



# PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Season of Ordinary Time

*11 September 2022*

*Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,  
But trust Him for His grace;  
Behind a frowning providence  
He hides a smiling face.*

*His purposes will ripen fast,  
Unfolding every hour;  
The bud may have a bitter taste,  
But sweet will be the flower.  
—William Cowper*

The wheel of providence revolves, but its axle is eternal love. —Charles Spurgeon

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## 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—Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

### Sung Response—Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates, Vs. 1

The musical score is written in 2/2 time and consists of two systems. Each system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Lift up your heads, ye might-y gates; be-hold, the King of\_ glor - y waits; The King of kings is draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of\_ the world is here!" The score ends with a double bar line and a fermata over the final note.

Text: based on Psalm 24, George Weissel, 1642, Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1855;  
Music: TRURO, Thomas Williams, 1789.

## Call to Worship—based on Psalm 144:1-2; 9-10; 15

Pastor: Blessed be the Lord, our rock.

**All: He is our steadfast love.**

Reader 1: The Lord is our fortress. He is our stronghold, our deliverer, and our shield. In Him will we take refuge, for He subdues all men and all nations.

Reader 2: We will sing a new song to You, O God; You give victory to Your chosen ones and rescue Your servants from cruel oppression.

**All: Blessed are the people to whom such blessings fall!**

Pastor: Blessed are the people whose God is the Lord!

## Congregational Psalm—Blest Be The Lord, My Rock, My Might (Psalm 144)



Blest be the Lord, my rock, my might, who trains my fin - gers for the fight  
Lord, bow Your heav'ns, in might de - scend, come touch the hills the moun - tains rend  
O You to whom in trust I flee, stretch forth your hand and res - cue me  
Now I will sing a glad new song, Your praise, O God, I will pro - long



My shield, my righ - teous - ness, — My shield, my righ - teous - ness. —  
And they shall smoke and flame, — And they shall smoke and flame. —  
From all the for - eign thron, From all the for - eign thron. —  
For You have heard my prayer, For You have heard my prayer. —



My strong high tow'r, my Sa - vior true, who keeps my en - e - mies sub - dued  
As ar - rows send Your light - ning out, to put Your en - e - mies to rout  
Their mouths are false for lies they speak, their hands of strength a - gainst the weak,  
You give the vic - to - ry to kings, Your own You keep with shel - t'ring wings



My shel - ter in dis - tress, — My shel - ter in dis - tress.  
And fill Your foes with shame, — And fill Your foes with shame.  
Are filled with craft and wrong, — Are filled with craft and wrong.  
From cru - el sword and snare, — From cru - el sword and snare.

# 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 Ever Hear You (Psalm 20)



The Lord ev - er hear you when trou - bles are near;  
May He all the gifts of your love keep in mind,  
For joy in sal - va - tion we'll shout to His praise:  
Some trust in their char - iots pre - pared for the fray,  
Our foes are bowed down and are fal - len at length,



The name of our God keep you safe from all fear.  
And all of your off' - rings ac - cep - ta - ble find;  
In God's ho - ly name all our ban - ners we'll raise.  
And some in their hor - ses the foe to dis - may,  
While we have a - ris - en and stand in Your strength.



The Lord send you help; from His tem - ple pro - claim  
May He ev - er grant you the wish of your heart,  
The Lord who has saved be your con - fi - dence still,  
But we will make men - tion of one on - ly name;  
O, Lord save the king! For You rule o - ver all;



That He'll out of Zi - on your weak - ness sus - tain.  
Ful - fill all your yearn - ing, and wis - dom im - part.  
And all your pe - ti - tions in mer - cy ful - fill.  
The Lord God al - migh - ty, we'll ev - er ac - claim.  
Give bless - ing and an - swer when - ev - er we call!

Text: Edward Collier, *Lyrics from the Psalter*, 1907, Alt. Henry C. Haffner, 2021;  
Music: STAR POINTER, Henry C. Haffner, 2021.

## Scripture Reading—Hebrews 12:1-2

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

## Stewardship Focus

—Associate Pastor, Brian Phillips

## Congregational Hymn—May The Mind Of Christ, My Savior



May the mind of Christ, my Sav - ior, live in me from day to day,  
May the Word of God dwell rich - ly in my heart from hour to hour,  
May the love of Je - sus fill me as the wa - ters fill the sea;  
May I run the race be - fore me, strong and brave to face the foe,



By His love and pow'r con - trol - ling all\_ I do\_ and say.  
So that all may see I tri - umph on - ly through His pow'r.  
Him ex - alt - ing, self a - bas - ing: this is vic - to - ry.  
Look - ing on - ly un - to Jes - us as\_ I on - ward go.



Text: Kate B. Wilkinson, 1925; Music: ST. LEONARDS, A. Cyril Barham-Gould, 1925.

## Reading of the Word—Haggai 2:20-23

<sup>20</sup>The word of the Lord came a second time to Haggai on the twenty-fourth day of the month, <sup>21</sup>“Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying, I am about to shake the heavens and the earth, <sup>22</sup>and to overthrow the throne of kingdoms. I am about to destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the nations, and overthrow the chariots and their riders. And the horses and their riders shall go down, every one by the sword of his brother. <sup>23</sup>On that day, declares the Lord of hosts, I will take you, O Zerubbabel My servant, the son of Shealtiel, declares the Lord, and make you like a signet ring, for I have chosen you, declares the Lord of hosts.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

## Sung Response—Rise Up, O Men Of God, Vs. 3

The image shows a musical score for a four-part setting of the hymn 'Rise Up, O Men Of God, Vs. 3'. The score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. The lyrics are: 'Rise up, O men of God! The church for you doth wait, Her strength un - e - qual to her task; rise up and make her great.' The music is a simple, hymn-like setting with a clear melody and accompaniment.

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

## Sermon—*The Choosing of God*

—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—based on Hebrews 5:11-6:1

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing our sin before You.

All: **We confess that we have become dull of hearing.**

Pastor: For though by this time we ought to be teachers, we need someone to teach us again the basic principles of the oracles of God.

All: **We need milk, not solid food. We are unskilled in the word of righteousness, since we are like children.**

Pastor: Solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

All: **Therefore, let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God.**

### Assurance of Pardon—Hebrews 10:19-23; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that He opened for us through the curtain, that is, through His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

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—O Put Your Trust In God, Vs. 1

O put your trust in God, in du - ty's path go on;  
Walk in His strength with faith and hope, so shall your work be done.  
Com - mit your ways to Him, your works in - to His hands,  
And rest on His un - chang - ing Word, who Heav'n and Earth com - mands.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1656, Tr. John Wesley, 18<sup>th</sup> century, Alt. 2008;  
Music: TERRA BEATA, Franklin L. Sheppard, 1915.

# 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



MEN

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

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 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 Hymn—O Church, Arise



O Church, a - rise, and put your ar - mor on; hear the call of Christ our cap - tain.  
Our call to war, to love the cap - tive soul, but to rage a - gainst the cap - tor;  
Come see the cross, where love and mer - cy meet, as the Son of God is strick - en;



For now the weak can say that they are strong, in the strength that God has giv - en.  
And with the sword that makes the wound - ed whole, we will fight with faith and val - or.  
Then see His foes lie crushed be - neath His feet, for the con - quer - or has ris - en.



With shield of faith and belt of truth, we'll stand a - gainst the dev - il's lies;  
When faced with trials on ev - 'ry side, we know the out - come is se - cure.  
And as the stone is rolled a - way and Christ e - merg - es from the grave,



An ar - my bold, whose bat - tle cry is love, reach - ing out to those in dark - ness.  
And Christ will have the prize for which He died, an in - her - i - tance of na - tions.  
This vic - tory march con - tin - ues till the day ev - 'ry eye and heart shall see Him.

CCLI #2844402 © 2005 Thankyou Music; Text and Music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend, 2005.

## Congregational Hymn—God Moves In A Mysterious Way



God moves in a mys - ter - ious way His won - ders to per - form; —  
You fear - ful saints, fresh cour - age take; the clouds you so much dread —  
His pur - po - ses will ri - pen fast, un - fold - ing ev - 'ry hour; —



He plants His foot - steps in the sea, and rides up - on the storm. —  
Are filled with mer - cy, and shall break in — bless - ings on your head. —  
The bud may have a bit - ter taste, but sweet will be the flow'r. —



Deep in un - fath - om - a - ble mines of — nev - er fail - ing skill —  
Judge not the Lord by fee - ble sense, but trust Him for His grace; —  
Blind un - be - lief is sure to err, and scan His work in — vain; —



He trea - sures up His bright de - signs, and works His sov' - reign will.  
Be - hind a frown - ing pro - vi - dence He hides a smil - ing face.  
God is His own in - ter - pre - ter, and He will make it plain.

Text: William Cowper, 1774, Alt. 2019; Music: ELKINS, 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—Christ Is Made The Sure Foundation

Christ is made the sure found-a - tion, Christ the head and cor - ner - stone;  
To this tem - ple, where we call Thee, come, O Lord of Hosts, to - day;  
Here vouch - safe to all Thy ser - vants as they ask of Thee to gain;  
Laud and hon - or to the Fa - ther, laud and hon - or to the Son,

Chos - en of the Lord, and pre - cious, bind - ing all the Church in one,  
With Thy want - ed lov - ing - kind - ness hear Thy ser - vants as they pray.  
What they gain from Thee for - ev - er and Thy bles - sed rest re - tain,  
Laud and hon - or to the Spir - it, ev - er Three and ev - er One;

Ho - ly Zi - on's help for - ev - er, and her con - fi - dence a - lone.  
And Thy full - est be - ne - dic - tion shed with - in its walls al - way.  
And here - af - ter in Thy glor - y ev - er - more with Thee to reign.  
Con - sub - stan - tial, co - e - ter - nal, while un - end - ing a - ges run.

Text: Anonymous, 7<sup>th</sup> century, Tr. John M. Neale, 1851;  
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry Smart, 1867.

## 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—Hebrews 12:28-29

Let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire. *Amen.*

### Sung Response—Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates, Vs. 3

The musical score is written in 3/2 time and consists of two systems. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "O blest the land, the cit - y blest, where Christ the rul - er\_ is con - fessed" and "O hap - py hearts and hap - py homes to whom this King in\_ tri - umph comes!". The music features a mix of chords and moving lines, with some notes beamed together.

Text: based on Psalm 24, George Weissel, 1642, Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1855;  
Music: TRURO, Thomas Williams, 1789.

## Announcements

## Worship Notes:

At the close of Haggai's prophecy, the people of Israel face the monumental task of completing the rebuilding of the temple. But the prophet leaves them with a comforting note—that they are uniquely called to the task (“I have chosen you,” Haggai 2:23). As the hymns and Scriptures in the rest of the service indicate, the Lord will prosper the efforts of those He calls. Psalm 144 (which we both read and sing) declares that He “trains [our] fingers for the fight,” and that He gives victory to His chosen (Psalm 144:10). Hebrews 12 encourages us to “run with endurance the race that is set before us,” and we sing in response that we triumph only through Christ's power (*May The Mind Of Christ, My Savior*). Hymns like *Rise Up, O Men Of God, O Put Your Trust In God*, and *O Church, Arise* call us to action, imploring us to add our strength to the church's mission, to walk in “duty's path,” and to hear the “call of Christ our captain.” In contrast, *God Moves In A Mysterious Way* urges us to rest in the providence of God and to take courage even in the midst of storms, difficulties, and bitterness. The service closes with a Benediction from Hebrews and the hymns *Christ Is Made The Sure Foundation* and *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* that all echo the message of Haggai. We have received a kingdom that cannot be shaken and a blessed land where Christ is confessed. He is our “sure foundation” and our help forever. Now we need to get to work. —Henry C. Haffner

**Key Words:** Word, Shake, Overthrow, Destroy, Signet, Chosen  
**Keystone Verse:** I have chosen you, declares the Lord of hosts. (Haggai 2:23)



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### Elders

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