Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

The image displays a musical score for a congregational hymn. It features two systems of music, each with a vocal melody line (treble clef) and a bass accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line of each system. The first system contains five lines of lyrics, and the second system contains five lines. The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for congregational singing.

A - las! and did my Sa - vior bleed, and did my Sov - ereign die!—
Was it for crimes that I have done, He groaned up - on the tree?—
Well might the sun in dark - ness hide, and shut his glor - ies in,—
Thus might I hide my blush - ing face while His dear cross ap - pears;
But drops of grief can ne'er re - pay the debt of love I owe;—

Would He de - vote that sa - cred head for sin - ners such as I?
A - maz - ing pi - ty! Grace un - known! And love be - yond de - gree!
When Christ, the migh - ty ma - ker, died for man the crea - ture's sin.
Dis - solve my heart in thank - ful - ness, and melt mine eyes in tears.
Here, Lord, I give my - self a - way, 'tis all that I can do.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1707; Music: MARTYRDOM, Hugh Wilson, 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—2 Corinthians 13:14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. *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:

Throughout Acts 26, we find Paul showing incredible confidence as he makes his defense to Festus and Agrippa. Standing before a mighty king, descended from rulers who killed apostles and persecuted the Savior, Paul can say boldly, “I am not out of my mind... I am speaking true and rational words” (vs. 25). Paul knows what he believes. This confidence is reflected in many of the hymns we sing this morning. We will declare that “the Lord [we] know is God indeed” (*All People That On Earth Do Dwell—Psalm 100*), and that we know He will be “with [us] to the end” (*‘Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus*). We are comforted that none can “shake [our] sure repose,” and that “none but Zion’s children know” the solid joy and lasting treasures of eternity (*Glorious Things Of Thee Are Spoken*). We are reminded that our confidence is found in our souls belonging to Christ (*Christ Our Hope In Life And Death*), and that we can know Jesus’ love for us because “the Bible tells me so” (*Jesus Loves Me, This I Know*). I hope that singing these familiar hymns will inspire confidence, reminding us of the truths we already know. Though we may not need to stand before a king defending our faith, we can draw on the same confidence that Paul had. Lord willing, Paul would say of us, like he says (perhaps facetiously) of Agrippa, “I know that you believe.”

—Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Mind, True, Persuade, Believe, Become, King, Chains, Free

Keystone Verses: And Agrippa said to Paul, “In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?” (Acts 26:28)