



# PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Epiphany Season

*12 January 2025*

We should consider Abraham as one equal to a hundred thousand if we think of his faith, which is set as the best model of believing. When he is first called by God's command, he is taken away from his country, parents, and friends, considered by men the sweetest things in life, as if God deliberately intended to strip him of all life's delights.

—John Calvin

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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, but it is the King who opens His gates and beckons us into His courts.*

### Gospel Invitation—Romans 10:11

The Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in Him will not be put to shame.”

### Sung Response—Come Down, O Love Divine, Vs. 1

Come down, O Love di - vine, seek Thou this soul of mine,  
And vis - it it with Thine own ar - dor glow - ing.  
O Com - fort - er, draw near, with - in my heart ap - pear,  
And kin - dle it, Thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.

Text: Bianco da Siena, 15<sup>th</sup> century, tr. Richard Littledale, 1867;  
Music: DOWN AMPNEY, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906.

## Call to Worship—Psalm 105:1, 3-6, 8-9

Pastor: Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples!

All: **Remember the wondrous works that He has done, O offspring of Abraham, His servant, children of Jacob, His chosen ones!**

Reader 1: He remembers His covenant forever, the word that He commanded, for a thousand generations.

Reader 2: He remembers the covenant that He made with Abraham, His sworn promise to Isaac.

All: **Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!**

Pastor: Seek the Lord and His strength; seek His presence continually!

## Congregational Hymn—God, My King, Thy Might Confessing



God, my king, Thy might con - fess - ing, ev - er will I bless Thy name;  
Hon - or great our God be - fit - teth; who His maj - es - ty can reach?  
They shall talk of all Thy glor - y, on Thy might and great - ness dwell,  
Nor shall fail from mem - 'ry's trea - sure works by love and merc - y wrought;  
Full of kind - ness and com - pas - sion, slow to ang - er, vast in love,  
All Thy works, O Lord, shall bless Thee; Thee shall all Thy saints a - dore:


Day by day Thy throne ad - dress - ing, still will I Thy praise pro - claim.  
Age to age His works trans - mit - teth, age to age His pow'r shall teach.  
Speak of Thy dread acts the stor - y, and Thy deeds of won - der tell.  
Works of love sur - pass - ing mea - sure, works of merc - y pass - ing thought.  
God is good to all cre - a - tion; all His works His good - ness prove.  
King su - preme shall they con - fess Thee, and pro - claim Thy sov - 'reign pow'r.

Text: Richard Mant, 1824; Music: STUTTGART, *Psalmodia Sacra*, 1715.

# 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. God particularly entreats us in His Word to sing psalms. And while all Scripture is appropriate for hymns and spiritual songs, there is a specific exhortation for us to make use of the Psalter as the church's songbook.*

## Congregational Psalm—In Judah The Almighty's Known (Psalm 76)



In Ju - dah the Al - migh - ty's known, (Al - migh - ty there by\_ won - ders shown,) Those val - iant chiefs that came for spoil, them - selves met there a\_ shame - ful foil; From heav'n on high earth heard its doom; it stilled with fear, when You did come

His name is great in Is - ra - el; His house of prayer in\_ Sa - lem stands; Se - cure - ly down to sleep, they lay: they wake no more; their stout - est band To save the hum - ble and the poor: The wrath of man shall yield You praise;

The maj - es - ty that heav'n com - mands in Zi - on con - de - scends to dwell. Could not lift a re - sis - ting hand a - gainst the Lord up - on that day. their last at - tempts but serve to raise the tri - umphs of our migh - ty Lord.

He broke the flash - ing ar - rows there, des - troyed their weap - ons, sword and spear, When Ja - cob's God be - gan to frown, the horse and ri - ders o - ver - thrown Vow to the Lord, you na - tions; bring your gifts to the e - te - rnal King.;

For slain the migh - ty ar - my lay; then Zi - on's fame on earth is spread, To - ge - ther slept in end - less night. When You, whom earth and heav - en fear, To Him due rev - 'rence you shall pay: the proud - est kings that here do dwell;

Of grea - ter glo - ry, \_ grea - ter dread, than hills where li - ons take their prey. Do once with wrath - ful\_ look ap - pear, can mor - tals stand with - in Your sight? And earth - ly ru - lers\_ ter - ri - ble, will fear the Lord up - on His day.

Text: Psalm 76:1-12, *A New Version of the Psalms of David*, 1696, alt. 2021; Music: RODERICK, Henry C. Haffner, 2021.

## Scripture Reading—Genesis 12:1-3

Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

## Congregational Hymn—Jesus, Shepherd Of Thy People



Je - sus, Shep - herd of Thy peo - ple, lead us through this des - ert land;  
All Thy sheep shall come to Zi - on; with them Thou wilt nev - er part;  
In Thy bos - om safe - ly lodg - ed, Thine shall rest from dan - ger free;



We are weak, and poor, and fee - ble, yet we trust Thy might - y hand;  
Beasts of prey, nor roar - ing li - on, none shall pluck them from Thy heart;  
They shall nev - er more be judg - ed, nor shall con - dem - na - tion see;



Great pro - tec - tor! By Thy power a - lone we stand.  
All Thy cho - sen cost Thee wounds, and blood, and smart.  
Bless - ed Je - sus, let us thus re - joice in Thee.

©2008 www.restassuredhymns.com; Text: J. Adams, 1838; Music: Cathy Steere, 2008.

## Reading of the Word—Acts 7:1-16

And the high priest said, “Are these things so?”<sup>2</sup> And Stephen said: “Brothers and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran,<sup>3</sup> and said to him, ‘Go out from your land and from your kindred and go into the land that I will show you.’<sup>4</sup> Then he went out from the land of the Chaldeans and lived in Haran. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living.<sup>5</sup> Yet He gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot's length, but promised to give it to him as a possession and to his offspring after him, though he had no child.<sup>6</sup> And God spoke to this effect—that his offspring would be sojourners in a land belonging to others, who would enslave them and afflict them four hundred years.<sup>7</sup> ‘But I will judge the nation that they serve,’ said God, ‘and after that they shall come out and worship Me in this place.’<sup>8</sup> And He gave him the covenant of circumcision. And so Abraham became the father of Isaac, and circumcised him on the eighth day, and Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob of the twelve patriarchs.

<sup>9</sup> “And the patriarchs, jealous of Joseph, sold him into Egypt; but God was with him<sup>10</sup> and rescued him out of all his afflictions and gave him favor and wisdom before Pharaoh, king of Egypt, who made him ruler over Egypt and over all his household.<sup>11</sup> Now there came a famine throughout all Egypt and Canaan, and great affliction, and our fathers could find no food.<sup>12</sup> But when Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent out our fathers on their first visit.<sup>13</sup> And on the second visit Joseph made himself known to his brothers, and Joseph's family became known to Pharaoh.<sup>14</sup> And Joseph sent and summoned Jacob his father and all his kindred, seventy-five persons in all.<sup>15</sup> And Jacob went down into Egypt, and he died, he and our fathers,<sup>16</sup> and they were carried back to Shechem and laid in the tomb that Abraham had bought for a sum of silver from the sons of Hamor in Shechem.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

## Sung Response—Let Children Hear The Mighty Deeds (Psalm 78), Vs. 1

Let chil-dren hear the might - y deeds which God per-formed of old;

Which in our young - er years we saw, and which our fa - thers told.

The image shows a musical score for a sung response. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the treble clef staves. The first system covers the first line of lyrics, and the second system covers the second line. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and single notes.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1719, from Psalm 78:1-3; Music: DUNDEE, *Scottish Psalter*, 1615.

## Sermon—*God of the Covenant*

—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 Matthew 10:34-39

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. We like to think that you have come to bring peace to the earth. But You have not come to bring peace, but a sword. You have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. A person's enemies will be those of his own household.

All: **Whoever loves father or mother more than You is not worthy of You, and whoever loves son or daughter more than You is not worthy of You.**

Pastor: Whoever does not take his cross and follow You is not worthy of You.

All: **Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for Your sake will find it.**

*(Silent prayers of confession)*

## Sung Response—Kyrie

WOMEN

Lord have mer - cy — Christ have mer - cy —

MEN

Lord have mer - cy — Christ have mer - cy —

— Lord have mer - cy — Up - on us.

Lord have mer - cy — Up - on us.

Text: Traditional; Music: Nathan George & Henry C. Haffner, 2012.

## Assurance of Pardon—Galatians 3:5-9; Matthew 11:28

Does He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith—just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”? Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.” So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

Pastor: This is the promise of God.

All: This is the Word of the Lord.

Pastor: He says to us, “Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

All: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: Amen.

## Sung Response—Fivefold Amen

A - men, a - men. A - men, a - men, a - men.

Text: Traditional; Music: Traditional African-American spiritual, arr. Nelsie T. Johnson, 1988.

# HEAVENLY GIFT—*EUCCHARISTO*

*As God beckons His people to the bounty of His table, they make joyous profession of their fealty to Him.*

## 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 Hymn—On Jordan's Stormy Banks



On Jor - dan's stor - my banks I stand, and cast a wish-ful eye  
O'er all those wide ex - ten - ded plains shines one e - ter - nal day;  
When shall I reach that hap - py place, and be for - ev - er blest?  
Filled with de - light, my rap - tured soul would here no long - er stay:



To Ca - naan's fair and hap - py land, where my pos - ses - sions lie.  
There God the Son for - ev - er reigns, and scat - ters night a - way.  
When shall I see my Fa - ther's face, and in His bos - om rest?  
Though Jor - dan's waves a - round me roll, I'd fear - less launch a - way.

### Refrain



I am bound for the prom - ised land, I'm bound for the prom - ised land,  
  
O, who will come and go with me? I am bound for the prom - ised land.


Text: Samuel Stennet, 1787; Music: THE PROMISED LAND, Matilda Durham, 1835.

## Congregational Hymn—We Will Feast In The House Of Zion


### Chorus



We will feast in the house of Zi - on, We will sing with our hearts re - stored;  
  
"He has done great things," We will say to - geth - er, We will feast and weep no more.



We will not be burned by the fire He is the Lord, our God  
In the dark of night, be fore the dawn My soul, be not a - fraid  
Ev - ery vow we've bro ken and be - trayed You are the faith - ful one



We are not con - sumed by the flood Up - held, pro - tect - ed, gath - ered up.  
For the pro - mised morn ing, oh, how long? Oh, God of Jac - ob, be my strength.  
And from the gar den to the grave Bind us to - ge - ther, bring sha - lom.

CCLI #2844402; Text and Music: Sandra McCracken and Josh Moore, 2015.

# GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND IN GRATEFUL PRAISE, PETITIONS, TITHES & OFFERINGS

*Our praying, serving, and giving are essential aspects of worship. It is here that our faith moves from our heads and hearts into our lives and callings.*

## Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession—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—The God Of Abraham Praise

The God of A - braham praise, who reigns en - throned a - bove,  
The God of A - braham praise, at whose su - preme com - mand  
He by Him - self hath sworn, I on His oath de - pend;  
The whole tri - um - phant host gives thanks to God on high;

An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days and God of love.  
From Earth I rise, and seek the joys at His right hand.  
I shall, on ea - gles' wings up - borne, to Heav'n as - cend.  
"Hail Fath - er, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost!" they ev - er cry,

Je - ho - vah! Great I AM! by earth and heav'n con - fessed;  
I all on Earth for - sake, its wis - dom, fame and pow'r.  
I shall be - hold His face, I shall His pow'r a - dore,  
Hail, Abra - ham's God and mine! I join the heav'n - ly lays;

I bow and bless the sa - cred name for - ev - er - blest.  
And Him my on - ly por - tion make, my shield and tow'r.  
And sing the won - ders of His grace for - ev - er - more.  
All might and maj - es - ty are Thine, and end - less praise.

Text: Thomas Olivers, 1770; Music: LEONI, Jewish melody, arr. Meyer Lyon, 1770.

## 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—based on Isaiah 51:1-3

Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you. The Lord comfort you; the Lord comfort all your waste places; the Lord make your wilderness like Eden, your desert like the garden of the Lord. May joy and gladness be found in you, thanksgiving and the voice of song. *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:

Today we return to our sermon series in the book of Acts, after a few weeks in the Gospel of Luke for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Picking up where we left off at the beginning of Acts 7, we'll read of Stephen defending himself in front of the Jewish authorities by retelling the history of God's dealings with Israel. His speech seems to survey the whole Old Testament, as do many of the elements in this morning's service. Several of the hymns echo the Call to Worship from Psalm 105, which commands us to "make known [the Lord's] deeds among the peoples." *God, My King Thy Might Confessing*, *Let Children Hear The Mighty Deeds (Psalm 78)*, and *We Will Feast In The House Of Zion* all encourage us to speak of God's "deeds of wonder," His "mighty deeds" and the "great things" He has done. *Jesus, Shepherd Of Thy People*, *On Jordan's Stormy Banks*, and *In Judah The Almighty's Known (Psalm 76)* all reference or allude to specific moments in redemptive history: the years of wandering in the desert, the crossing into the promised land of Canaan, and the defeat of the Assyrians at the siege of Jerusalem. The service concludes with *The God Of Abraham Praise*, a hymn which connects us to the patriarch who "believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness" (Galatians 3:6). —Henry C. Haffner

**Key Words:** Abraham, Promise, Inheritance, Possession, Affliction, Rescue

**Keystone Verse:** Yet God gave Abraham no inheritance in the land, not even a foot's length, but promised to give it to him as a possession and to his offspring after him, though he had no child. (Acts 7:5)



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