



PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Ascension Sunday

29 May 2022

You've heard of prayer warriors. What about giving warriors? God has entrusted us with so much. Perhaps He is raising up a great army of givers, and He's calling us to enlist. —Randy Alcorn

The glorious Gospel paradox is that we are exhorted to work hard knowing that the hard work is already done. Though no longer under the economy of do-this-and-live, we are under the economy of live-and-do. —Thomas Chalmers

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—Philippians 2:13

It is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

Introit—A Hymn Of Glory Let Us Sing, Vs. 1

A hymn of glo-ry let us sing! New songs through-out the world shall ring,
Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ by a road be-fore un - trod,
A - scend-eth to the throne of God! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: The Venerable Bede, 8th C. Tr. Benjamin Webb, 1854;
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Cologne, 1623.

Call to Worship—from Deuteronomy 10:14-15, 17-21

Pastor: To the Lord God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens.

All: His is all the earth and all that is in it.

Reader 1: For our God is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. He is the great, the mighty, and the awesome God.

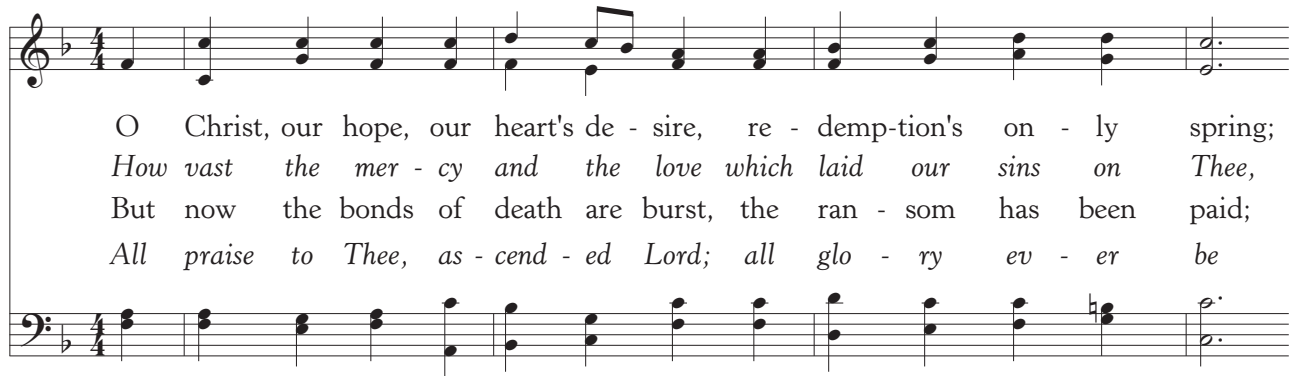
Reader 2: This great God has set His love upon us—on us and on our households.

Pastor: He is our praise. He is our God, who has done great and mighty things.

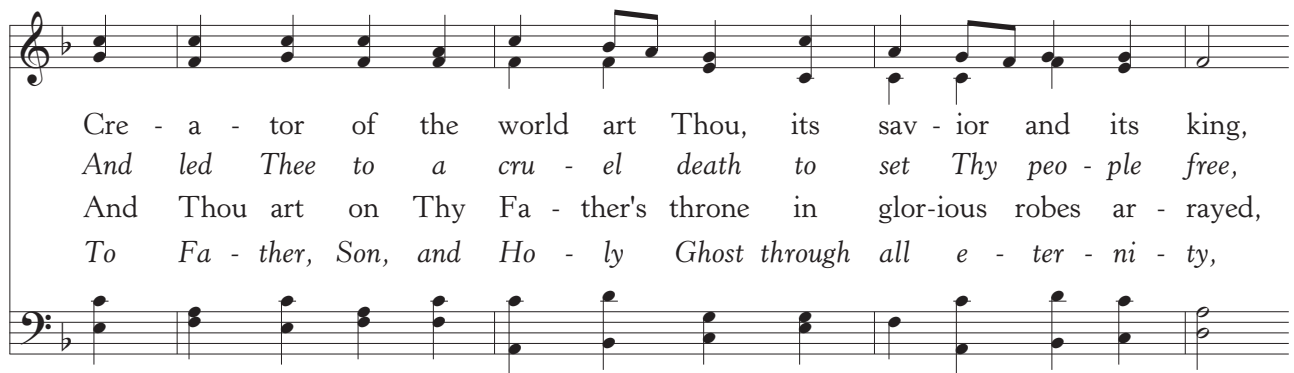
All: Let us therefore fear the Lord our God.

Pastor: Let us serve Him and hold fast to Him.

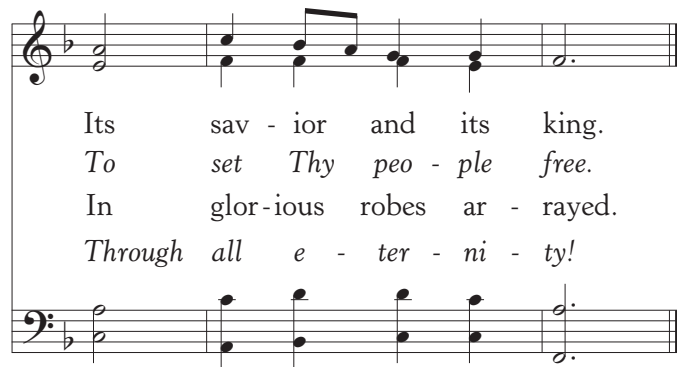
Hymn of Praise—O Christ, Our Hope



O Christ, our hope, our heart's de - sire, re - demp-tion's on - ly spring;
How vast the mer - cy and the love which laid our sins on Thee,
But now the bonds of death are burst, the ran - som has been paid;
All praise to Thee, as - cend - ed Lord; all glo - ry ev - er be



Cre - a - tor of the world art Thou, its sav - ior and its king,
And led Thee to a cru - el death to set Thy peo - ple free,
And Thou art on Thy Fa - ther's throne in glor-ious robes ar - rayed,
To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost through all e - ter - ni - ty,



Its sav - ior and its king.
To set Thy peo - ple free.
In glor-ious robes ar - rayed.
Through all e - ter - ni - ty!

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—All Nations Clap Your Hands (Psalm 47)



All na - tions clap your hands, let shouts of tri - umph ring,
He stilled the peo - ple's rage, ty - rants He cast a - side
With shouts a - scends our King, with trump - ets' stir - ring call;
O sing in joy - ful strains, with psalms His truth make known;
The heirs of gen - tile thrones as Abr - am's child - ren meet.

For migh - ty o - ver all the lands the Lord Most High is__ King.
For us He chose our her - i - tage, be - lov - ed Ja - cob's pride.
O praise ye God, His prais - es sing, for God is Lord of__ all.
He o - ver all__ the na - tions reigns up - on His ho - ly__ throne.
The shields of earth Je - ho - vah owns; ex - al - ted is__ His seat.

Text: *The Psalter of the United Presbyterian Church*, 1887, Alt. Henry C. Haffner & Elizabeth Dowdell, 2018;
Music: *THIRD AVENUE*, Henry C. Haffner & Elizabeth Dowdell, 2018.

Scripture Reading—Philippians 2:12-16

Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

Hymn of Praise—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 Je - sus as I on - ward go.

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

Reading of the Word—2 Corinthians 9:1-5

Now it is superfluous for me to write to you about the ministry for the saints,² for I know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the people of Macedonia, saying that Achaia has been ready since last year. And your zeal has stirred up most of them.³ But I am sending the brothers so that our boasting about you may not prove empty in this matter, so that you may be ready, as I said you would be.⁴ Otherwise, if some Macedonians come with me and find that you are not ready, we would be humiliated—to say nothing of you—for being so confident.⁵ So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready as a willing gift, not as an exaction.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sung Response—Speak, O Lord, Vs. 1



Speak, O Lord, as we come to You to re - ceive the food of Your Ho - ly Word.



Take Your truth, plant it deep in us; shape and fash - ion us in Your like - ness,



That the light of Christ might be seen to-day in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.



Speak, O Lord, and ful - fill in us all Your pur - pos - es for Your glo - ry.

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

Sermon—*Superfluous Necessity*

—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 Romans 7:14-25

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. We know that the Law is spiritual, but we have lived according to the flesh, as those sold under sin.

All: **For we do not do what we want, but we do the very things we hate.**

Pastor: We know that nothing good dwells in us, that is, in our flesh.

All: **For we have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.**

Pastor: Though we delight in the Law of God in our inner beings, we see in our members another law waging war against the law of our minds.

All: **Thus, we become captives to the law of sin that dwells in us.**

Pastor: Wretched man that I am! Wretched men and women that we all are! Who will deliver us from these bodies of sin and death?

All: **Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! He, and He alone, can deliver us.**

Assurance of Pardon—from Isaiah 63:7-9; John 3:16-17

I will recount the steadfast love of the Lord, the praises of the Lord, according to all that He has granted us, and the great promises that He has granted according to His compassion, according to the abundance of His steadfast love. For He has said, "Surely they are My people, My covenant children." And He has become their Savior. In all their affliction He was afflicted, in His love and in His pity He redeemed them; He lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

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—Jesus Paid It All, Vs. 1

I hear the Sav - ior say, "Thy strength in - deed is small;
Child of weak - ness, watch and pray, find in Me thine all in all."
Je - sus paid it all, all to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crim-son stain, He washed it white as snow.

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. 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 high-est, Ho-san-na in the high-est, Ho-san-na in the high-est. A - men. Ho-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.

Psalm of Praise—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 proceed.
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.

Hymn of Praise—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.

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—Lead On, O King Eternal

Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, the day of march has come;
Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, we fol - low, not with fears,

Hence - forth in fields of con - quest Thy tents shall be our home.
And ho - li - ness shall whis - per the sweet a - men of peace.
For glad - ness breaks like morn - ing wher - e'er Thy face ap - pears.

Through days of prep - a - ra - tion Thy grace has made us strong;
For not with swords' loud clash - ing, nor roll of stir - ring drums;
Thy cross is lift - ed o'er us, we jour - ney in its light;

And now, O King e - ter - nal, we lift our bat - tle song.
With deeds of love and mer - cy the heaven - ly king - dom comes.
The crown a - waits the con - quest; lead on, O God of might.

Text: Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1888; Music: LANCASHIRE, Henry Smart, 1836.

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—1 Corinthians 15:58

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. Amen.

Sung Response—A Hymn Of Glory Let Us Sing, Vs. 7

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are: "O - ris - en Christ, a - scend - ed Lord, all praise to Thee let earth ac - cord, A - le - lu - ia! A - le - lu - ia! Who art, while end - less ag - es run, With Fa - ther and with Spir - it one. A - le - lu - ia! A - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!"

Text: The Venerable Bede, 8th C. Tr. Benjamin Webb, 1854;
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Cologne, 1623.

Announcements

Worship Notes:

Today, we observe Ascension Sunday, perhaps the most neglected of the “five evangelical feasts” which are celebrated in most Christian traditions (along with Christmas, Easter, Good Friday, and Pentecost). This day marks the commemoration of the events of Acts 1:6-11 when Jesus completed His earthly ministry by ascending into Heaven and sitting down at the right hand of the Father. I’d like to draw your attention to two Ascension hymns we’ll be singing this morning, *A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing* and *O Christ, Our Hope*. The former, which will open and close the service this morning, was originally a Latin text by the English monastic the Venerable Bede and will be sung to the familiar LASST UNS ERFREUEN tune. *O Christ, Our Hope* (also a medieval Latin text set to a German tune, in this case LOBT GOTT IHR CHRISTEN) is often associated with the Easter season. While the second verse speaks eloquently of Jesus’ “cruel death” on the cross to set His people free, the following verses echo Bede’s phrase, calling Him “ascended Lord.” Lines like these should remind us that our Lord not only died for our sins and rose from the dead, but that He also ascended into Heaven. Even now, He intercedes for us from His Father’s throne “in glorious robes arrayed.” —Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Boast, Zeal, Arrange, Willing, Gift, Exaction

Keystone Verse: I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised. (2 Corinthians 9:5)



Presbyterian Church in America
4150 Clovercroft Rd. Franklin, TN 37067

Web: www.parishpres.org / Twitter: @parishpres
Church Office: Sarah Dye (574-1029), office@parishpres.org
Prayer requests: prayer@parishpres.org

Pastor: George Grant (574-1029 Office), george@parishpres.org
Associate Pastor: Brian Phillips (429-8125), brian@parishpres.org
Assistant Pastor: James Crampton (943-1696), jamie@parishpres.org
Music Director: Henry C. Haffner (497-6573), henry@parishpres.org
Staff Accompanist: Mirandi Herrenbruck, mirandi@parishpres.org
Music Intern: Emma Marsh, emma@parishpres.org
Audio Coordinator: Chris Ragsdale, chris@parishpres.org
Parish Nursery Coordinator: Chelsea Quintana (495-0423), chelsea@parishpres.org

Elders

Tom Goddard (218-3654)	Brandon Goodin (on leave)	Brandon Herrenbruck (339-5516)
Michael Mastroberti (973-879-1368)	Mike Miserochi (594-3880)	Matt Morrison (482-5107)
Jason Parolini (497-3337)	John Scherrer (916-0654)	

Elders Emeritus

Phil Hutcheson Steve Nelson

Deacons

Aaron Anderson (973-1797)	Jimmy Allen (815-9368)	Brandon Blair (575-430-6436)
Ben Crist (on leave)	Jeff Dokkestul (on sabbatical)	Chris Ragsdale (619-988-1876)
Nolan Reategui (829-0412)	Tim Simmons (850-532-8997)	Nae Soundara (519-3720)
	Walt Yates (785-477-0990)	

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