



PARISH
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Easter Season
May 3rd, 2026

Quotes for reflection:

Your heart is not the compass that God steers by. Believe God's Word and power more than you believe your own feelings and experiences. Your Rock is Christ, and it is not the Rock which ebbs and flows, but your sea.

—Samuel Rutherford

Have you ever realized that every worry is an invitation to draw closer to God?

—J. I. Packer

By God all things exist—therefore He can hear all prayers, relieve us in all our straits, supply us in all wants, and preserve us in all dangers. Our whole life is in His keeping and upheld by His intimate presence with us. Our days cannot be longer nor shorter than He pleases.

—Thomas Manton

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 14:1

Jesus said, “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me.”

Sung Response—Christ Is Risen! Hallelujah, Vs. 1



Christ is ris - en! Hal-le - lu - jah! Ris-en our vic - tor-ious Head!



Sing His prais-es! Hal-le - lu - jah! Christ is ris - en from the dead!



Grate-ful - ly our hearts a - dore Him, as His light once more ap - pears,



Bow-ing down in joy be - fore Him, ris-ing up from grief and tears,



Sing His prais-es! Hal-le - lu - jah! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

CCLI #2844402 Text: James S.B. Monsell, 1863; Music: BEACH SPRING (FOUNT OF GLORY),
attr. B. F. White, 1844, R.W. Thompson, 1854, arr. Gregory Wilbur, 2010.

Call to Worship—Psalm 3:3–8

Pastor: Salvation belongs to the Lord.

All: His blessing pours forth upon His people.

Reader 1: You, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. I cried aloud to You, and You answered me.

Reader 2: I lay down and slept; I woke again, for You, O Lord, sustained me. Therefore, I will not be afraid.

All: Arise, O Lord! Save us, O God!

Pastor: Salvation belongs to the Lord.

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 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—Answer, Father When I Call (Psalm 4)



An - swer, Fa - ther, when I call, O God of my right - eous - ness.
How long will you, sons of men, turn my ho - nor in - to shame?
Trem - ble now but then de - part, from all these be - set - ting sins;
Ma - ny say "Who brings us good? Lift your light and bless the ground!"



You have giv - en me re - lief, when in deep dis - tress.
How long will you love your lies, speak - ing them in vain?
Me - di - tate with - in your heart, rest, be si - lent.
But more joy is in my heart, Than when wine a - bounds.



An - swer Fa - ther, and be gra - cious to the ser - vant in Your care,
Know the Lord has called the god - ly, made them ho - ly, one and all.
Of - fer right - eous sa - cri - fi - ces; bring your faith un - to the judge.
So in per - fect peace now rest - ing, I will both lie down and sleep



Show Your mer - cy in my trou - ble, O Lord hear my prayer;
Know the Lord will sure - ly hear me when to Him I call;
Lay your si - lent hearts be - fore Him; place in Him your trust;
You a - lone, O Lord pro - tec - tor, my soul safe - ly keep;



O Lord hear my prayer.
When to Him I call.
Place in Him your trust.
my soul safe - ly keep.

Text & Music: Nathan George, 2012.

Scripture Reading—Matthew 6:25–34

[Jesus said], “I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore, do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

“Therefore, do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Congregational Hymn—How Sweet The Name Of Jesus Sounds



The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn, and the second system contains the last four lines. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across measures. The music is a simple, harmonious setting suitable for congregational singing.

How sweet the name of Je - sus sounds in a be - liev - er's ear!
It makes the wound - ed spir - it whole, and calms the troub - led breast;
Dear name, the rock on which I build, my shield and hid - ing place,
Je - sus! My shep - herd, bro - ther, friend, my Proph - et, Priest and King,

It soothes his sor - rows, heals his wounds, and drives a - way his fear.
'Tis man - na to the hun - gry soul, and to the wea - ry, rest.
My nev - er fail - ing treasu - ry, filled with bound - less stores of grace!
My Lord, my life, my way, my end, ac - cept the praise I bring.

Text: John Newton, 1779; Music: ST. PETER, Alexander R. Reinagle, 1836.

Sermon Text—Psalm 37:1–20

- Fret not yourself because of evildoers;
be not envious of wrongdoers!
- 2 For they will soon fade like the grass
and wither like the green herb.
- 3 Trust in the Lord and do good;
dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.
- 4 Delight yourself in the Lord,
and He will give you the desires of your heart.
- 5 Commit your way to the Lord;
trust in Him, and He will act.
- 6 He will bring forth your righteousness as the light,
and your justice as the noonday.
- 7 Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him;
fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way,
over the man who carries out evil devices!
- 8 Refrain from anger and forsake wrath!
Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil.
- 9 For the evildoers shall be cut off,
but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land.
- 10 In just a little while, the wicked will be no more;
though you look carefully at his place, he will not be there.
- 11 But the meek shall inherit the land
and delight themselves in abundant peace.

- 12 The wicked plots against the righteous
and gnashes his teeth at him,
13 but the Lord laughs at the wicked,
for He sees that his day is coming.
- 14 The wicked draw the sword and bend their bows
to bring down the poor and needy,
to slay those whose way is upright;
15 their sword shall enter their own heart,
and their bows shall be broken.
- 16 Better is the little that the righteous has
than the abundance of many wicked.
17 For the arms of the wicked shall be broken,
but the Lord upholds the righteous.
- 18 The Lord knows the days of the blameless,
and their heritage will remain forever;
19 they are not put to shame in evil times;
in the days of famine they have abundance.
- 20 But the wicked will perish;
the enemies of the Lord are like the glory of the pastures;
they vanish—like smoke they vanish away.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—O Put Your Trust In God, Vs. 1

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: 'O put your trust in God, in du - ty's path go on; Walk in His strength with faith and hope, so shall your work be done. Com - mit your ways to Him, your works in - to His hands, And rest on His un - chang-ing Word, who Heav'n and Earth com - mands.'

O put your trust in God, in du - ty's path go on;
Walk in His strength with faith and hope, so shall your work be done.
Com - mit your ways to Him, your works in - to His hands,
And rest on His un - chang-ing Word, who Heav'n and Earth com - mands.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1656, tr. John Wesley, 18th c. ;
Music: TERRA BEATA, Franklin L. Sheppard, 1915.

Sermon—*Fret Not*

—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 Psalm 32:1–5

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. You tell us that the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered, is blessed. Blessed is the man against whom You count no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

All: When we kept silent, our bones wasted away through our groaning all day long.

Pastor: Day and night Your hand was heavy upon us; our strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

All: Therefore, we now acknowledge our sin to You, and we do not cover our iniquity; we confess our transgressions to You, O Lord, and You promise to forgive the iniquity of our sin.

Assurance of Pardon—from Psalm 32:7, 10–11; John 3:16–17

You, O Lord, are our hiding place; You preserve us from trouble; You surround us with songs of deliverance. Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the Lord. Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

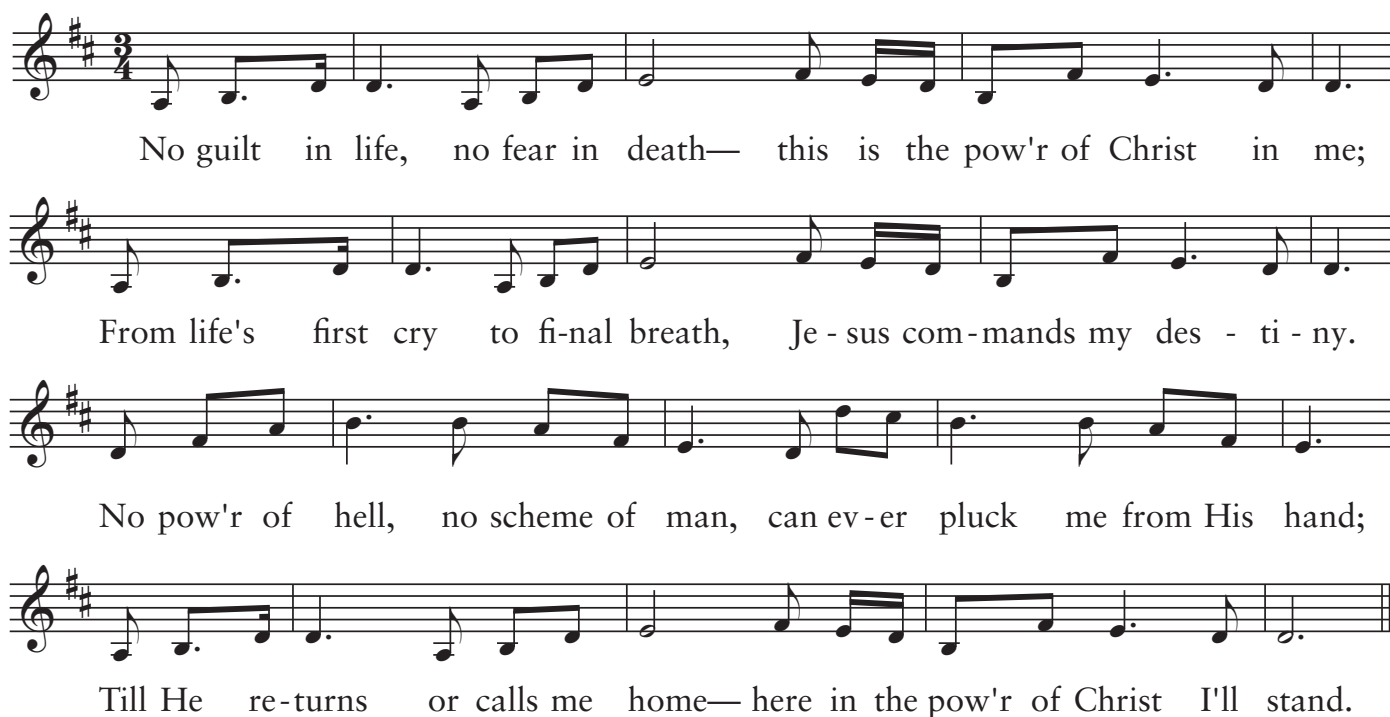
Pastor: This is the promise of God. This is the Word of the Lord.

All: For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

Pastor: For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—In Christ Alone, Vs. 4



The musical notation is written on four staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff.

No guilt in life, no fear in death— this is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to fi-nal breath, Je - sus com-mands my des - ti - ny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ev - er pluck me from His hand;
Till He re-turns or calls me home— here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

CCLI #2844402 © 2002 Thankyou Music;
Text and Music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend.

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:

WOMEN

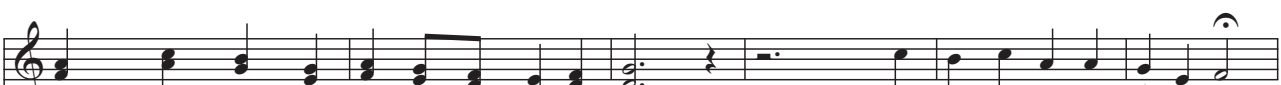


Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly, Lord. Ho-ly, ho-ly, God of pow'r and might,

MEN



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly, Lord. Ho-ly, ho-ly, God of pow'r and might.



Bless-ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est, Ho san-na in the high - est, Ho-san-na in the high - est. A - men.



Bless-ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est, Ho san-na in the high - est, Ho-san-na in the high - est. A - men.



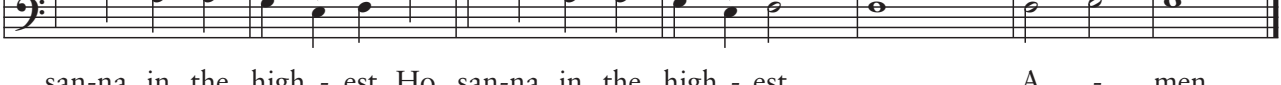
high - est, Ho san-na in the high - est, Ho-san-na in the high - est. A - men.



high - est, Ho san-na in the high - est, Ho-san-na in the high - est. A - men.



high - est, Ho san-na in the high - est, Ho-san-na in the high - est. A - men.



high - est, Ho san-na in the high - est, Ho-san-na in the high - est. A - men.

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 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.

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.

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—Fret Not Yourself (Psalm 37)



Fret not your-self when e - vil seems to pros - per in the land,—
And though he thinks he's root - ed fast, un - yield - ing like a tree,—
Be still be - fore the Lord and wait; de - light in His com - mands.
I have not seen, in youth or age, the right-eous man de - crease.



Nor when the wick - ed plots and schemes a - gainst the right-eous man.
The wick - ed one will fade like grass, like smoke caught in a breeze.
And He shall keep your path-way straight, up - hold you with His hand.
The Lord pro - vides a her - i - tage, a fu - ture full of peace.



Dwell faith - ful - ly, and trust God will your heart's de - sires ful - fill.
His bow will break, his sword will fail; and just - ice will pre - vail.
A strong - hold sure in trou - bled days, the Lord His peo - ple saves.
He is a re - fuge ev - er - more, for all who trust the Lord.

Text: paraphrase of Psalm 37, Elizabeth Dowdell, 2020;
Music: GRAYMERE, Henry C. Haffner and Elizabeth Dowdell, 2020.

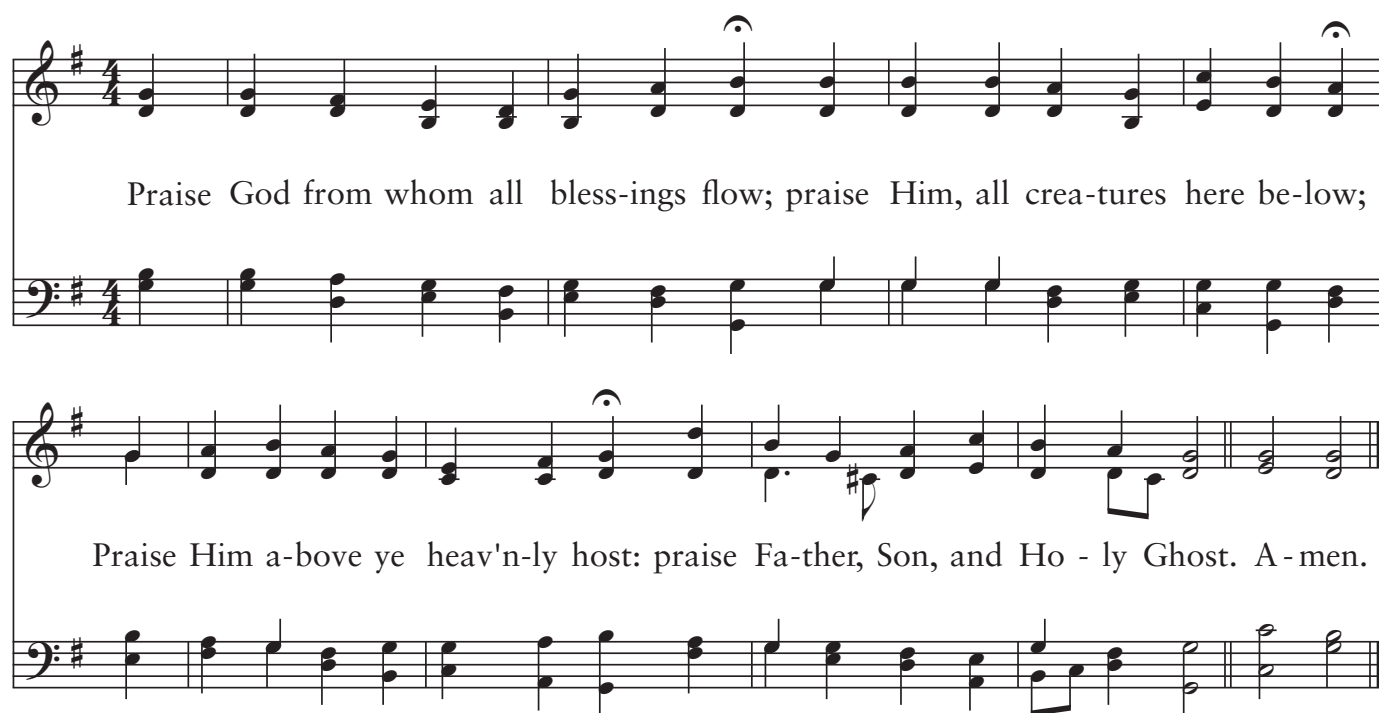
GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT

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—Isaiah 41:10

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. *Amen.*

Sung Response—Doxology



Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above ye heav'nly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1674; Music: OLD 100TH, Louis Bourgeois, 1551.

Announcements

Worship Notes:

It's probably a cliché to mention that the most frequent command in the Bible is “do not be afraid,” or some close equivalent like “fear not” or “take courage.” But it is certainly frequently mentioned in Psalm 37, today's sermon text and closing hymn, and throughout this morning's service. Both the Gospel Invitation and the New Testament Scripture readings present us with the words of Jesus, saying, “let not your hearts be troubled,” and “do not be anxious about tomorrow” (John 14:1; Matthew 6:34). The opening hymn (*How Firm A Foundation*) and the closing Benediction both draw from Isaiah 41, in which God declares “Fear not, for I am with you.” We respond by reciting Psalm 3:6, “I will not be afraid,” and singing that Jesus “drives away our fears” (*How Sweet The Name Of Jesus Sounds*) and that His power enables us to have “no fear in death” (*In Christ Alone*). Having confessed our sins and enjoyed communion with Him, we can catch a glimpse of the day when fear is gone (*Be Still, My Soul*) and we can “fearless launch away” (*On Jordan's Stormy Banks*). Though this command not to worry is a common one, one we've read in many Scripture passages and heard in many sermons, we need the constant reminder. I pray that this morning's service would help us to lay down our fears, anxieties, and worries, and take up instead the advice of the psalmist: “delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart.”

—Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Fret, Envy, Trust, Swell, Delight, Inherit, Sustains

Keystone Verses: Commit your way to the Lord, trust in Him, and He will act.
(Psalm 37:5)