



PARISH
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Epiphany Season
February 15th, 2026

Quotes for reflection:

Certain new theologians dispute original sin, which is the only part of Christian theology which can really be proved.

—G. K. Chesterton

It is a false god that the avenger has called to his aid, and the role of public judgment is to provide a place of provisional satisfaction, where we may open ourselves to the infinitely reconciling judgment of the true God.

—Oliver O'Donovan

So long as Paul lived under the law, his integrity was well known and famous. Again, when he was converted to Christ, he was a singular pattern of innocence. Yet we see how he is subject to many slanders, cruel and false accusations. And this is almost always the estate of the servants of Christ, wherefore they must be the more courageous, to pass valiantly through evil report and good report; neither let them think it strange to be evil reported of where they have done good.

—John Calvin

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 118:22-24

The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

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

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, using mostly quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are printed below the staves.

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—from Psalm 99:1-5

Pastor: The Lord reigns; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

All: The Lord is great in Zion; He is exalted over all the peoples.

Reader 1: Let them praise His great and awesome name! Holy is He!

Reader 2: The King in His might loves justice.

All: He has established equity; He has executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

Pastor: Exalt the Lord our God; worship at His footstool! Holy is He!

Congregational Hymn—The Lord Is King



The Lord is king! Lift up thy voice, O Earth; and all ye heav'ns, re - joice!
The Lord is king! Who then shall dare re - sist His will, dis - trust His care,
The Lord is king! Child of the dust, the judge of all the earth is just;
He reigns! Ye saints, ex - alt your strains; your God is king, your Fa - ther reigns;



From world to world the joy shall ring, "The Lord om - ni - po - tent is King."
Or mur - mur at His wise de - crees, or doubt His ro - yal pro - mi - ses?
Ho - ly and true are all His ways; let ev - ery crea - ture speak His praise.
Through earth and heav'n one song shall ring, "The Lord om - ni - po - tent is King!"

Text: Josiah Conder, 1824; Music: ROCKBRIDGE, Lucius Chapin,
from *The Harmonia Sacra*, 1812, alt. 2010.

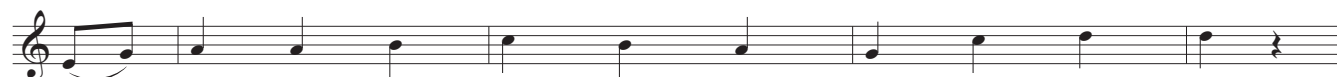
GOD SPEAKS TO HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

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 Lord Reigns Above (Psalm 97)



The Lord reigns a - bove, let the earth sing for joy;
Fire blaz - es be - fore Him and burns up His foes,
All mak - ers of im - a - ges go down to shame:
Love God and hate e - vil; stand fast, do not faint.



Let all the glad coast - lands now lift up their voice!
His light - nings light up the whole world down be - low.
Your i - dols are worth - less— give praise to His name!
The Lord will keep safe all the lives of His saints;



Storm clouds and thick dark - ness He wears like a robe;
The mount - ains shall melt like the wax in a flame;
The daugh - ters of Ju - dah shall hear and de - light,
Light shines on the right - eous, and shall not de - part,



Seek just - ice, you men, at the foot of His throne.
His glo - ry, you peo - ple, see heav - en pro - claim. TO CHORUS
Be - cause the Lord’s judg - ments shall ev - er be right.
Great joy shall rain down on the up - right in heart. TO CHORUS

Chorus



We praise You, O Lord! ——— You are high o - ver all of the earth! ———



Re - joice in the Lord! ——— He’s ex - al - ted a - bove all the gods— all oth - er gods.

Text: based on Psalm 97:1-12, Henry C. Haffner, 2025;
Music: BLACK MOUNTAIN, Henry C. Haffner, 2025.

Scripture Reading—Luke 21:10-19

Then [Jesus] said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for My name’s sake. This will be your opportunity to bear witness. Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. You will be hated by all for My name’s sake. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your lives.”

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Congregational Psalm—O Lord Most High (Psalm 9)



O Lord most high, with all my heart, Your great works I will pro - claim;
The Lord, the ev - er - last - ing King, seat - ed on His judg - ment throne;
Je - ho - vah will a re - fuge prove, re - fuge strong for all op - pressed,
All they, O Lord, that know Your name, place their trust in the Word of truth,



I will be glad and give You thanks and sing the prais - es of Your name.
The right-eous judge of all the world will make His per - fect jus - tice known.
A safe de - fense, where wear - y souls in troub - led times may sure - ly rest.
For You have ne - ver turned a - way from those who tru - ly seek for You.

Chorus



Hope of the poor, to You we cry! A - rise, O Lord, de - fend the weak!



Sing Praise to the Lord en - throned on High! De - clare to all His might-y deeds!

Text: from Psalm 9:1-2, 7-11, 18-19, *The Psalter*, 1912; Music: Nathan George, 2013.

Sermon Text—Acts 25:1-12

Now three days after Festus had arrived in the province, he went up to Jerusalem from Caesarea. ² And the chief priests and the principal men of the Jews laid out their case against Paul, and they urged him, ³ asking as a favor against Paul that he summon him to Jerusalem—because they were planning an ambush to kill him on the way. ⁴ Festus replied that Paul was being kept at Caesarea and that he himself intended to go there shortly. ⁵ “So,” said he, “let the men of authority among you go down with me, and if there is anything wrong about the man, let them bring charges against him.”

⁶ After he stayed among them not more than eight or ten days, he went down to Caesarea. And the next day he took his seat on the tribunal and ordered Paul to be brought. ⁷ When he had arrived, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him, bringing many and serious charges against him that they could not prove. ⁸ Paul argued in his defense, “Neither against the law of the Jews, nor against the temple, nor against Caesar have I committed any offense.” ⁹ But Festus, wishing to do the Jews a favor, said to Paul, “Do you wish to go up to Jerusalem and there be tried on these charges before me?” ¹⁰ But Paul said, “I am standing before Caesar’s tribunal, where I ought to be tried. To the Jews I have done no wrong, as you yourself know very well. ¹¹ If then I am a wrongdoer and have committed anything for which I deserve to die, I do not seek to escape death. But if there is nothing to their charges against me, no one can give me up to them. I appeal to Caesar.” ¹² Then Festus, when he had conferred with his council, answered, “To Caesar you have appealed; to Caesar you shall go.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—I Know That My Redeemer Lives, Vs. 2



He___ lives to bless me with His love; glor - y, hal - le - lu - jah!



He___ lives to plead my cause a - bove; glor - y, hal - le - lu - jah!



Shout___ on, pray on, we're gain - ing ground, glor - y, hal - le - lu - jah!



The dead's a - live, and the lost is found, glor - y, hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: Samuel Medley, 1775; Music: ANTIOCH (SHOUT ON), F. C. Wood,
The Sacred Harp, 1850; arr. Henry C. Haffner, 2017.

Sermon—*Injustice, Slander, and Grace*

—Assistant Pastor, Brittain Brewer

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 140:1-3, 6, 12-13

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. You deliver and preserve Your people from violent men.

All: But we, O Lord, have planned evil things in our hearts and stir up wars continually.

Pastor: Our tongues become as sharp as a serpent's and under our lips is the venom of asps.

All: You are our God; give ear to the voice of our pleas for mercy, O Lord.

Pastor: You will maintain the cause of the afflicted, and will execute justice for the needy.

All: Surely, the righteous shall give thanks to Your name; the upright shall dwell in Your presence.

(Silent prayers of confession)

Sung Response—Kyrie

The musical score is for a Kyrie response, featuring two parts: Women and Men. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The Women part is written on a treble clef staff, and the Men part is written on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "Lord have mer - cy ____ Christ have mer - cy ____ Up - on us." The music consists of a simple melody with some rests and a bass line with some rests.

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—Titus 3:3-7; Matthew 11:28

For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

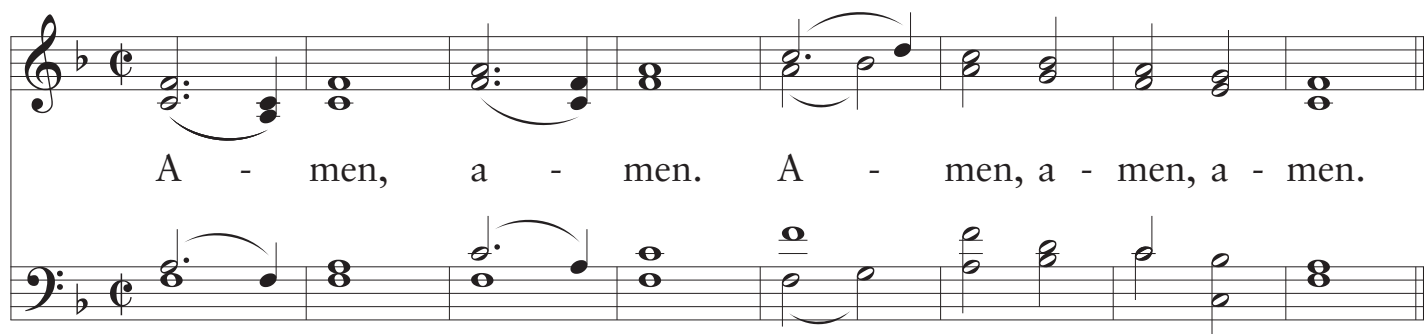
Pastor: This is the promise of God.

All: This is the Word of the Lord.

Pastor: Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

All: Thanks be to God, our refuge, our strength, and our redeemer.

Sung Response—Fivefold Amen



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

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:

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 Psalm—Be My Contender In The Strife (Psalm 35)



Be my con - ten - der in the strife, O Lord my strong de - fen - der be _____
My foes re - joice at my dis - may, but You, O Lord, have seen it all; _____
I look to You, my God, my Lord; my right - eous judge, to You I pray; _____
Yes, let the Lord be mag - ni - fied, be - cause Your ser - vants You have blessed _____



Your migh - ty shield pro - tect my life, Your spear con - front my en - e - my _____
O be no long - er far a - way, nor si - lent when to You I call. _____
Let not my foes cry out with scorn and laugh with joy at my dis - may. _____
And from the morn - ing to the night, I dai - ly praise Your right - eous - ness _____



A - mid the con - flict, O my Lord, Your pre - cious pro - mise let me hear _____
O vin - di - cate me from Your throne, O Lord, my right - eous cause main - tain; _____
Give woe and shame to those whose spite would see my right - eous cause des - troyed;
My soul is joy - ful in the Lord, in His sal - va - tion I re - joice; _____



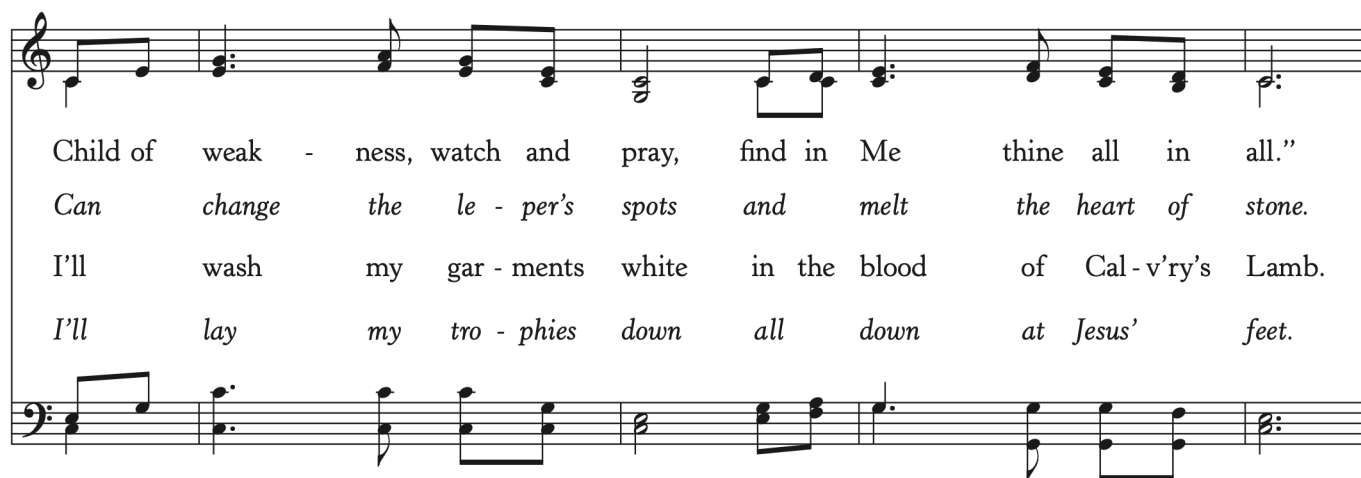
That faith - ful, re - as - sur - ing word: "I am your Sav - ior, do not fear." _____
You are my Lord and God a - lone; a - wake, and make Your just - ice plain. _____
But those who in the good de - light, let them be glad and shout for joy. _____
To Him my heart will praise ac - cord and bless His name with thank - ful voice. _____

Text: paraphrase of Psalm 35:1-28, *Psalter*, 1912, alt. Henry C. Haffner, 2016;
Music: WEST HARPETH, Henry C. Haffner, 2016.

Congregational Hymn—Jesus Paid It All



I hear the Sav - ior say, "Thy strength in - deed is small;
Lord, now in - deed I find Thy power and Thine a - lone,
For noth - ing good have I where - by Thy grace to claim,
And when be - fore the throne I stand in Him com - plete,

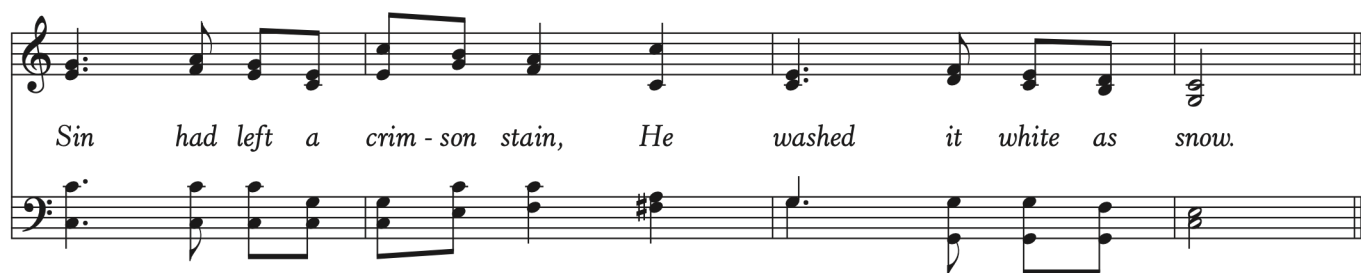


Child of weak - ness, watch and pray, find in Me thine all in all."
Can change the le - per's spots and melt the heart of stone.
I'll wash my gar - ments white in the blood of Cal - v'ry's Lamb.
I'll lay my tro - phies down all down at Jesus' feet.

Refrain



Je - sus paid it all, all to Him I owe;



Sin had left a crim - son stain, He washed it white as snow.

Text: Elvina M. Hall, 1865; Music: ALL TO CHRIST, John T. Grape, 1865.

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 Psalm—O Sing A New Song (Psalm 98)

O sing a new song to the Lord! For wonders He has done,
For wonders He has done; His right hand and His holy arm
The victory have won the victory have won,
The victory have won, the victory have won, the
won, the victory have won.
won, the victory have won.
won, the victory have won.
won, the victory have won.

2. The great salvation wrought by Him
Jehovah has made known.
His justice in the nations' sight
He openly has shown.

3. He mindful of His grace and truth
To Isr'el's house has been.
The great salvation of our God
All ends of Earth have seen.

4. Because He comes, He surely comes,
The judge of Earth to be!
With justice He will judge the world,
All men with equity.

Text: based on Psalm 98:1-3, 9, *Book of Psalms for Singing*, 1973;
Music: DESERT (LYNGHAM), Thomas Jarmon, c. 1803.

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—Hebrews 13:20-21

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. *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.

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano/Alto and Tenor/Bass) in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. The first system covers the first line of lyrics, the second system covers the second line, and the third system covers the third line. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with the bass clef providing harmonic support. The piece concludes with a final cadence in the bass clef.

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

Announcements

Worship Notes:

At the beginning of Acts 25, we find Paul once again defending himself in court. In addition to steadfastly maintaining his innocence, he appeals to a higher authority, setting up his final journey to argue his case before Ceasar in Rome. Many of the hymns and scripture passages in this morning's service reflect God's role as judge and lawgiver, and our need for an advocate in His court. We will refer to God as the "judge of all the earth" (*The Lord Is King*) and "a righteous judge" (*O Lord Most High—Psalm 9*). The psalms remind us that "the King in His might loves justice" (Psalm 99:4), that men must seek justice "at the foot of His throne" (*The Lord Reigns Above—Psalm 97*), and that He will judge the whole world with equity (*O Sing A New Song—Psalm 98*). We confess our need for vindication, for the help of a "contender" or "strong defender," trusting that a "righteous judge" will maintain our "righteous cause" (*Be My Contender In The Strife—Psalm 35*). By God's grace we have such a contender: the Lord Jesus Christ, who "lives to plead [our] cause above" (*I Know That My Redeemer Lives*). Because Jesus is our advocate, we can stand "before kings and governors" unafraid (Luke 21:12), knowing that when we stand before the ultimate throne, we "stand in Him complete" (*Jesus Paid It All*).

—Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Charges, Case, Ambush, Offense, Trial, Appeal, Caesar

Keystone Verses: Paul argued in his defense, "Neither against the law of the Jews, nor against the temple, nor against Caesar have I committed any offense."
(Acts 25:8)