



PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Ordinary Time
17 September 2023

Whoever neglects the Word of God neglects salvation. —John Oecolampadius

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—from Acts 13:47

Jesus is a light for the Gentiles, that He may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.

Sung Response—Come, Christians, Join To Sing, Vs. 1

Come, Chris-tians, join to sing: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Loud praise to Christ our King: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Let all, with heart and voice, be - fore His throne re - joice;

Praise is His gra - cious choice: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Text: Christian H. Bateman, 1843; Music: MADRID, Traditional Spanish melody,
arr. David Evans, 1927.

Call to Worship—from Psalm 18:46-50

Pastor: The Lord lives, and blessed be my Rock.

All: Let the God of my salvation be exalted.

Reader 1: God who gave me vengeance and subdued peoples under me.

Reader 2: God rescued me from my enemies; yes, You exalted me above those who rose against me; You delivered me from the man of violence.

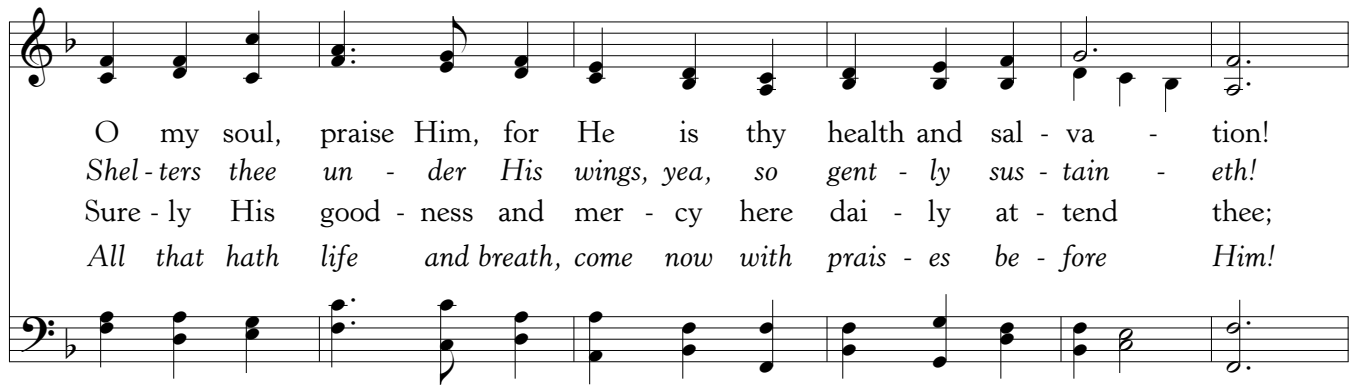
All: For this I will praise You, O Lord, among the nations, and sing to Your name.

Pastor: Great salvation He brings to His king, and shows steadfast love to His anointed, to David and His offspring forever.

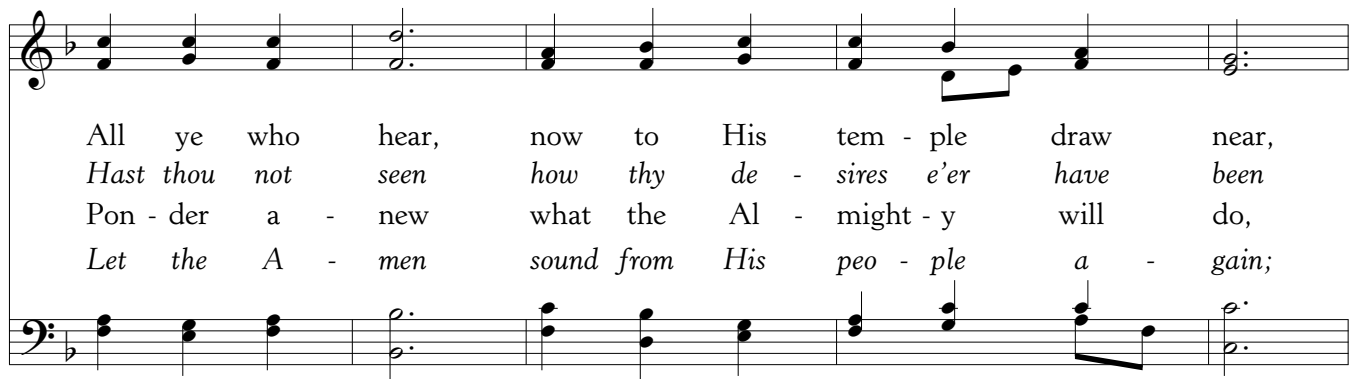
Congregational Hymn—Praise To The Lord, The Almighty



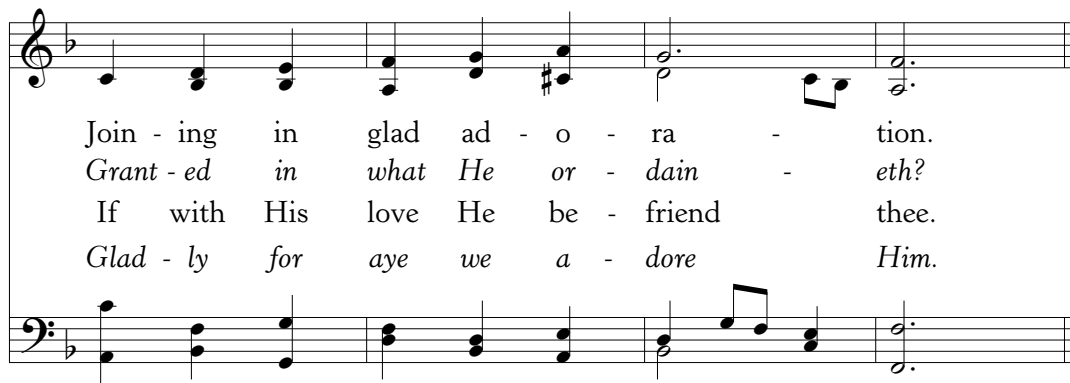
Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won - drous - ly reign - eth,
 Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy work and de - fend thee!
 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a - dore Him!



O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and sal - va - tion!
 Shel - ters thee un - der His wings, yea, so gent - ly sus - tain - eth!
 Sure - ly His good - ness and mer - cy here dai - ly at - tend thee;
 All that hath life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore Him!



All ye who hear, now to His tem - ple draw near,
 Hast thou not seen how thy de - sires e'er have been
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y will do,
 Let the A - men sound from His peo - ple a - gain;



Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion.
 Grant - ed in what He or - dain - eth?
 If with His love He be - friend thee.
 Glad - ly for aye we a - dore Him.

Text: Joachim Neander, 1680, tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863;
 Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Stralsund Gesangbuch*, 1665.

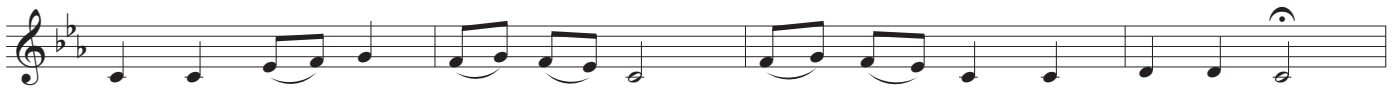
GOD SPEAKS TO HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

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—Hear Me, All You People (Psalm 49)



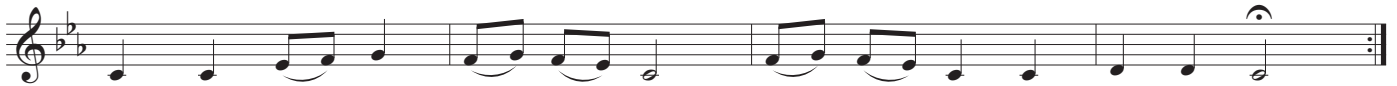
Hear me, all_ you peo - ple hear, folk of_ all the earth, give ear;
When with wick - ed - ness_ my foes shall sur - round me and op - pose,
If from death one would be_ free and cor - rup - tion ne - ver see,



All of high and low de - gree, rich and poor, give heed to me
Should I then to fear give way when I_ see the e - vil day?
Cost - ly is_ life's ran - som price, far_ be - yond all sac - ri - fice.



Truth with all my heart I_ seek, and_ my mouth shall wis - dom speak;
They that trust in trea - sured gold, though they boast of wealth un - told,
If men be not tru - ly_ wise, they_ are like the beast that dies,



Lis - ten how with mu - sic's strain I_ make hid - den wis - dom plain.
None can bid_ his bro - ther live; none to_ God a ran - som give.
Death their shep - herd, they the sheep; He_ with - in his fold will keep.



If men be not tru - ly_ wise, they are_ like the beast that dies,



But my Lord my soul shall save; God will raise me from the grave.

Text: Psalm 49:1-9, 12-14, *The Psalter*, 1912, alt. Henry C. Haffner, 2019;
Music: ROSE HILL, Henry C. Haffner, 2019.

Scripture Reading—Romans 10:14-17

How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Congregational Psalm—Teach Me, O Lord, Your Way Of Truth (Psalm 119)

Teach me, O Lord, Your way of truth, and from it I will not de - part;
In Your com - mand - ments make me walk, for in Your law my joy shall be;
Turn now my eyes from van - i - ty, and cause me in Your ways to tread;
Lord, turn a - way re - proach and fear; Your righ - teous judg - ments I con - fess;

That I may stead - fast - ly o - bey, give me an un - der - stand - ing heart.
Give me a heart that loves Your will, from dis - con - tent and en - vy free.
O let Your ser - vant prove Your word and thus to god - ly fear be led.
To know Your pre - cepts I de - sire; re - vive me in Your righ - teous - ness.

Text: Psalm 119:33-40, *The Psalter*, 1912; Music: TALLIS' CANON, Thomas Tallis, 1560.

Reading of the Word—Hebrews 2:1-4

Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. ²For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, ³how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, ⁴while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to His will.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—Come, Thou Fount Of Every Blessing, Vs. 3

O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be;

Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-d'ring heart to Thee.

Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1758; Music: NETTLETON, Asahel Nettleton, 1825.

Sermon—*Pay Attention to Such a Great Salvation*

—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 2:13, 17-23

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified.

All: We call ourselves Christians and rely on the law and boast in God and know His will and approve what is excellent, because we are instructed from the law.

Pastor: We are sure that we ourselves are guides to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, instructors of the foolish, teachers of children, having in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth.

All: Though we teach others, we do not teach ourselves.

Pastor: Though we preach against stealing, we ourselves steal.

All: We who say that one must not commit adultery, do we not commit adultery? We who abhor idols, do we not rob temples? We who boast in the law dishonor God by breaking the law.

Assurance of Pardon—Romans 3:23-26; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in His divine forbearance He had passed over former sins. It was to show His righteousness at the present time, so that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

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.

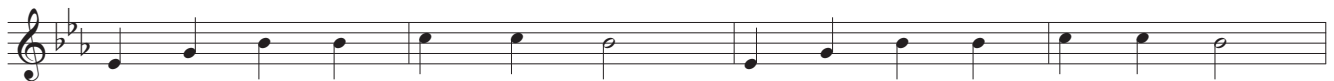
All: He is the Father of mercies and God of all comfort.

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—God Be Merciful To Me (Psalm 51), Vs. 5



Gra - cious God, my heart re-new, make my spir - it right and true;



Cast me not a - way from Thee, let Thy Spir - it dwell in me;



Thy sal - va - tion's joy im-part, stead - fast make my will - ing heart.

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:

WOMEN

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

MEN

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow'r and might Hea-ven and Earth are

Hea-ven and Earth are full of Your glo-ry, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

full of Your glo-ry, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the

Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hos -

Lord. Hos - san - na, Hos - san - na, Hos - san - na in the high - est.

san - na, Hos - san - na, Hos - san - na in the high - est.

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—My Soul Waits In Expectation (Psalm 62)




My soul waits in ex - pec - ta - tion, and de - pends on God in - deed.
In my God I rest and glo - ry, for sal - va - tion is most sure.
All you peo - ples, all you na - tions, all times place in Him your trust!



All my strength and my sal - va - tion, does from Him a - lone proc - eed.
In the God and Rock of strength, — Is — my — re - fuge most se - cure.
Pour out all your heart be - fore Him, trust in — no - thing but His love.



He a - lone is my — Sal - va - tion, He a - lone my sure de - fense;
I shall not be great - ly shak - en, From my Strong - hold and De - fense.
God is a re - fuge for — His peo - ple. Pow'r be - longs to God a - lone!



He — a - lone my sure de - fense.
From — my Strong - hold and De - fense.
Pow - er be - longs to God a - lone.

Text: from Psalm 62, alt. Nathan George, 2011; Music: Nathan George, 2011.


Congregational Hymn—How Can I Keep From Singing?



My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove Earth's la - men - ta - tion
What though my joys and com - forts die? The Lord my Sav - ior liv - eth;
I lift mine eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue a - bove it;



I hear the sweet though far off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion:
What though the dark - ness gath - er round! Songs in the night He giv - eth:
And day by day this path - way smoothes since first I learned to love it:



Through all the tu - mult and the strife I hear the mu - sic ring - ing;
No storm can shake my in - most calm while to that re - fuge cling - ing;
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, A foun - tain ev - er spring - ing:



It finds an ech - o in my soul: how can I keep from sing - ing?
Since Christ is Lord of Heav'n and Earth, how can I keep from sing - ing?
All things are mine since I am His: how can I keep from sing - ing?

Text: Robert Lowry, 1860; Music: ENDLESS SONG, Robert Lowry, 1860, arr. Henry C. Haffner, 2014.

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—If Thou But Suffer God To Guide Thee



If thou but suf - fer God to guide thee and hope in Him through all thy ways,
Be pa - tient and a - wait His lei - sure in cheer - ful hope, with heart con - tent
Sing, pray, and keep His ways un - swerv - ing, per - form thy du - ties faith - ful - ly,



He'll give thee strength, what - e'er be - tide thee, and bear thee through the e - vil days.
To take what - e'er thy Fa - ther's plea - sure and His dis - cern - ing love hath sent,
And trust His Word: though un - de - serv - ing, thou yet shalt find it true for thee.



Who trusts in God's un - chang - ing love builds on the rock that naught can move.
Nor doubt our in - most wants are known to Him who chose us for His own.
God nev - er yet for - sook in need the soul that trust - ed Him in - deed.

Text: Georg Neumark, 1641, tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863;
Music: NEUMARK, Georg Neumark, 1657.

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—from Luke 2:29-30

Lord, now You are letting your servants depart in peace, according to Your word; for our eyes have seen Your salvation. *Amen.*

Sung Response—Gloria Patri

The musical score for the Gloria Patri is written for voice and piano. It consists of three 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 sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "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 piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines that support the vocal melody. The final system includes a double bar line and a fermata over the final notes.

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

Announcements

Worship Notes:

The author of Hebrews reminds his audience at the beginning of chapter 2 to “pay closer attention” to the Word they have heard preached. The elements of this morning’s service likewise call us to careful attention to the path God has laid for us. *Hear Me, All You People—Psalm 49* urges that we “hear” and “listen” to the promise of salvation from the Lord, a sentiment which pairs well with the reading from Romans that “faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.” In the final verse of *Come, Thou Fount Of Every Blessing*, we confess that we are “prone to wander” from the path laid before us, and in *Teach Me, O Lord, Your Way Of Truth—Psalm 119* and *God Be Merciful To Me—Psalm 51* we ask the Lord to make us steadfast that we might not depart from the way of truth. The final hymn, *If Thou But Suffer God To Guide Thee*, asks that we “keep His ways unswerving” and “hope in Him through all [our] ways.” If we trust in the promises of His Word, we prove the line in *How Can I Keep From Singing?* to be true—that even though filled with darkness and storms, our path becomes smooth and peaceful when we learn to love it.

—Henry C. Haffner

Key words: Attention, Hear, Reliable, Drift, Neglect, Salvation, Holy Spirit

Keystone verse: Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. (Hebrews 2:1)



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John Scherrer (on sabbatical)

Jonathan Thornton (703-801-1355)

Elders Emeritus

Phil Hutcheson Steve Nelson

Deacons

Aaron Anderson (973-1797)

Jimmy Allen (on sabbatical)

Brandon Blair (575-430-6436)

Kevin Cowherd (967-5099)

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