



PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Lent

10 March 2024

For the city of the saints is above, although here below it begets citizens, in whom it sojourns till the time of its reign arrives, when it shall gather together all in the day of the resurrection; and then shall the promised kingdom be given to them, in which they shall reign with their Prince, the King of the ages, time without end. —Augustine of Hippo

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 4:5

To the one who does not work but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness.

Sung Response—What Wondrous Love Is This, Vs. 1

What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!

What won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this

That caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul,

For my soul, to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul?

The musical score consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 2/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

Text: American Folk Hymn; Music: WONDROUS LOVE, William Walker,
The Southern Harmony, 1835.

Call to Worship—from Psalm 105:1, 4-6, 8-9, 11

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

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

Reader 1: He made a covenant with Abraham, His sworn promise to Isaac.

Reader 2: He said, “To you I will give the land of Canaan as your portion for an inheritance.”

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

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

Congregational Hymn—The Lord Is King



The Lord is king! Lift up thy voice, O Earth; and all ye heav'ns, re - jice!
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. 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—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: *The Psalter of the United Presbyterian Church*, 1887, alt. Henry C. Haffner & Elizabeth Dowdell, 2018;
Music: THIRD AVENUE, Henry C. Haffner & Elizabeth Dowdell, 2018.

Scripture Reading—Genesis 12:1-4

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.” So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Congregational Psalm—O Lord Of Hosts, How Lovely (Psalm 84)



O Lord of Hosts, how love-ly Thy dwell - ing pla - ces are
Be - neath Thy care the spar-row shall find a place of rest
Blest they who dwell in Zi - on whose joy and strength Thou art



For them my heart is yearn - ing, though I have wan - dered far,
To keep her young in safe - ty the swal - low finds a nest
For - ev - er they will praise Thee, Thy ways are in their heart



My soul is near - ly faint - ing Thy sa - cred courts to see
Then, Lord, my King al - migh - ty, Thy love will shel - ter me
Though tired, their tears like show-ers shall fill the springs of peace



My heart and flesh are cry - ing O liv - ing God, to Thee.
Be - side Thy ho - ly al - tar my home shall ev - er_ be.
And all the way to Zi - on their strength shall be in - creased.

Text: Psalm 84:1-7, *The Psalter*, 1912, alt. Henry C. Haffner, 2016; Music: CHAPEL HILL, Henry C. Haffner, 2016.

Reading of the Word—Hebrews 11:8-16

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. ¹¹ By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered Him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

¹³ These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. ¹⁴ For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared for them a city.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—O Thou In Whose Presence, Vs. 5



Dear Shep-herd, I hear and will fol-low Thy call; I know the sweet sound of Thy voice.



Re - store and de - fend me, for Thou art my all, and in Thee I will ev - er re - jice.

Text: Joseph Swain, 1791; Music: DAVIS, Freeman Lewis, 1813.

Sermon—*I'm Bound for the Promised Land*

—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 Romans 4:18-21

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. You give life to the dead and call into existence the things that do not exist. In hope Abraham believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be."

All: But we weaken in faith when we consider ourselves and our circumstances.

Pastor: We should be strong in faith as we give glory to God, fully convinced that You are able to do what You have promised.

All: But in unbelief we waver concerning the promise of God.

(Silent Prayers of Confession)

Sung Response—Lamb Of God

UNISON

O Lamb of God, that takes a - way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us. —

O Lamb of God, that takes a - way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us. —

O Lamb of God, that takes a - way the sins of the world,

Slightly faster WOMEN

Grant us Thy peace, Grant us Thy, Grant us Thy peace,

MEN

Grant us Thy peace, Grant us Thy peace, Grant us Thy peace.

Text: Traditional, based on John 1:29; Music: CLOVERCROFT AGNUS DEI, Henry C. Haffner, 2019.

Assurance of Pardon— Romans 4:22-25; Mark 12:30

Abraham’s faith was “counted to him as righteousness.” But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in Him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

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

All: Therefore, let us love the Lord our God with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our mind and with all our strength.

Sung Response—Twofold Amen

A - men, a - men

Text: Traditional; Music: DRESDEN, Johann Naumann, 18th century.

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:

UNISON



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to His peo-ple on earth. —

WOMEN

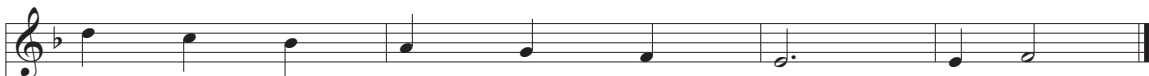


We praise You, we bless You, we wor-ship You, we glo-ri-fy You,

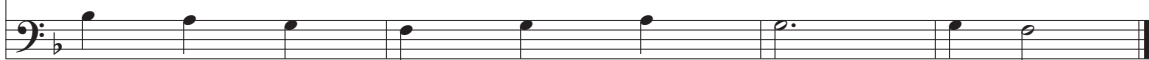
MEN



We praise You, we bless_ You, we wor-ship You, we glo-ri-fy You,



We give You thanks for Your great glo - ry.



We give You thanks for Your great glo - ry.

Text: Traditional, based on Luke 2:14; Music: CLOVERCROFT GLORIA, 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—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—From Babel To Zion



Now to the ho - ly ci - ty the faith - ful gath - er home;—
Now eye to eye be - hold - ing the way - marks on the road,—
Sing glo - ry to the Sav - ior, high o - ver all the world;—
No long - er Bab - el's bon - dage the bride of Christ can hold;—



To Zi - on's mount of glor - y with songs of joy they come.—
All bound in love to - geth - er, they're com - ing home to God:—
On Zi - on's heights for - ev - er His ban - ner is un - furled.
God's chil - dren now are ho - ly, and free from Bab - el's fold:—



Jer - u - sa - lem the gold - en, Jer - u - sa - lem the free,—
One mind and mouth poss - ess - ing, they speak with one ac - cord,—
God's church can be no long - er ob - scured from hu - man sight;—
For it is fall - en, fall - en, and it shall rise no more;—



With joy - ful hearts and voi - ces the ran - somed come to thee.
And in the heights of Zi - on they shout and praise the Lord.
For see, on yon - der mount - ain, a ci - ty filled with light!
We cling a - lone to Je - sus, as did the saints of yore.

Text: Thomas Nelson, 1907; Music: D. O. Teasley, 1907, arr. Henry C. Haffner, 2016.

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,
He by Him - self hath sworn, I on His oath de - pend;
The good - ly land I see, with peace and plen - ty blest,
There dwells the Lord our King, the Lord our Right - eous - ness,

An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days and God of love.
I shall, on ea - gles' wings up - borne, to Heav'n as - cend.
A land of sa - cred lib - er - ty and end - less rest.
Tri - um - phant o'er the world and sin, the Prince of Peace.

Je - ho - vah! Great I AM! by earth and heav'n con - fessed;
I shall be - hold His face, I shall His pow'r a - dore,
There milk and hon - ey flow, and oil and wine a - bound,
On Zi - on's sa - cred height His king - dom He main - tains,

I bow and bless the sa - cred name for - ev - er - blest.
And sing the won - ders of His grace for - ev - er - more.
And trees of life for - ev - er grow, with mer - cy crowned.
And glor - ious with His saints in light for - ev - er reigns.

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—Revelation 1:4-5

Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before His throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. *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:

In this morning's passage, the writer of Hebrews draws a parallel between the life of Abraham as he sought to follow God and our lives as we seek to follow Christ. Abraham followed to the promised land; we are following to the heavenly promised land. We begin the service as we always do in Lent in awe of the wondrous love that bore the dreadful curse for our soul. It is because of this wondrous, sacrificial love that we can lift up our voice and trust His care (*The Lord Is King*). We are heirs of Abraham, and we can clap our hands and shout with triumph (*All Nations Clap Your Hands—Psalm 47*). In the same way God led Abraham, so He leads those who are tired all the way to Zion where their strength shall be increased (*O Lord Of Hosts, How Lovely—Psalm 84*). It is because the spotless Lamb of God has come that we can accomplish the good things set before us. We are no longer in Babel's bondage. Instead, we cling alone to Jesus as did the saints of old (*From Babel to Zion*). We keep our eyes fixed on our Savior until we no longer see in a mirror dimly but behold Him face to face. As we run after Him, we rest knowing Christ is with us. Christ is before us. Christ will comfort and restore us. —Emma Marsh

Key Words: Faith, Go, City, Descendants, Land, Promise, Homeland, Strangers, Country, Inheritance
Keystone Verse: For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. (Hebrews 11:10)



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Michael Mastroberti (973-879-1368)	Mike Miserocchi (594-3880)	Matt Morrison (482-5107)
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Phil Hutcheson Steve Nelson John Scherrer

Deacons

Aaron Anderson (973-1797)	Brandon Blair (575-430-6436)	Kevin Cowherd (967-5099)
Ben Crist (509-3040)	Chris Ragsdale (619-988-1876)	Nolan Reategui (829-0412)
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All Biblical quotes taken from the English Standard Version unless otherwise noted.