



PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Season of Easter

*23 April 2023*

Many had rather had their sins covered than cured. —Thomas Watson

Confession of sin shuts the mouth of hell and opens the gate of paradise. —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 3:23-24

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.

### Sung Response—Christ The Lord Is Risen Today, Vs. 1

Christ, the Lord, is ris'n to - day, — al - - - le - lu - ia!

Sons of men and an - gels say, — al - - - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, al - - - le - lu - ia!

Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth, re - ply, — al - - - le - lu - ia!

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of four systems. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The music features a simple, hymn-like melody with a steady bass accompaniment.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1739; Music: EASTER HYMN, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708.

## Call to Worship—Psalm 36:7-9

Pastor: How precious is Your steadfast love, O God!

All: The children of mankind take refuge under the shadow of Your wings.

Reader 1: They feast on the abundance of Your house.

Reader 2: You give them drink from the river of Your delights.

All: For with You is the fountain of life.

Pastor: In Your light do we see light.

## Congregational Hymn—Come Down, O Love Divine



Come down, O Love di - vine, seek Thou this soul of mine,  
O let it free - ly burn, til earth - ly pas - sions turn  
And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,



And vis - it it with Thine own ar - dor glow - ing.  
To dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;  
Shall far out - pass the pow'r of hu - man tell - ing;



O Com - fort - er, draw near, with - in my heart ap - pear,  
And let Thy glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,  
For none can guess its grace, till he be - come the place



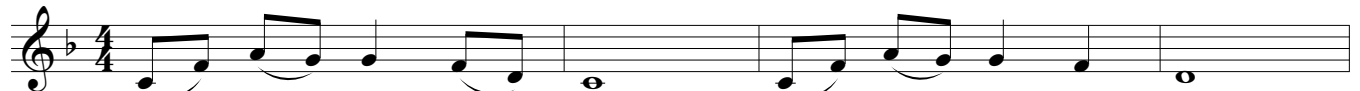
And kin - dle it, Thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.  
And clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.  
Where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes His dwell - ing.

Text: Bianco da Siena, 15<sup>th</sup> century, tr. Richard Littledale, 1867;  
Music: DOWN AMPNEY, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906.


# 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—I Will Lift My Voice (Psalm 101)




I will lift my voice. I will ever sing,  
I will raise my song for that glorious day!  
By Your mighty hand I will turn my eyes  
I will look to see, all the faithful souls



For Your steadfast love a bounds, O my Lord and King!  
Lord if You should tarry long, I will ever wait.  
From these fading shadow lands to eternal light.  
Ever walk in unity, pressing toward the goal.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! \_\_\_\_  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! \_\_\_\_  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! \_\_\_\_  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! \_\_\_\_



I will ever sing, O my Lord and King.  
For that glorious day I will ever wait.  
I will turn my eyes to eternal light.  
All the faithful souls pressing toward the goal.

Text and Music: Nathan George, 2014.

## Scripture Reading—Leviticus 16:15-16, 18-19

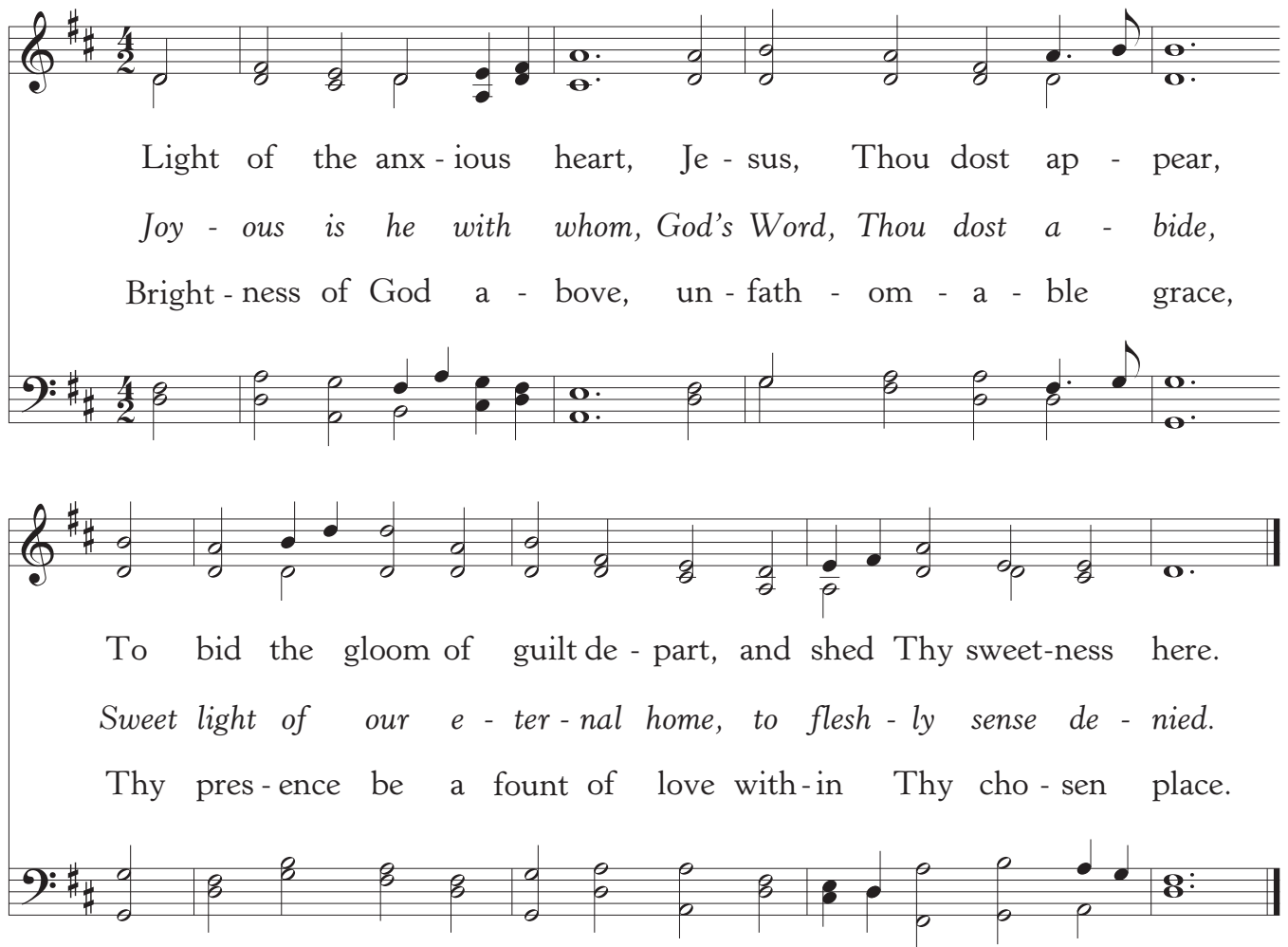
Then [the high priest] shall kill the goat of the sin offering that is for the people and bring its blood inside the veil and do with its blood as he did with the blood of the bull, sprinkling it over the mercy seat and in front of the mercy seat. Thus he shall make atonement for the Holy Place, because of the uncleannesses of the people of Israel and because of their transgressions, all their sins. And so he shall do for the tent of meeting, which dwells with them in the midst of their uncleannesses.

Then he shall go out to the altar that is before the Lord and make atonement for it, and shall take some of the blood of the bull and some of the blood of the goat, and put it on the horns of the altar all around. And he shall sprinkle some of the blood on it with his finger seven times, and cleanse it and consecrate it from the uncleannesses of the people of Israel.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

## Congregational Hymn—Light Of The Anxious Heart



The image shows a musical score for a congregational hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 2/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

Light of the anx - ious heart, Je - sus, Thou dost ap - pear,  
Joy - ous is he with whom, God's Word, Thou dost a - bide,  
Bright - ness of God a - bove, un - fath - om - a - ble grace,

To bid the gloom of guilt de - part, and shed Thy sweet-ness here.  
Sweet light of our e - ter - nal home, to flesh - ly sense de - nied.  
Thy pres - ence be a fount of love with - in Thy cho - sen place.

Text: Bernard of Clairvaux, 12<sup>th</sup> century. tr. John Henry Newman, 1836;  
Music: SELMA, Robert Archibald Smith, 1825.

## Reading of the Word—1 John 1:5-2:6

<sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. <sup>7</sup>But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup>If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

<sup>2:1</sup> My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. <sup>2</sup>He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. <sup>3</sup>And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. <sup>4</sup>Whoever says “I know Him” but does not keep His commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in Him, <sup>5</sup>but whoever keeps His word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in Him: <sup>6</sup>whoever says He abides in Him ought to walk in the same way in which He walked.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

## Sung Response—Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence, Vs. 3



Rank on rank the host of heav-en spreads its van-guard on the way,



As the Light of light de-scend-eth from the realms of end-less day,



That the pow'rs of hell may van-ish as the dark-ness clears a-way.

Text: Liturgy of St. James, 5<sup>th</sup> century, alt. Gerard Moultrie, 1864; Music: PICARDY, French Melody, 17<sup>th</sup> century.

## Sermon—*Cleansing Light*

—Assistant 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—from Psalm 32:3-6

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. For when we kept silent, our bones wasted away through our groaning all day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon us; our strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

All: We acknowledged our sin to You, and we did not cover our iniquity.

Pastor: Let everyone who is godly offer prayer to You at a time when You may be found.

All: We said, "We will confess our transgressions to the Lord."

## Assurance of Pardon—from Psalm 32:1-2, 5; Luke 18:27

You forgave the iniquity of our sin. Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

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

All: What is impossible with man is possible with God.

## Sung Response—O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, Vs. 4

O come, O come, thou Day - spring bright! Pour on our souls thy heal - ing light;

Dis - pel the long night's ling - 'ring gloom, and pierce the sha-dows of the tomb.

Re - jice! Re - jice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

The image shows a musical score for a four-part setting of the hymn 'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel'. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal lines. The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics, the second system covers the next two lines, and the third system covers the final line. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Text: 12<sup>th</sup> century, tr. John Mason Neale, 1851; Music: VENI EMMANUEL, 13<sup>th</sup> century,  
arr. Thomas Helmore, 1856.

# 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:

WOMEN

MEN Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly, Lord. Ho-ly, ho-ly, God of pow'r and might,  
Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly, Lord. Ho-ly, ho-ly, God of pow'r and might, -  
Heav'n and Earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the high - est.  
Heav'n and Earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho san-na in the high - est.  
Bless-ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the  
Bless-ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est, Ho  
high - est, Ho san-na in the high - est, Ho - san-na in the high - est. A - men.  
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—Come, Ye Souls By Sin Afflicted



Come, ye souls by sin af - flict - ed, Bowed with fruit - less sor - row down;  
Take His ea - sy yoke and wear it; Love will make o - bed - ience sweet;  
Bless - ed are the eyes that see Him, Blest the ears that hear His voice;  
Sweet as home to pil - grims wear - y, Light to new - ly o - pened eyes,



By the bro - ken law con - vict - ed, Through the cross be - hold the crown;  
Christ will give you strength to bear it, While His wis - dom guides your feet  
Bless - ed are the souls that trust Him, And in Him a - lone re - joice;  
Or full springs in des - erts drear - y Is the rest the cross sup - plies;



Look to Je - sus; mer - cy flows through Him a - lone.  
Safe to glor - y, where His ran - somed cap - tives meet.  
His com - mand - ments then be - come their hap - py choice.  
All who taste it shall to rest im - mor - tal rise.

CCLI #2844402 © 2005 Greyfriars Press. Text: Joseph Swain, 1792; Music: Gregory Wilbur, 2005.

### Congregational Psalm—The Wicked Man Fears Not The Lord (Psalm 36)



The wick - ed man fears not the Lord, But trusts in his own way.  
But Your a - bun - dant love ex - tends To heav - en, Lord most high.  
Let not Your stead - fast love de - part, Nor let us fall to pride,

*Vs. 1 & 2, then Chorus*



In his in - i - qui - ty as - sured He sins both night and day.  
In just - ice You pre - serve the men And beasts who to You cry.  
But help us be up - right of heart, And Your name glor - i - fy.

*Chorus*



Un - der the sha - dow of Your wings Is a ri - ver of de - light.



In You, we true a - bun - dance find, And in Your light, see light.

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

# 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—Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing and si - lent as light,  
To all, life Thou giv - est, to both great and small;  
Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,

In light in - ac - ces - i - ble hid from our eyes,  
Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, Thou rul - est in might;  
In all life Thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
Thine an - gels a - dore Thee, all veil - ing their sight;

Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
Thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree,  
All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

Al - mighty, vic - to - rious, Thy great name we praise.  
Thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
And with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth Thee.  
'Tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth Thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867; Music: ST. DENIO, Traditional Welsh Melody.

## 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 Corinthians 13:14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. *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 today's scripture passage, John makes a clear distinction between the way of light and the way of darkness. Light brings clarity. Darkness brings confusion. Light brings life. Darkness brings death. We live in a world that thrives on twisting truth yet fractures at every new ideology and perspective. Man's ways seem right in his own eyes, yet we worship and serve the creature rather than the Creator. Jesus came to rescue us from the convoluted path of darkness. The Light of light has descended. As we confess our sin and walk in obedience, the powers of hell vanish, and the darkness clears away. He opens our eyes to the light that we may see Him, hear Him, trust Him and in Him alone rejoice. He takes us from the bewildered infractions of our culture and shows us through His light the river of delights. We have a King who has defeated darkness and brought us into His light. As we sing about this marvelous light, may we be prisms through which our heavenly Father's radiance is seen in this dark, hurting world. —Emma Marsh

**Key Words:** Light, Fellowship, Truth, Sin, Confess, Cleanse, Commandments, Know  
**Keystone Verse:** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)



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Tom Goddard (218-3654)

Brandon Herrenbruck (339-5516)

Michael Mastroberti (973-879-1368)

Mike Misericocchi (594-3880)

Matt Morrison (482-5107)

Jason Parolini (497-3337)

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)

Ben Crist (509-3040)

Chris Ragsdale (619-988-1876)

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