

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Season of Ordinary Time 25 September 2022 Christianity is unique among all religions in that God's mercy is shown through His justice. There is no setting aside of justice to make room for mercy. —Bruce Demarest

The reason the Gospel of Jesus is precious is that it offers joyful rescue from furious judgment. —John Piper

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—Isaiah 30:15 (LSB)

Thus says the Lord, "In repentance and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and trust is your strength."

Sung Response—Glorious Things Of Thee Are Spoken, Vs. 1



Text: John Newton, 1789; Music: AUSTRIA, Joseph Haydn, 1779.

Call to Worship—Isaiah 33:2, 5-6

Pastor: The Lord is exalted, for He dwells on high.

All: He will fill Zion with justice and righteousness.

Reader 1: He will be the stability of our times, abundance of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge.

Reader 2: The fear of the Lord is Zion's treasure.

All: O Lord, be gracious to us; we wait for you.

Pastor: Be our arm every morning, our salvation in the time of trouble.

Congregational Psalm—Within Your Temple Lord (Psalm 48)



mount, go round Goround the walls on Zi - on's her splen - dors tore - count "Our God for - ev er shall a - bide, and He ʻtill death, will be our guide Our Godfor - ev shall a - bide, and He ʻtill death, will be our guide eΥ



Text: Psalm 48:9-14, *The Psalter of the United Presbyterian Church*, 1887, Alt. Henry C. Haffner, 2019; Music: SAINT JOHN'S, Henry C. Haffner, 2019.

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—The Lord Has Spoken To My Lord (Psalm 110)



Text: Psalm 110:1-7; *The Book of Psalms for Worship*, © 2009 Crown and Covenant Publications. Music: JERUSALEM, Hubert Parry, 1916, Arr. Brian E. Coombs and Andrew K. Schep, 2004.

Scripture Reading—Isaiah 35:3-4, 8, 10

Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Congregational Hymn—The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns



Text: Ancient Greek Hymn, tr. John Brownlie, 1907; Music: MORNING SONG, Elkanah Kelsay Dare, Kentucky Harmony, 1816.

Reading of the Word—Jude 1:4-25

⁴ For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. ⁵ Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. ⁶ And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, He has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day— ⁷ just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.

⁸Yet in like manner these people also, relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones. ⁹But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you." ¹⁰But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively. ¹¹Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and perished in Korah's rebellion. ¹²These are hidden reefs at your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, shepherds feeding themselves; waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted; ¹³wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever.

¹⁴ It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His holy ones, ¹⁵ to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against Him." ¹⁶ These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires; they are loud-mouthed boasters, showing favoritism to gain advantage.

¹⁷ But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ They said to you, "In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions." ¹⁹ It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. ²⁰ But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹ keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. ²² And have mercy on those who doubt; ²³ save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.

²⁴Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy, ²⁵ to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—Let Us Love And Sing And Wonder, Vs. 4



Let us won-der; grace and jus-tice join and point to mer-cy's store;



When through grace in Christ our trust is, jus-tice smiles and asks no more:



Text: John Newton, 1774; Music: ALL SAINTS OLD, Darmstadt Gesangbuch, 1698.

Sermon—Grace Abounds, Even Amidst Judgment

-Pastor, 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—from Isaiah 33:2, 6, 14, 22

Pastor: We come confessing our sin. For You, O Lord, are our judge; You are our lawgiver. You are

our king.

All: Who among us can dwell with Your righteous consuming fire?

Pastor: Who among us can dwell with the everlasting judgment our sinfulness deserves?

All: Lord, You are exalted, for You dwell on high.

Fear of You, O Lord, is our treasure. Pastor:

Assurance of Pardon—Isaiah 33:21-22; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

The Lord in majesty will be for us a place of broad rivers and streams, where no galley with oars can go, nor majestic ship can pass. For the Lord is our judge; the Lord is our lawgiver; the Lord is our king; He will save 118.

Pastor: This is the promise of God.

All: This is the Word of the Lord.

Pastor: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: He is the Father of mercies and God of all comfort.

Pastor: He comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any

affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

Sung Response—Glorious Things Of Thee Are Spoken, Vs. 2



Text: John Newton, 1789; Music: AUSTRIA, Joseph Haydn, 1779.

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HEAVENLY GIFT—EUCHARISTO

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:



Text: Traditional, based on Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 21:9; Music: CLOVERCROFT SANCTUS, 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 Psalm—The Wicked Man Fears Not The Lord (Psalm 36)



Text: based on Psalm 36, Elizabeth Dowdell, 2018; Music: FLAT CREEK, Henry C. Haffner, 2019.

Congregational Hymn—From Babel To Zion



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—Lead On, O King Eternal



Text: Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1888; Music: LANCASHIRE, Henry Smart, 1836.

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 6:13

"Like a terebinth or an oak, whose stump remains when it is felled, the holy seed is its stump." Therefore, even in troubling days, the Lord will preserve you in fruitfulness. Go forth in hope. *Amen.*

Sung Response—How Firm A Foundation, Vs. 4



Text: "K" in John Rippon's A Selection of Hymns, 1787; Music: FOUNDATION, Traditional American Melody.

Announcements

Worship Notes:

Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you. —Isaiah 35:4

The Scripture passages from Isaiah that weave throughout this morning's service, along with the hymns we sing, paint a picture for us of a God who is both just and merciful. He displays judgement in His temple; He comes to crush great kings on His day of wrath; in the day of His coming, right will triumph over wrong; the iniquity of the wicked is assured, and Babel will rise no more. But this coming judgement is surrounded by an overwhelming sense of God's mercy and grace. We dwell on His mercies in His temple; He will be for us a place of broad rivers and streams, streams of living water which never fail from age to age; He preserves the men and beasts who cry to Him; He fills Zion with justice and righteousness, and His ransomed people come in with singing; His heavenly kingdom comes with love and mercy. As we contemplate these Scripture passages and sing these psalms and hymns, let's rest in the grace of God that is all-sufficient even when judgement seems nigh. After all, when our trust is in Christ, grace and justice both point to mercy's store. —Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Keystone Verse: Remind, Destroy, Defile, Reject, Blaspheme, Presume, Remember, Mercy Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. (Jude 1:24-25)



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