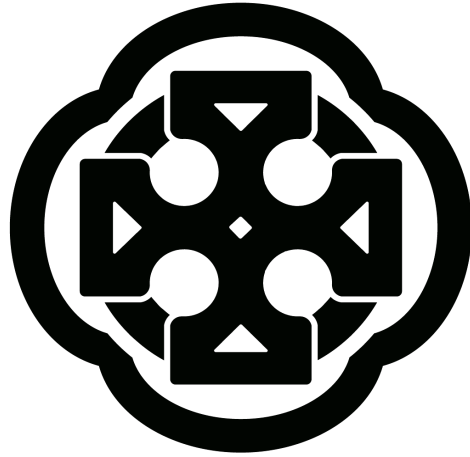




PARISH
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Ordinary Time
August 31st, 2025

Quote for Reflection

A little plain-speaking would do a world of good just now. Those smooth talkers who have become despoilers of our faith and our pulpits desire to be let alone. They want no noise raised. Of course, thieves hate watchdogs and love darkness. It is time that somebody should spring their rattle, and call attention to the way in which God is being robbed of His glory, and man of his hope.

—Charles Spurgeon

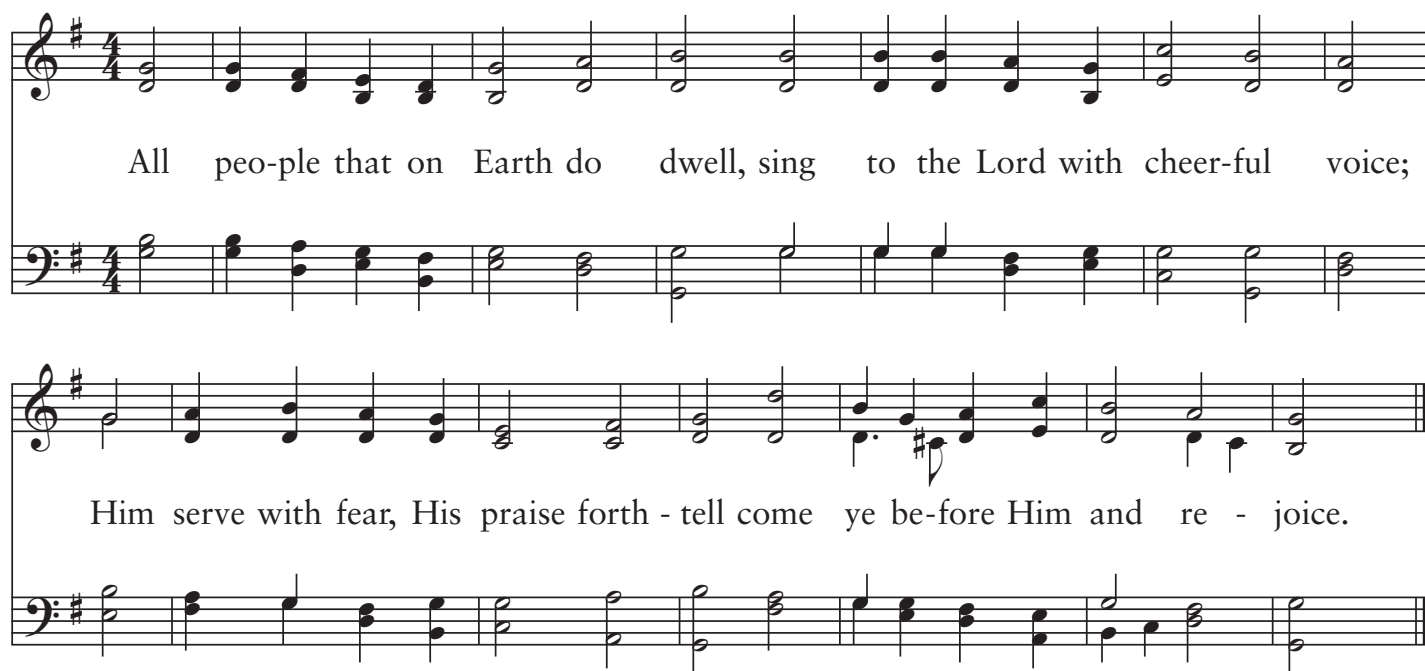
GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

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—Psalm 55:22

Cast your burden on the Lord, and He will sustain you; He will never permit the righteous to be moved.

Sung Response—All People That On Earth Do Dwell (Psalm 100), Vs. 1



All peo-ple that on Earth do dwell, sing to the Lord with cheer-ful voice;

Him serve with fear, His praise forth - tell come ye be-fore Him and re - joice.

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

Call to Worship—based on Psalm 11:1-7

Pastor: The Lord God Almighty rules and reigns!

All: He is seated upon His throne in Heaven.

Reader 1: His eyes see all things, and He tests the children of man. He will judge us all with perfect justice and truth.

Reader 2: For the Lord is altogether righteous; He loves righteous deeds; the upright shall surely behold His face.

All: In Him will we take refuge.

Pastor: For the Lord God Almighty rules and reigns!

Congregational Hymn—Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of six systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system. The score begins with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a strong emphasis on the lyrics. The piano accompaniment provides a steady harmonic support, often using chords and simple rhythmic patterns. The hymn concludes with a final cadence in the piano part.

Guide me, O Thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this bar - ren land.
O - pen now the cry - stal foun-tain, whence the heal - ing stream doth flow;
When I tread the verge of Jor-dan, bid my an - xious fears sub - side;

I am weak, but Thou art might - y; hold me with Thy power - ful hand.
Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me all my jour - ney through.
Death of deaths, and hell's de - struc-tion, land me safe on Can - aan's side.

Bread of Heav - en, Bread of Heav - en, feed me till I want no
Strong De - liv - 'rer, strong De - liv - 'rer, be Thou still my Strength and
Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es, I will ev - er give to

More; (want no more) feed me till I want no more.
Shield; (Strength and Shield) be Thou still my Strength and Shield.
Thee; (give to Thee) I will ev - er give to Thee.

Text: William Williams, 1745; Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1907.

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—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?

Fine



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.

Baptism of Matthias Mitchell, son of Dustin & Tenisha Mitchell

Scripture Reading—Psalm 55:1, 12-14, 16, 18-19

Give ear to my prayer, O God,
and hide not Yourself from my plea for mercy!

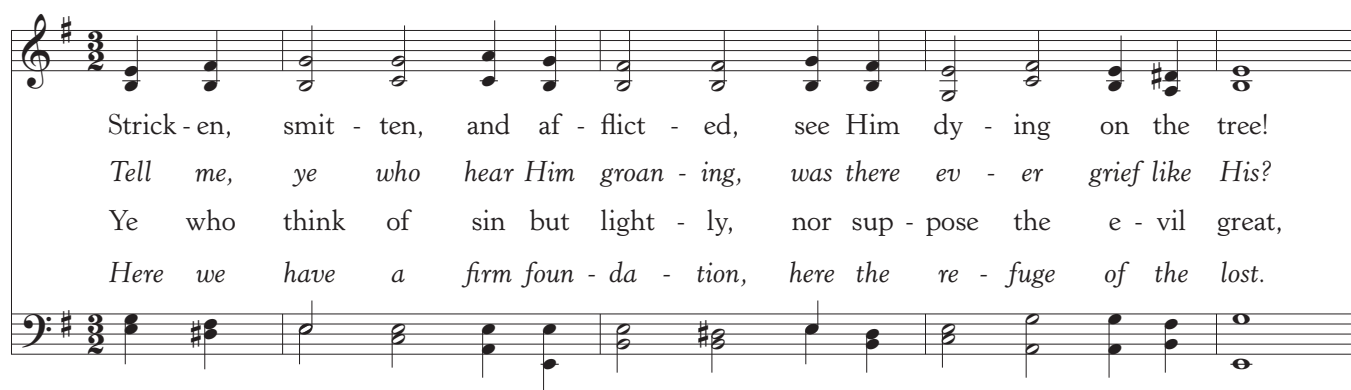
For it is not an enemy who taunts me—
then I could bear it;
it is not an adversary who deals insolently with me—
then I could hide from him.
But it is you, a man, my equal,
my companion, my familiar friend.
We used to take sweet counsel together;
within God's house we walked in the throng.

But I call to God,
and the Lord will save me.
He redeems my soul in safety
from the battle that I wage,
for many are arrayed against me.
God will give ear.

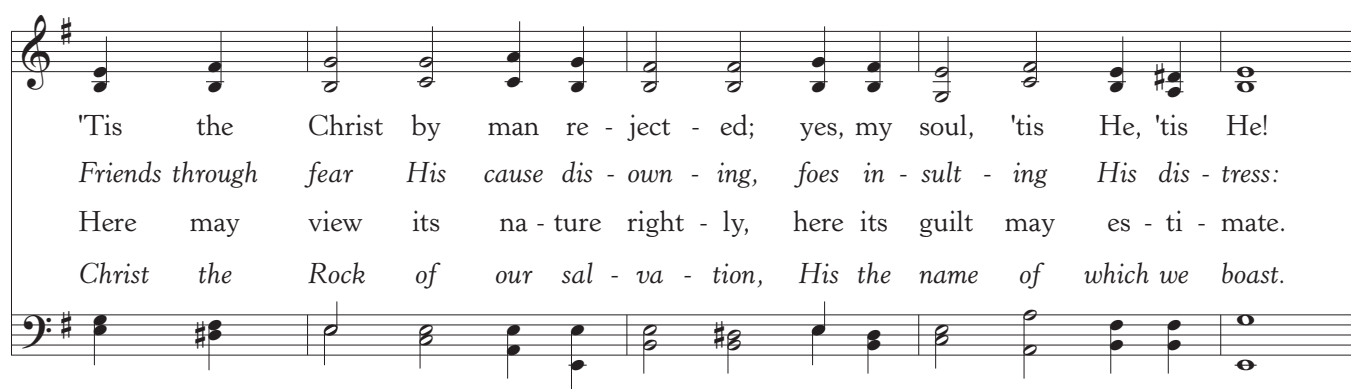
Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

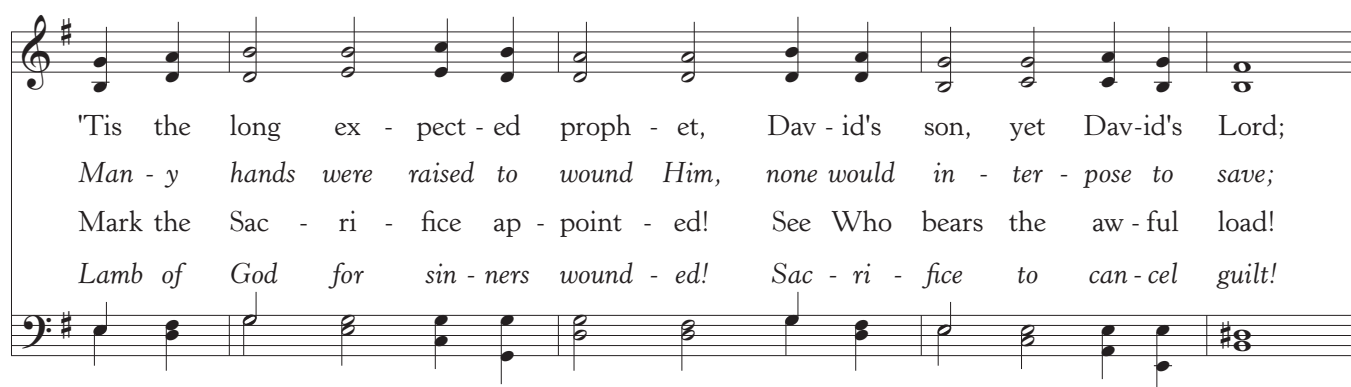
Congregational Hymn—Stricken, Smitten, And Afflicted



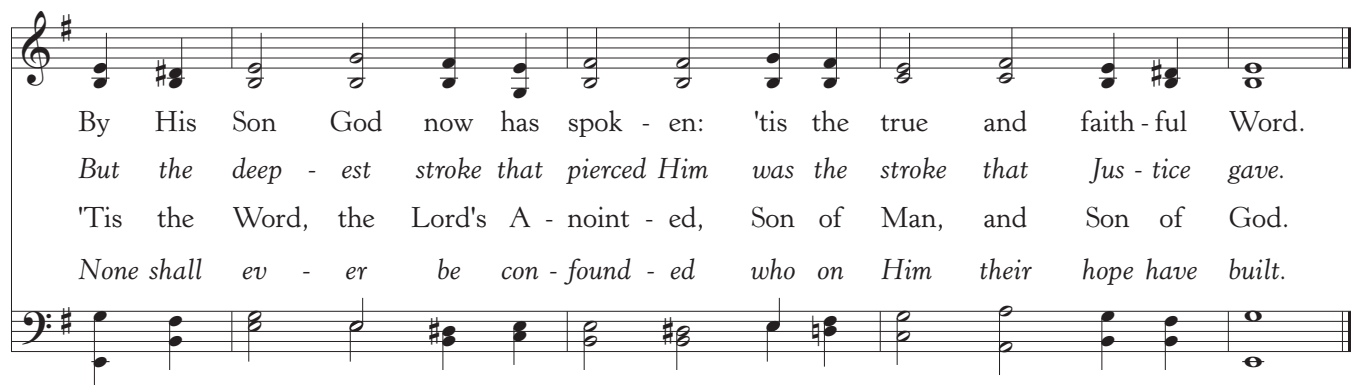
Strick - en, smit - ten, and af - flict - ed, see Him dy - ing on the tree!
 Tell me, ye who hear Him groan - ing, was there ev - er grief like His?
 Ye who think of sin but light - ly, nor sup - pose the e - vil great,
 Here we have a firm foun - da - tion, here the re - fuge of the lost.



'Tis the Christ by man re - ject - ed; yes, my soul, 'tis He, 'tis He!
 Friends through fear His cause dis - own - ing, foes in - sult - ing His dis - tress:
 Here may view its na - ture right - ly, here its guilt may es - ti - mate.
 Christ the Rock of our sal - va - tion, His the name of which we boast.



'Tis the long ex - spect - ed proph - et, Dav - id's son, yet Dav - id's Lord;
 Man - y hands were raised to wound Him, none would in - ter - pose to save;
 Mark the Sac - ri - fice ap - point - ed! See Who bears the aw - ful load!
 Lamb of God for sin - ners wound - ed! Sac - ri - fice to can - cel guilt!



By His Son God now has spok - en: 'tis the true and faith - ful Word.
 But the deep - est stroke that pierced Him was the stroke that Jus - tice gave.
 'Tis the Word, the Lord's A - noint - ed, Son of Man, and Son of God.
 None shall ev - er be con - found - ed who on Him their hope have built.

Text: Thomas Kelly, 1804; Music: O MEIN JESU, ICH MUSS STERBEN,
Geistliche Volkslieder, 1850.

Sermon Text—Acts 15:36-16:5

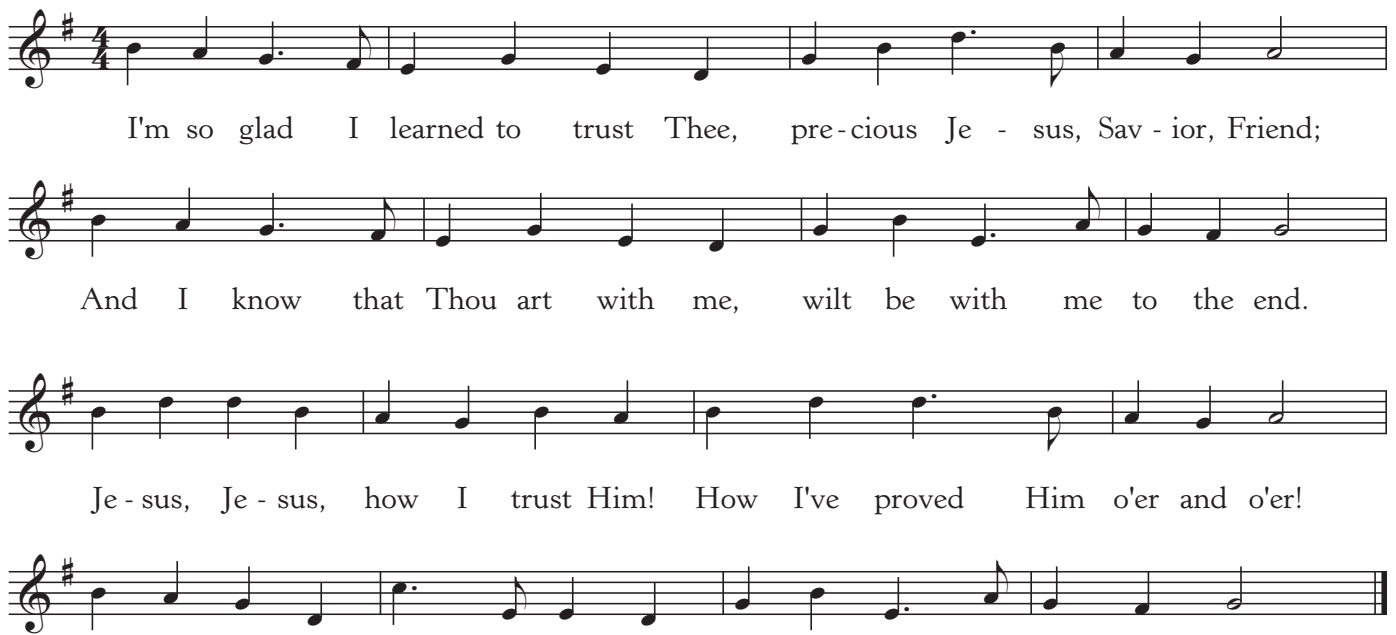
³⁶ And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are.” ³⁷ Now Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark.³⁸ But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. ³⁹ And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus,⁴⁰ but Paul chose Silas and departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. ⁴¹ And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

^{16:1} Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. ² He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium. ³ Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. ⁴ As they went on their way through the cities, they delivered to them for observance the decisions that had been reached by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem. ⁵ So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily.

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.

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 7:14-25; Habakkuk 3:2

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. We know that the Law is spiritual, but we have lived according to the flesh, as those sold under sin. We do not even understand our own actions.

All: For we do not do what we want, but we do the very things we hate.

Pastor: We know that nothing good dwells in us, that is, in our flesh.

All: For we have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. Though we delight in the Law of God, in our inner beings, we see in our members another law waging war against the law of our minds, making us captives to the law of sin that dwells in us.

Pastor: Wretched man that I am! Wretched men and women that we all are!

All: Who will deliver us from these bodies of sin and death?

Pastor: In the midst of the years, O Lord, revive Your work.

All: O Lord, in wrath remember mercy.

Assurance of Pardon—Romans 8:35, 37-39; Romans 3:23-24

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Pastor: This is the promise of God.

All: This is the Word of the Lord.

Pastor: 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.

All: Amen.

Sung Response—What A Friend We Have In Jesus, Vs. 3



Are we weak and heav-y la - den, cum-bered with a load of care?



Pre - cious Sav-ior, still our Ref-uge— take it to the Lord in prayer.



Do thy friends de-spise, for - sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer;



In His arms He'll take and shield thee, thou wilt find a sol-ace there.

Text: Joseph M. Scriven, 1855; Music: ERIE, Charles C. Converse, 1868.

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 Hymn—Be Thou My Vision



Be Thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
Be Thou my wis - dom, and Thou my true word;
Be Thou my bat - tle - shield, sword for my fight;
Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise,
High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,



Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art.
I ev - er with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Be Thou my dig - ni - ty, Thou my de - light,
Thou mine in - her - i - tance now and al - ways:
May I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!



Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Thou my great Fa - ther, I Thy true son;
Thou my soul's shel - ter, Thou my high tow'r:
Thou and Thou on - ly, first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



Wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy pres - ence my light.
Thou in me dwell - ing, and I with Thee one.
Raise Thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
High King of heav - en, my trea - sure Thou art.
Still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Ancient Irish Poem, tr. Mary Byrne, 1905;
Music: SLANE, Traditional Irish melody.

Congregational Hymn—Be Still, My Soul

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side. bear pa - tient - ly
 Be still, my soul: thy God doth un - der - take to guide the fu -
 Be still, my soul: the hour is hast' - ning on when we shall be
 Be still, my soul: be - gin the song of praise on Earth, be - liev -

the cross of grief or pain. Leave to thy God to or - der and pro - vide;
 ture, as He has the past. Thy hope, thy con - fi - dence let no - thing shake;
 for - ev - er with the Lord. When dis - ap - point - ment, grief and fear are gone,
 ing, to thy Lord on high; Ac - know - ledge Him in all thy words and ways,

in eve - ry change, He faith - ful will re - main. Be still, my soul:
 all now mys - ter - ious shall be bright at last. Be still, my soul:
 sor - row for - got, love's pur - est joys re - stored. Be still, my soul:
 so shall He view thee with a well pleased eye. Be still, my soul:

thy best, thy heav'n - ly friend through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.
 the waves and winds still know His voice who ruled them while He dwelt be - low.
 when change and tears are past all safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.
 the sun of life di - vine through pas - sing clouds shall but more brightl - y shine.

Text: Katharina A. von Schlegel, 1752, tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1855;
 Music: FINLANDIA, Jean Sibelius, 1899.

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—How Firm A Foundation

How firm a foun - da - tion, you saints of the Lord,
Fear not, I am with you, O be not dis - mayed;
When through the deep wa - ters I call you to go,
When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way shall lie,

Is laid for your faith in His ex - cel - lent Word!
For I am your God, and will still give you aid;
The riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;
My grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply;

What more can He say than to you He has said,
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
For I will be with you, your trou - bles to bless,
The flame shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign

To you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
Up - held by My righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
And sanc - ti - fy to you your deep - est dis - tress.
Your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine.

Text: "K" in John Rippon's *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787;
Music: FOUNDATION, Traditional American melody.

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—1 Corinthians 15:58

My beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. *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:

Without friends no one would choose to live, though he had all other goods.
—Aristotle, *Nichomachean Ethics*, Bk. VIII

This morning's sermon text from Acts mentions the rift between Paul and Barnabas. Recounted in just a single verse ("there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other," Acts 15:39), this brief description covers what may well have been a bitter conflict between two men who had been close friends. Many of the scriptures we read and the hymns we sing this morning point to different aspects of friendship, both its blessings and its difficulties. Psalm 15 (*Who Shall Abide In The Tents Of The Lord*) describes the righteous man as one who "never brings shame on a friend." By contrast, Psalm 55 laments the betrayal of someone who the psalmist calls "my companion, my familiar friend," a betrayal even experienced by Jesus when He saw "friends through fear His cause disowning" (*Stricken, Smitten, And Afflicted*). As the hymn writer laments, often even our dearest friends may "despise" and "forsake" us (*What A Friend We Have In Jesus*). But, by God's grace, we have "a best, a heavenly friend" who promises to "be with [us] to the end" (*Be Still, My Soul; 'Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus*), a Savior who was Himself called a "a friend of tax collectors and sinners" (Matthew 11:19). Christ promises to give us the grace to navigate the anxieties, sorrows, disappointments, and trials that often accompany human relationships in a fallen world—and it is His name that will ultimately bring together both "friend and stranger."

—Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Return, Withdrawn, Disagreement, Separated, Commended, Strengthened

Keystone Verse: Paul chose Silas and departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. (Acts 15:40)



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.