

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Season of Easter 22 May 2022

Diligence (n.) mid-14<sup>th</sup> century, "constant and earnest effort to accomplish what is undertaken," from... diligentem (nominative diligens) "attentive, assiduous, careful," present-participle adjective from diligere "single out, value highly, esteem, prize, love; aspire to, be content with, appreciate."—from the Online Etymology Dictionary

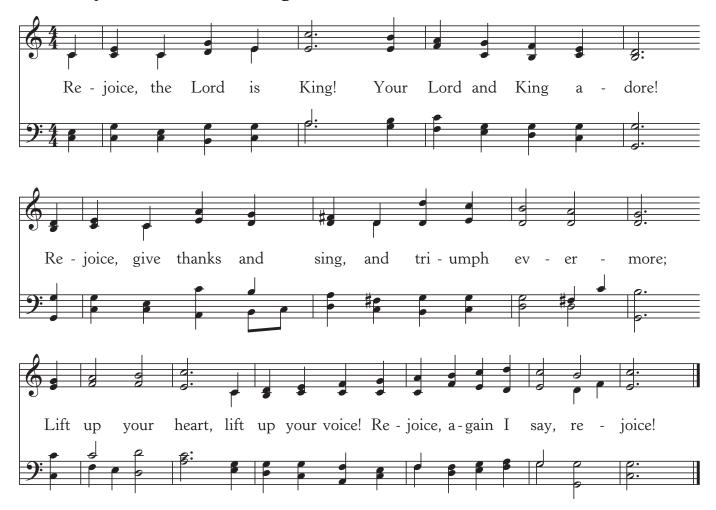
## GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

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—2 Corinthians 8:9

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich.

## Introit—Rejoice, The Lord Is King, Vs. 1



Text: Charles Wesley, 1746; Music: DARWALL, John Darwall, 1770.

## Call to Worship—based on Psalm 34:1, 3, 4-5, 8-9

Pastor: I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

All: Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together.

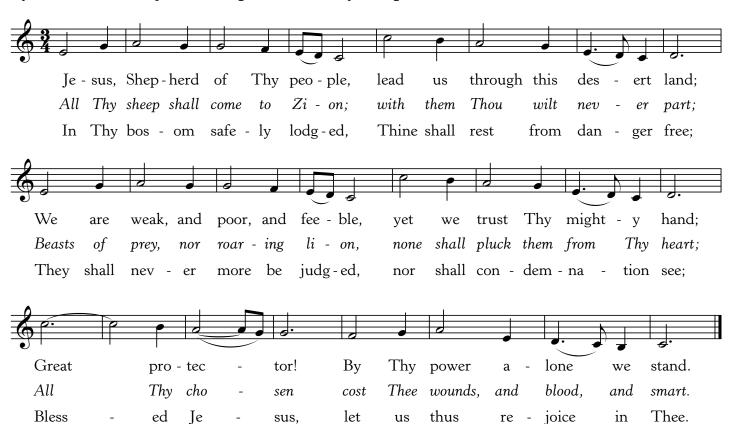
Reader 1: I sought the Lord, and He answered me and delivered me from all my fears.

Reader 2: Those who look to Him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.

All: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

Pastor: Oh, fear the Lord, you His saints, for those who fear Him have no lack!

## Hymn of Praise—Jesus, Shepherd Of Thy People



©2008 www.restassuredhymns.com Text: J. Adams, 1838; Music: Cathy Steere, 2008.

## 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.

## Psalm of Praise—O Lord, Our Lord, How Majestic Is Your Name (Psalm 8)



Text and Music: Nathan George, 2015.

# Scripture Reading—Jeremiah 3:11-15

And the Lord said to me, "Faithless Israel has shown herself more righteous than treacherous Judah. Go, and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, 'Return, faithless Israel, declares the Lord. I will not look on you in anger, for I am merciful, declares the Lord; I will not be angry forever. Only acknowledge your guilt, that you rebelled against the Lord your God and scattered your favors among foreigners under every green tree, and that you have not obeyed My voice, declares the Lord. Return, O faithless children, declares the Lord; for I am your master; I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion. And I will give you shepherds after My own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding."

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

## Psalm of Praise—O Come Before The Lord, Our King (Psalm 95)



Text: The Psalter, 1912; Music: St. Petersburg, Dimitri Bortniansky, 1825.

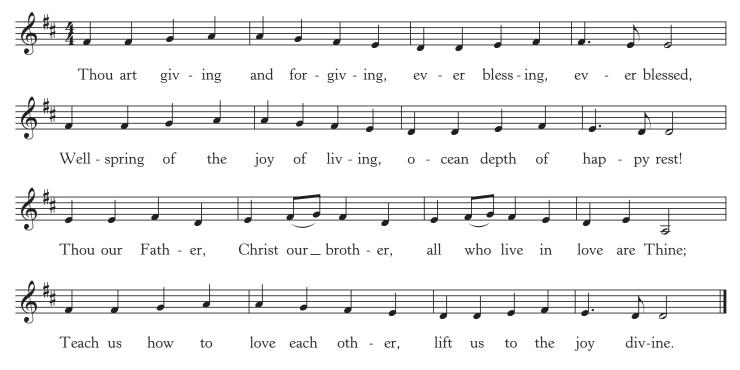
# Reading of the Word—2 Corinthians 8:16-24

<sup>16</sup> But thanks be to God, who put into the heart of Titus the same earnest care I have for you. <sup>17</sup> For he not only accepted our appeal, but being himself very earnest he is going to you of his own accord. <sup>18</sup> With him we are sending the brother who is famous among all the churches for his preaching of the gospel. <sup>19</sup> And not only that, but he has been appointed by the churches to travel with us as we carry out this act of grace that is being ministered by us, for the glory of the Lord Himself and to show our good will. <sup>20</sup> We take this course so that no one should blame us about this generous gift that is being administered by us, <sup>21</sup> for we aim at what is honorable not only in the Lord's sight but also in the sight of man. <sup>22</sup> And with them we are sending our brother whom we have often tested and found earnest in many matters, but who is now more earnest than ever because of his great confidence in you. <sup>23</sup> As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker for your benefit. And as for our brothers, they are messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ. <sup>24</sup> So give proof before the churches of your love and of our boasting about you to these men.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

# Sung Response—Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee, Vs. 3



Text: Henry van Dyke, 1907; Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824, arr. Edward Hodges, 1864.

# Sermon—Our Giving Lord Glorified in our Earnest Care

-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—based on 1 John 3:11-12, 14, 16-18

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. For this is the message that we have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death.

All: By this we know love, that Jesus laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.

Pastor: But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?

All: We have loved in word and talk but not in deed and in truth.

### Assurance of Pardon—1 John 4:9-11; John 3:16-17

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

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

All: For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

Pastor: For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.

All: Thanks be to God.

## Sung Response—O Lord Of Hosts, How Lovely (Psalm 84), Vs. 2



Text: The Psalter, 1912, Alt. Henry C. Haffner, 2016; Music: CHAPEL HILL, Henry C. Haffner, 2016.

#### 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.
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



## WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND THE LORD'S TABLE

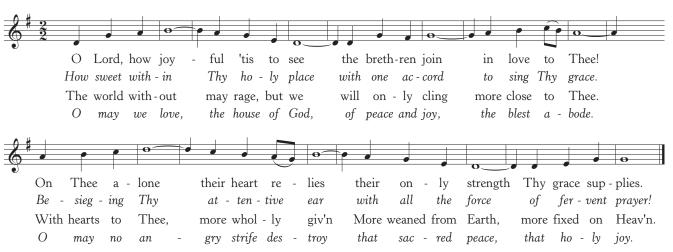
This table is open to all baptized Christians who have made a profession of faith. You may come forward to receive the bread and wine or grape juice.

## Psalm of Praise—I Will Lift My Voice (Psalm 101)



Text and Music: Nathan George, 2014.

# Hymn of Praise—O Lord, How Joyful 'Tis To See



# 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.

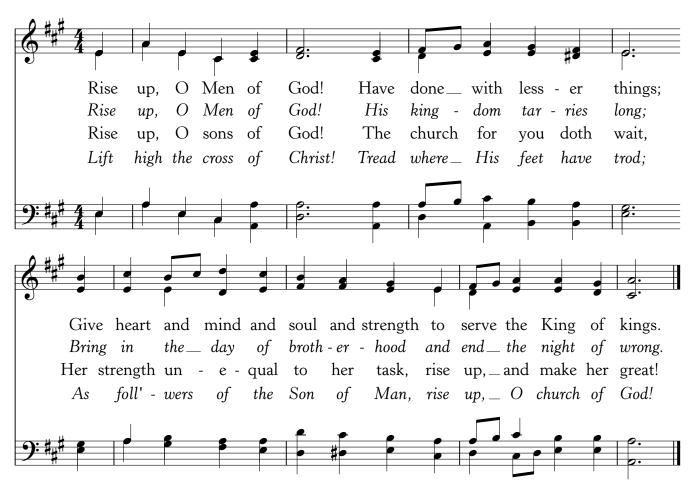
Give us this day our daily bread.

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.

# Hymn of Praise—Rise Up, O Men Of God!



Text: William P. Merrill, 1911; Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1872.

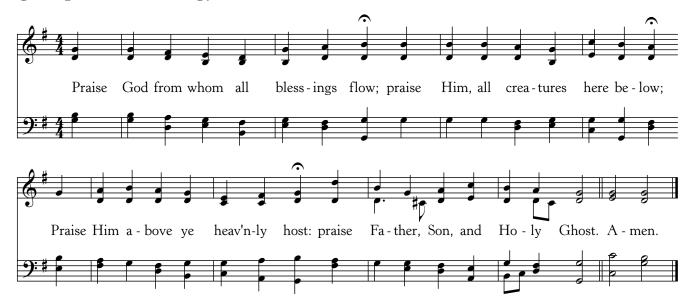
## GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT

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



Text: Thomas Ken, 1709; Music: OLD 100TH, Louis Bourgeois's Genevan Psalter, 1551.

#### Announcements

#### Worship Notes:

Isn't it wonderful how often God gives the gift of His love wrapped in people? There's a great example of this in the sermon text, where Paul describes his zeal to care for the Corinthians, and how they in turn should care for Titus. Likewise, the hymns in this morning's service reflect on God's care for us and call us to care for one another in brotherly love. Jesus, Shepherd of Thy People, and settings of Psalm 8, 95, and 84 all describe the tenderness of God's love. We ask in amazement, "What is ... man that You will gently care for him," and we marvel that all of creation will find rest beneath His care. Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee, I Will Lift My Voice—Psalm 101, and O Lord How Joyful 'Tis To See each call us to channel this tender care to our fellow Christians. We ask the Lord to "teach us how to love each other," we look forward in hope to see "all the faithful souls ever walk in unity," and we rejoice to see "the brethren join in love to Thee." The service closes with Rise Up, O Men Of God, a stirring encouragement to "bring in the day of brotherhood." God never leaves us alone—He places us in the church and gives us shepherds to walk with us. As we go about our week, we pray that the service this morning will remind us to respond to the love and care we have received by pouring that love and care on each other. —Henry C. Haffner & Emma Marsh

Key Words: Keystone Verse: Earnest, Love, Boasting, Proof, Grace, Gift, Honorable, Benefit So give proof before the churches of your love and of our boasting about you to these men. (2 Corinthians 8:24)



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