



PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Season of Epiphany

21 January 2024

In the old administrations of the covenant of grace, Jesus and His grace were promised and pictured. In the new covenant, Jesus is fully and personally present. —David Murray

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 55:3

Incline your ear, and come to Me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, My steadfast, sure love for David.

Sung Response—Come, Thou Fount Of Every Blessing, Vs. 1

Come, thou Fount of ev-'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace;

Streams of mer-cy, nev-er ceas-ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.

Teach me some me-lo-dious son-net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove;

Praise the mount! I'm fixed up-on it, mount of God's un-changing love.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The lyrics are placed between the vocal and bass lines of each system. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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

Call to Worship—from Psalm 111:1-2, 7-9

Pastor: Praise the Lord!

All: We will give thanks to the Lord with our whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

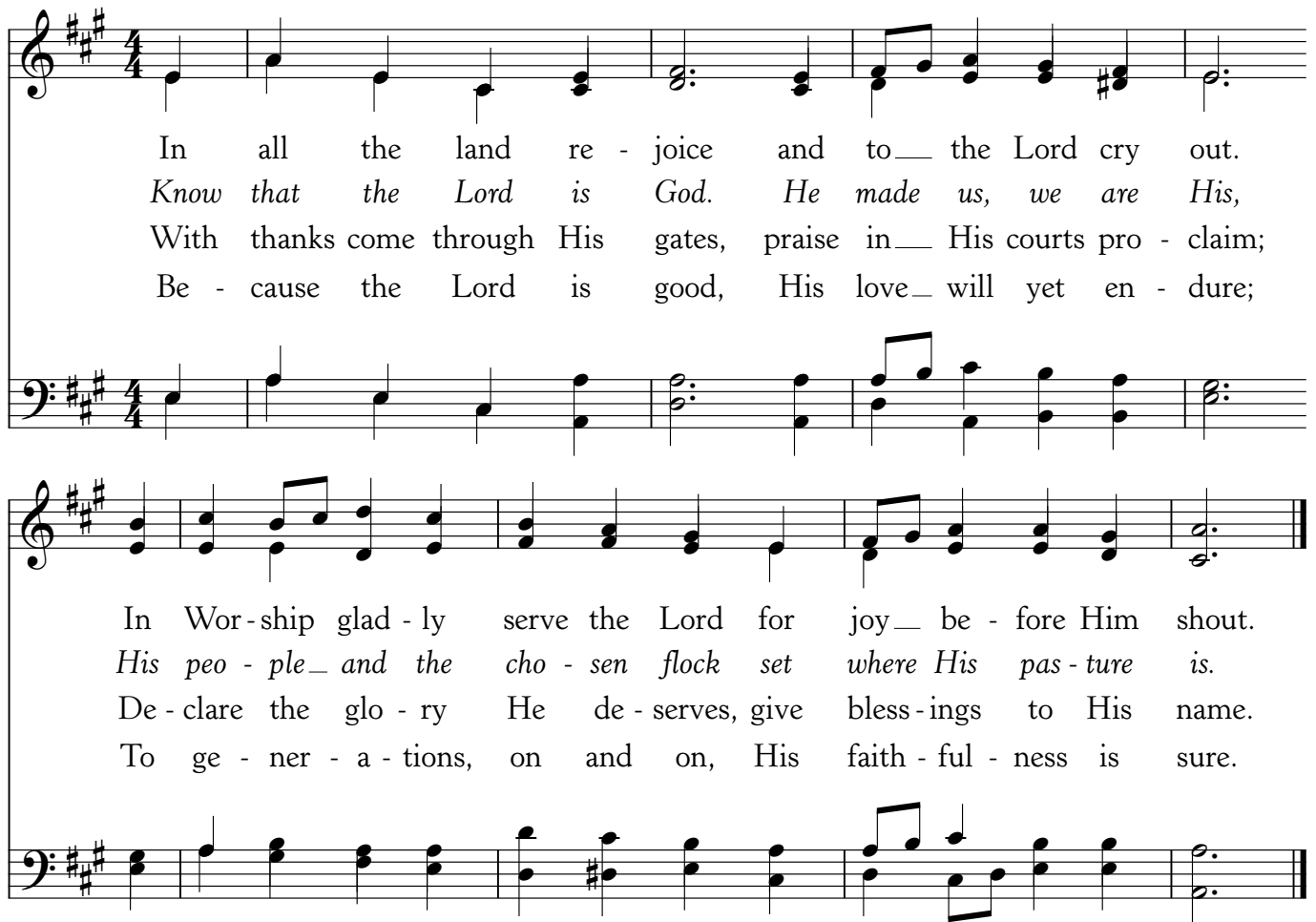
Reader 1: The works of His hands are faithful and just; all His precepts are trustworthy.

Reader 2: They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

All: He sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever.

Pastor: Holy and awesome is His name!

Congregational Psalm—In All The Land Rejoice (Psalm 100)



In all the land re - jice and to the Lord cry out.
Know that the Lord is God. He made us, we are His,
With thanks come through His gates, praise in His courts pro - claim;
Be - cause the Lord is good, His love will yet en - dure;

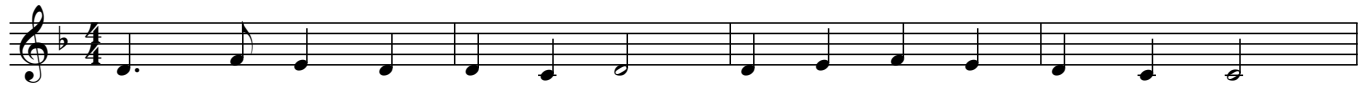
In Wor - ship glad - ly serve the Lord for joy be - fore Him shout.
His peo - ple and the cho - sen flock set where His pas - ture is.
De - clare the glo - ry He de - serves, give bless - ings to His name.
To ge - ner - a - tions, on and on, His faith - ful - ness is sure.

Text: Psalm 100:1-5, *The Book of Psalms for Worship*, Copyright © 2010 Crown and Covenant Publications;
Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1894.

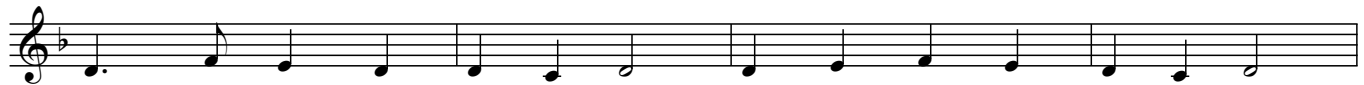
GOD SPEAKS TO HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

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—Gently, Gently Lay Your Rod (Psalm 6)



Gent - ly, Gent - ly lay Your rod on my sin - ful heart, O God;
My soul is in great dis - tress. Send, O send Your pro - mised rest;
Who with - in the si - lent grave will re - call or give You praise?
So de - part from me, a - way! Men of e - vil, be a - shamed!



Stay Your wrath, in merc - y, stay, or I sink be - fore its sway.
Lord, I cry how long, how long? My great need has been my song.
Lord, my trem - bling soul now give words of grace and I will live.
For the Lord has heard my cry, as my prayer as - cends on high.



Heal me, for my flesh is weak; heal me, for Your grace I seek.
Look, O Lord, with gra - cious eye, turn and take my guilt - y life;
I am wear - y from the years of the dark - ness filled with tears.
Lo! He comes! He heeds my plea. Lo! He comes! The sha - dows flee!



This my on - ly plea I make, heal me for Your merc - y's sake.
By Your grace from Heav'n a - bove, save me in Your stead - fast love.
Oh, my sight, be - cause of grief, wastes a - way and now is weak.
Glo - ry round me dawns once more; rise my spir - it and a - dore!

Text: paraphrase of Psalm 6:1-10, Henry F. Lyte, 1834, alt. Nathan George, 2012;
Music: Nathan George, 2012.

Scripture Reading—Isaiah 54:7-10

“For a brief moment I deserted you, but with great compassion I will gather you. In overflowing anger for a moment I hid My face from you, but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you,” says the Lord, your Redeemer. “This is like the days of Noah to Me: as I swore that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth, so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you, and will not rebuke you. For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but My steadfast love shall not depart from you, and My covenant of peace shall not be removed,” says the Lord, who has compassion on you.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Congregational Hymn—O Put Your Trust In God



O put your trust in God, in du - ty's path go on;
Though years on years roll on, His cov' - nant shall en - dure;
Through waves, and clouds, and storms, His pow'r will clear your way;



Walk in His strength with faith and hope, so shall your work be done.
Though clouds and dark - ness hide His path, the prom - ised grace is sure.
Wait on His time, the dark - est night shall end in bright - est day.



Com - mit your ways to Him, your works in - to His hands,
Give to the winds your fears; hope, and be un - dis - mayed;
Leave to His sover - eign sway to choose and to com - mand;



And rest on His un - chang - ing Word, who Heav'n and Earth com - mands.
God hears your sighs and counts your tears; God shall lift up your head.
So shall you, wond' - ring, own His way, How wise, how strong His hand.

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

Baptism of Marigold Foltermann, daughter of Miles and Kelly Foltermann

Reading of the Word—Hebrews 8:7-13

For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second.

⁸ For He finds fault with them when He says: “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, ⁹ not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. For they did not continue in My covenant, and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord. ¹⁰ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put My laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ¹¹ And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest. ¹² For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.”

In speaking of a new covenant, He makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—My Heart Is Filled With Thankfulness, Vs. 1



My heart is filled with thank-ful - ness to Him who bore my pain;



Who plumbed the depths of my dis-grace and gave me life a - gain;



Who crushed my curse of sin - ful - ness and clothed me with His light



And wrote His law of right - eous - ness with pow'r up-on my heart.

CCLI #2844402 © 2003 Thankyou Music; Text and Music: Stuart Townend and Keith Getty, 2003.

Sermon—*Morning By Morning, New Mercies I See*

—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 Psalm 78:10-13, 24-25, 32

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. In the sight of our fathers You performed wonders in the land of Egypt. You divided the sea and let them pass through it, and You made the waters stand like a heap.

All: **We did not keep God's covenant, but refused to walk according to Your law. We forgot Your works and the wonders that You have shown us.**

Pastor: Yet You rained down on them manna to eat and gave them the grain of heaven. Man ate of the bread of the angels; You sent them food in abundance.

All: **In spite of all this, we still sinned; despite Your wonders, we did not believe.**

(Silent Prayers of Confession)

Sung Response—Kyrie

WOMEN

MEN

Lord have mer - cy ___ Christ have mer - cy ___

Lord have mer - cy ___ Up - on us.

Text: Traditional; Music: Nathan George & Henry C. Haffner, 2012.

Assurance of Pardon—from Micah 7:18-19; Matthew 11:28

Who is a God like our God, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of His inheritance? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities underfoot. He will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

Pastor: This is the promise of God.

All: This is the Word of the Lord.

Pastor: He says to us, “Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

All: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: Amen.

Sung Response—Fivefold Amen

A - men, a - men. A - men, a - men, a - men.

Text: Traditional; Music: Traditional African-American Spiritual, arr. Nelsie T. Johnson, 1988.

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:

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 Hymn—Come, Ye Disconsolate

Come, ye dis - con - so - late, wher - e'er ye lan - guish,
Joy of the de - so - late, light of the stray - ing,
Here see the Bread of Life, see wa - ters flow - ing

Come to the mer - cy seat, fer - vent - ly kneel.
Hope of the pen - i - tent, fade - less and pure!
Forth from the throne of God, pure from a - bove.

Here bring your wound-ed hearts, here tell your an - guish;
Here speaks the com - for - ter, ten - der - ly say - ing,
Come to the feast of love; come, ev - er know - ing

Earth has no sor - row that Heav - en can - not heal.
"Earth has no sor - row that Heav - en can - not cure."
Earth has no sor - row but Heav - en can re - move.

Text: Thomas More, 1816; Music: Gregory Wilbur, 2007.

Congregational Hymn—Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Great is Thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no shad-ow of turn - ing with Thee;
Sum-mer and win - ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth Thine own dear pres-ence to cheer and to guide;

Thou chang - est not, Thy com - pass-ions, they fail not; as Thou hast been, Thou for - ev - er will be.
Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness to Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy and love.
Strength for to-day and bright hope for to - mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thousand be-side!

Refrain

Great is Thy faith-ful-ness! Great is Thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by morn-ing new mer-cies I see.

All I have need - ed Thy hand hath pro - vi - ded; great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923; Music: FAITHFULNESS (RUNYAN), William M. Runyan, 1923.

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—My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less

My hope is built on noth - ing less than Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness:
When dark - ness veils His love - ly face, I rest on His un - chang - ing grace;
His oath, His cov - e - nant, His blood sup - port me in the whelm - ing flood;
When He shall come with trum - pet sound, O may I then in Him be found;

I dare not trust the sweet - est frame, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
In ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
When all a - round my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.
Dressed in His righ - teous - ness a - lone, fault - less to stand be - fore the throne.

On Christ the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand,

All oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1834; Music: SOLID ROCK, William B. Bradbury, 1863.

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—2 Timothy 1:2

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. *Amen.*

Sung Response—Doxology

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; praise Him, all crea - tures here be - low;
praise Him a - bove ye heav'n-ly host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

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

Announcements

Worship Notes:

In this week's sermon text, the author of Hebrews discusses the new covenant inaugurated by Christ, a covenant marked by the Lord's mercy (vs. 12) and intimacy with His people (vs. 11). The elements chosen for this morning's service reflect these themes as well. The various Old Testament Scriptures that we read in the service look forward to this new and permanent covenant: "I will make with you an everlasting covenant" (Isaiah 55:3), "He has commanded His covenant forever" (Psalm 111:9), and "My covenant of peace shall not be removed" (Isaiah 54:10). Though we confess that we have not kept God's covenant (Psalm 78:10), we nevertheless declare that this covenant "supports [us] in the whelming flood" and that "His covenant shall endure" throughout all time (*My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less; O Put Your Trust In God*). Because of His faithfulness, we can kneel at the mercy seat (*Come Ye Disconsolate*) and cry out "heal me for Your mercy's sake" (*Gently, Gently Lay Your Rod—Psalm 6*), assured that we will see new mercies every morning (*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*). Because He draws near to us, we can sing along with the author of Hebrews (vs. 10) that God "wrote His law of righteousness with power upon [our] heart[s]." —Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Covenant, Fault, Old, New, Mercy

Keystone Verse: For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more. (Hebrews 8:12)



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