



PARISH
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Epiphany Season
February 1st, 2026

Quotes for reflection:

The truth is that long, clean, clear, simple, undeniable, unchallengeable, straight, and shining line, on one side of which is black and on the other of which is white.

—William Faulkner

Error lives but a day. Truth is eternal.

—James Longstreet

In the end the truth will out.

—William Shakespeare

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—John 14:6

Jesus said, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

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 - mighty - 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 30:1-12

Pastor: Sing praises to the Lord, O you His saints. Give thanks to His holy name.

All: O Lord, You have restored us to life.

Reader 1: We will extol You, O Lord. We cried to You and You poured out Your healing.

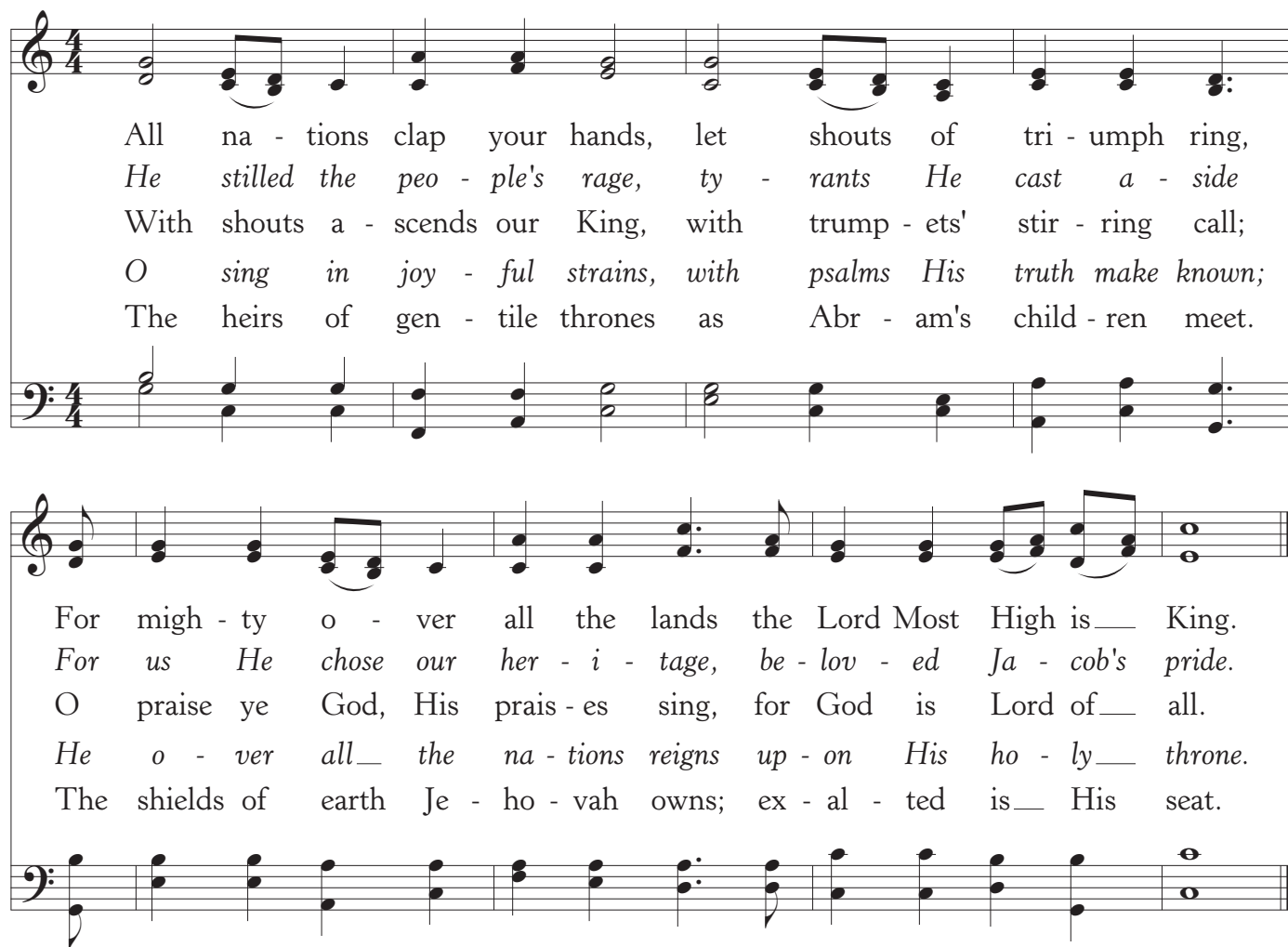
Reader 2: Your anger is but for a moment, while Your favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

Pastor: By Your favor, O Lord, You have made our mountains stand strong. O Lord, be merciful to us! O Lord, help us!

All: You have turned our mourning into dancing!

Pastor: We will give thanks to You forever!

Congregational Psalm—All Nations Clap Your Hands (Psalm 47)



All na - tions clap your hands, let shouts of tri - umph ring,
He stilled the peo - ple's rage, ty - rants He cast a - side
With shouts a - scends our King, with trump - ets' stir - ring call;
O sing in joy - ful strains, with psalms His truth make known;
The heirs of gen - tile thrones as Abr - am's child - ren meet.

For migh - ty o - ver all the lands the Lord Most High is — King.
For us He chose our her - i - tage, be - lov - ed Ja - cob's pride.
O praise ye God, His prais - es sing, for God is Lord of — all.
He o - ver all — the na - tions reigns up - on His ho - ly — throne.
The shields of earth Je - ho - vah owns; ex - al - ted is — His seat.

Text: Psalm 47:1-9, *The Psalter of the United Presbyterian Church*, 1887, alt. 2018;
Music: THIRD AVENUE, Henry C. Haffner & Elizabeth Dowdell, 2018.

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—Blessed Are All They (Psalm 1)



Bless - ed are all they — that shun sin's vain — and wick - ed ways.

Firm - ly plant - ed on — the banks of God's great stream of grace,

Bless - ed are all they — that shun sin's vain — and wick - ed ways.



For them has Christ sal - va - tion won; He loves them all their days.

They raise un - end - ing praise and thanks to His — great glor - ious face.

For them has Christ sal - va - tion won; He loves them all their days.



God's ho - ly Word is their de - light; they — pros - per in — its truth.

The wick - ed ones, they are not so, but, — dri - ven by — the winds,

In Je - sus Christ's own right - eous - ness, though sin - ners fail — and fall, —



In it they dwell both day - and night to flour - ish and bear fruit.

They fall and per - ish, weighed with woe, when once God's wrath be - gins.

His flock He will pre - serve — and bless, who on — His fa - vor call.

Text: based on Psalm 1:1-6, T. M. Moore, *The Ailbe Psalter*, 2009;
Music: Nathan George, 2011.

Scripture Reading—2 Corinthians 10:3-6

Though we walk in the flesh, we do not wage war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Congregational Hymn—Speak, O Lord



Speak, O Lord, as we come to You to re-ceive the food of Your Ho - ly Word.

Teach us, Lord, full o - be - di - ence, ho - ly rev - er - ence, true hu - mil - i - ty;

Speak, O Lord, and re-new our minds; help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us—



Take Your truth, plant it deep in us; shape and fash - ion us in Your like - ness,

Test our thoughts and our at - ti-tudes in the ra - di - ance of Your pur - i - ty.

Truths un - changed from the dawn of time that will ech - o down through e - ter - ni - ty.



That the light of Christ might be seen to-day in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.

Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see Your ma-jes - tic love and au - thor - i - ty.

And by grace we'll stand on Your prom-is-es, and by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.



Speak, O Lord, and ful - fill in us all Your pur - pos - es for Your glo - ry.

Words of pow'r that can nev - er fail— let their truth pre - vail o - ver un - be - lief.

Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built and the Earth is filled with Your glo - ry.

Sermon Text— Acts 24:1-21

And after five days the high priest Ananias came down with some elders and a spokesman, one Tertullus. They laid before the governor their case against Paul. ² And when he had been summoned, Tertullus began to accuse him, saying:

“Since through you we enjoy much peace, and since by your foresight, most excellent Felix, reforms are being made for this nation, ³ in every way and everywhere we accept this with all gratitude. ⁴ But, to detain you no further, I beg you in your kindness to hear us briefly. ⁵ For we have found this man a plague, one who stirs up riots among all the Jews throughout the world and is a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. ⁶ He even tried to profane the temple, but we seized him. ⁸ By examining him yourself you will be able to find out from him about everything of which we accuse him.”

⁹ The Jews also joined in the charge, affirming that all these things were so.

¹⁰ And when the governor had nodded to him to speak, Paul replied:

“Knowing that for many years you have been a judge over this nation, I cheerfully make my defense. ¹¹ You can verify that it is not more than twelve days since I went up to worship in Jerusalem, ¹² and they did not find me disputing with anyone or stirring up a crowd, either in the temple or in the synagogues or in the city. ¹³ Neither can they prove to you what they now bring up against me. ¹⁴ But this I confess to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the Law and written in the Prophets, ¹⁵ having a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust. ¹⁶ So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man. ¹⁷ Now after several years I came to bring alms to my nation and to present offerings. ¹⁸ While I was doing this, they found me purified in the temple, without any crowd or tumult. But some Jews from Asia— ¹⁹ they ought to be here before you and to make an accusation, should they have anything against me. ²⁰ Or else let these men themselves say what wrongdoing they found when I stood before the council, ²¹ other than this one thing that I cried out while standing among them: ‘It is with respect to the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial before you this day.’”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—The Church's One Foundation, Vs. 4



The church shall nev - er per - ish! Her dear Lord, to de - fend,



To guide, sus - tain, and cher - ish, is with her to the end;



Tho' there be those that hate her and false sons in her pale,



A - gainst the foe or trai - tor she ev - er shall pre - vail.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1866; Music: AURELIA, Samuel J. Wesley, 1864.

Sermon—*Seven Lies and the Truth*

—Pastor Emeritus, George Grant

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 Proverbs 6:12-23

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. There are six things that You hate, seven that are an abomination to You: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.

All: The wicked go about with crooked speech.

Pastor: With perverted hearts we devise evil, continually sowing discord.

All: Therefore calamity will come upon us suddenly.

Pastor: But Lord, Your commandment is a lamp, and Your teaching is a light.

All: Your reproofs of discipline are the way of life.

(Silent prayers of confession)

Sung Response—Kyrie

The musical score is for a Kyrie response, featuring two parts: WOMEN (treble clef) and MEN (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Lord have mer-cy— Christ have mer-cy—". The score is written in a simple, melodic style with a few rests and a final cadence.

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 2:11-14; Matthew 11:28

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for us all, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works.

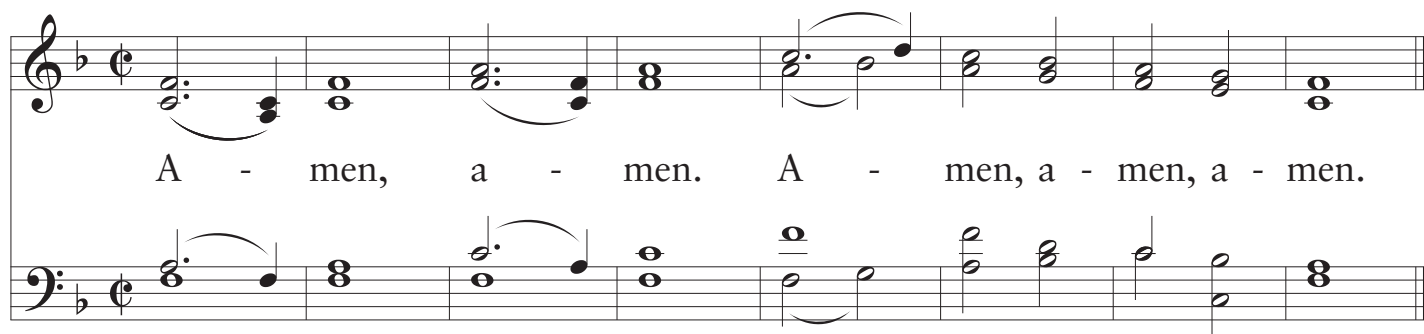
Pastor: This is the promise of God.

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.**

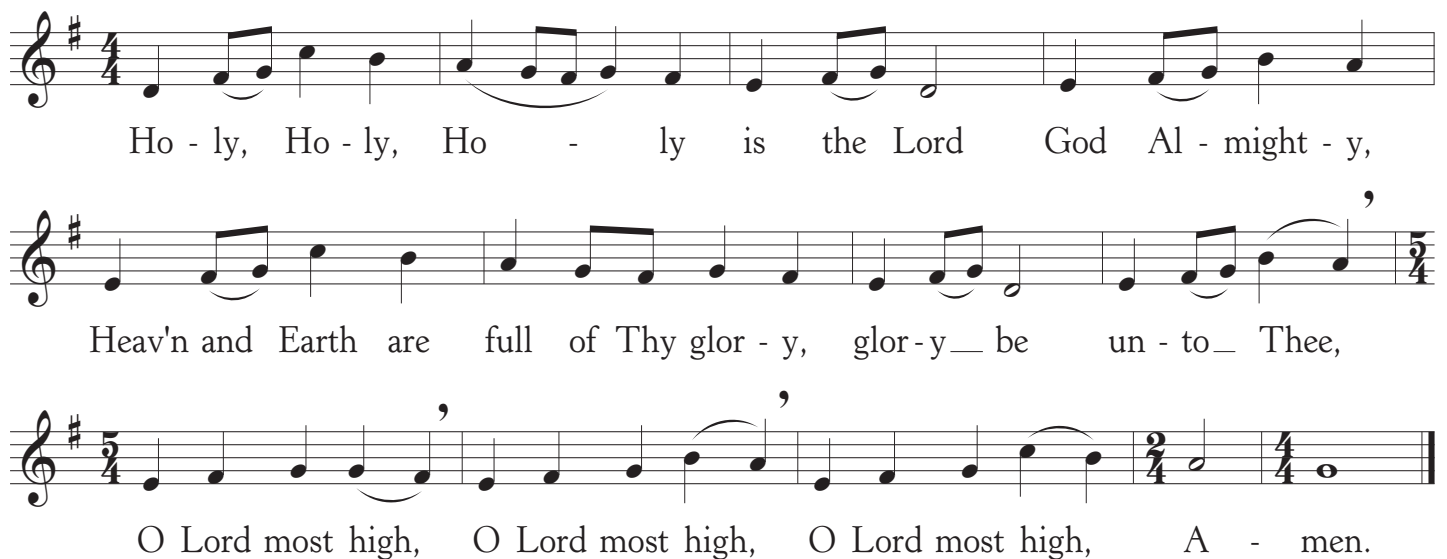
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

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—Do You Decree, O Earthly Gods (Psalm 58)



Do you de - cree, O earth - ly gods, with words of right - eous - ness?

The wick - ed are es - tranged from birth, de - part - ing from the way;

The right - eous shall re - joice___ to see God's ven - geance com - ing in;___



Do you, who judge the sons___ of men, speak forth in up - right - ness?

And speak - ing lies with ser - pent's tongues, they poi - son, spoil, and slay. ___

The right - eous man shall wash his feet in blood of wick - ed men.



No, e - ven now your hearts are filled with wick - ed - ness and hurt;___

God break the teeth with - in their mouth, O hear me when I call;___

Then all shall say that right - eous folk re - ward shall ne - ver miss:___



And from your hands great vi - o - lence goes out up - on the earth.

My Lord, tear out___ the hor - rid fangs of these young li - ons all.

And sure - ly here up - on the earth a God to judge there is.

Text: Psalm 58:1-6, 10-11, *The Psalter with Music*, 1900, alt. 2021;
Music: GALLAWAY, Henry C. Haffner, 2021.

Congregational Psalm—My Shepherd Will Supply My Need (Psalm 23)



My_ shep - herd will sup - ply my need: Je - ho - vah is His name;___
When I walk through the shades of_ death Thy pre - sence is my stay;___
The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me all my days;___



In_ past - ures fresh He makes me feed, be - side the liv - ing stream.____
One word of_ Thy sup - por - ting breath drives all my fears a - way.____
O_ may Thy house be my a - bode, and all my work be praise.____



He brings my wand-'ring spir - it___ back when I for - sake His ways,___
Thy hand, in_ sight of all my foes, doth still my ta - ble spread;___
There would I___ find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers go and come;___



And leads me, for His mer - cy's sake, in_ paths of truth and grace.____
My cup with bless - ings ov - er - flows, Thine oil a - noints my head.____
No more a_ strang - er, nor a_ guest, but like a child at home.____

Text: paraphrase of Psalm 23, Isaac Watts, 1719;
Music: RESIGNATION, *The Southern Harmony*, 1835.

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.

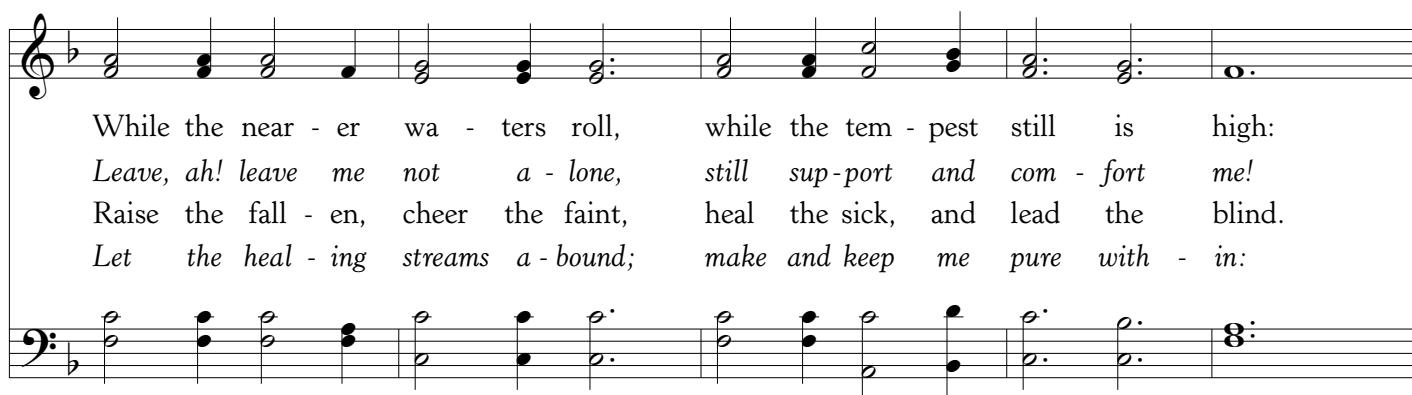
For Thine is the kingdom,
And the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

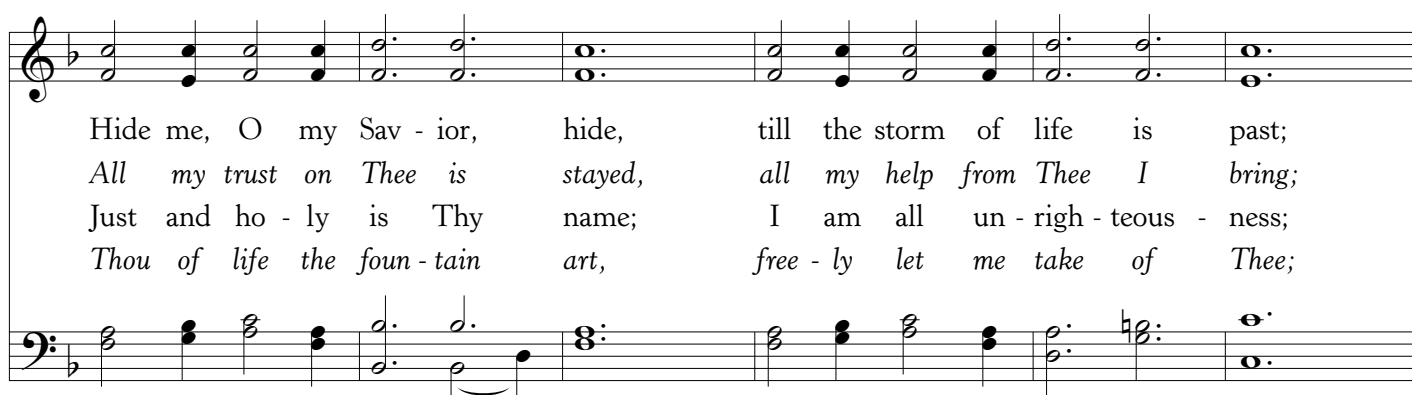
Congregational Hymn—Jesus, Lover Of My Soul



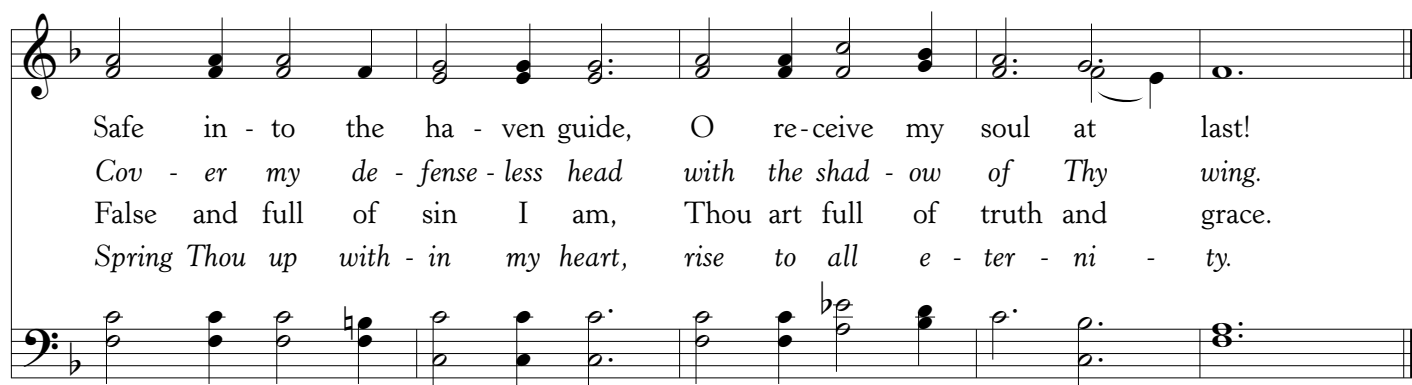
Je - sus, lov - er of my soul, let me to Thy bo - som fly,
 Oth - er ref - uge have I none, hangs my help - less soul on Thee;
 Thou, O Christ, art all I want; more than all in Thee I find:
 Plen - teous grace with Thee is found, grace to cov - er all my sin;



While the near - er wa - ters roll, while the tem - pest still is high:
 Leave, ah! leave me not a - lone, still sup - port and com - fort me!
 Raise the fall - en, cheer the faint, heal the sick, and lead the blind.
 Let the heal - ing streams a - bound; make and keep me pure with - in:



Hide me, O my Sav - ior, hide, till the storm of life is past;
 All my trust on Thee is stayed, all my help from Thee I bring;
 Just and ho - ly is Thy name; I am all un - righ - teous - ness;
 Thou of life the foun - tain art, free - ly let me take of Thee;



Safe in - to the ha - ven guide, O re - ceive my soul at last!
 Cov - er my de - fense - less head with the shad - ow of Thy wing.
 False and full of sin I am, Thou art full of truth and grace.
 Spring Thou up with - in my heart, rise to all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1740; Music: MARTYN, Simeon B. Marsh, 1834.

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 John 1:7

If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. *Amen.*

Sung Response—Gloria Patri

The musical score for the Gloria Patri is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. The first system contains the first line of the text: 'Glor - y be__ to the Fath - er, and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;'. The second system contains the second line: 'As it was in the be - gin - ning, is__ now, and ev - er shall be,'. The third system contains the third line: 'World__ with - out end. A - men. A - - - men.' The music features a variety of note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, as well as rests. The final measure of the third system is marked with a large '8', indicating an eight-measure rest.

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.

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

Announcements

Worship Notes:

As you glance through this morning's bulletin, you may notice a theme woven throughout: the contrast between truth and lies. We are invited into worship with a declaration that Jesus is "way and the truth and the life" (John 14:6). We echo this sentiment at the end of the service when we sing to Him, "Thou art full of truth" (*Jesus, Lover Of My Soul*). The psalms acknowledge that we prosper when we walk in the truth (*Blessed Are All They—Psalm 1*) and encourage us to make His truth known to those around us (*All Nations Clap Your Hands—Psalm 47*). But even as we declare our love for "truths unchanged from the dawn of time," and our hope that "truth will prevail over unbelief" (*Speak, O Lord*), we must be aware of the presence of lies and falsehood in this fallen world. We read of the Jews' lies at Paul's trial (Acts 24:2-9). We sing psalms and hymns that warn of "false sons" within the faith (*The Church's One Foundation*) and wicked foes without, who speak lies "with serpents' tongues" (*Do You Decree, O Earthly Gods—Psalm 58*). We read of God's hatred for "lying tongues" and "false witnesses" (Proverbs 6:16-19), and we confess our own propensity to engage in "crooked speech" (Proverbs 16:12). The danger posed by falsehood is strong—whether comfortable lies we tell ourselves or outrageous slander directed against us. Let's make the words of this morning's communion hymn (*My Shepherd Will Supply My Need—Psalm 23*) our prayer, that the Lord would continually lead us in "paths of truth of grace."

—Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Plague, Riots, Ringleader, Profane, Resurrection

Keystone Verses: It is with respect to the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial before you this day. (Acts 24:21)