

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Ordinary Time 30 July 2023

A proud man is always looking down on things and people; and, of course, as long as you're looking down, you can't see something that's above you. —C. S. Lewis

Nor did I deem thy edicts strong enough, coming from mortal man, to set at naught the unwritten laws of God that know not change. —Sophocles

#### 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—Psalm 2:12

Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, for His wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in Him.

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



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

# Call to Worship—from Psalm 69:30, 32-36

Leader: Praise the name of God with a song; magnify Him with thanksgiving.

All: Let heaven and earth praise Him, the seas and everything that moves in them.

Reader 1: When the humble see it they will be glad; you who seek God, let your hearts revive.

Reader 2: For the Lord hears the needy and does not despise His own people who are prisoners.

All: For God will save Zion and build up the cities of Judah, and people shall dwell there and possess it.

Leader: The offspring of His servants shall inherit it, and those who love His name shall dwell in it.

# Congregational Psalm—Rejoice, The Lord Is King



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

### 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—Not Unto Us (Psalm 115)



Text: Psalm 115:1-8, 12-18, *Lyra Regis*, 1885, alt. Henry C. Haffner, 2022; Music: BLACK CREEK, Henry C. Haffner, 2022.

# Scripture Reading—Exodus 7:8-13

Then the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "When Pharaoh says to you, 'Prove yourselves by working a miracle,' then you shall say to Aaron, 'Take your staff and cast it down before Pharaoh, that it may become a serpent." So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did just as the Lord commanded. Aaron cast down his staff before Pharaoh and his servants, and it became a serpent. Then Pharaoh summoned the wise men and the sorcerers, and they, the magicians of Egypt, also did the same by their secret arts. For each man cast down his staff, and they became serpents. But Aaron's staff swallowed up their staffs. Still Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

# Congregational Psalm—Why Do Gentile Nations Rage (Psalm 2)



Text: Psalm 2:1-12; The Book of Psalms for Worship, Copyright © 2010 Crown and Covenant Publications; Music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1678, harm. J. S. Bach, 18<sup>th</sup> century.

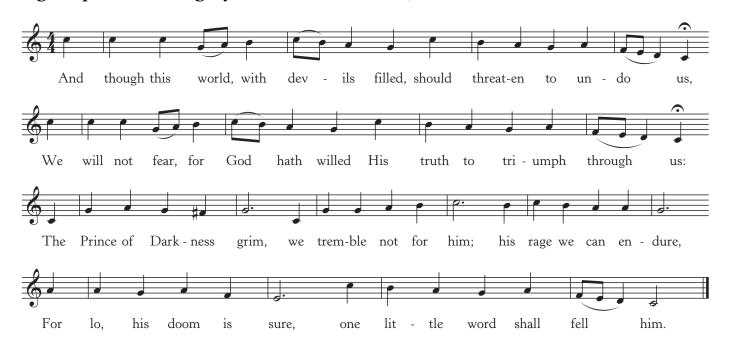
# Reading of the Word—2 Timothy 3:1-9

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. <sup>2</sup> For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, <sup>3</sup> heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, <sup>4</sup> treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, <sup>5</sup> having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. <sup>6</sup> For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, <sup>7</sup> always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. <sup>8</sup> Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. <sup>9</sup> But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

## Sung Response—A Mighty Fortress Is Our God, Vs. 3



Text: based on Psalm 46, Martin Luther, 1529, tr. Frederick H. Hedge, 1853; Music: EIN'FESTE BURG, Martin Luther, 1529.

Sermon—The Folly of Standing Against Truth

—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 Mark 7:15, 20-23

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. There is nothing that enters us from outside which defiles us; but the things

that come out of us, those are the things that defile us.

All: For from within, out of our hearts, come evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, and murders.

Pastor: Out of our hearts come thefts, covetousness, wickedness, and deceit.

All: Out of our hearts come lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, and foolishness.

Pastor: All these evil things come from within, and they defile us.

#### Assurance of Pardon—Ezekiel 37:23; Romans 1:16-17

They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols and their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions. But I will save them from all the backslidings in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them; and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

Pastor: This is the promise of God.

All: This is the Word of the Lord.

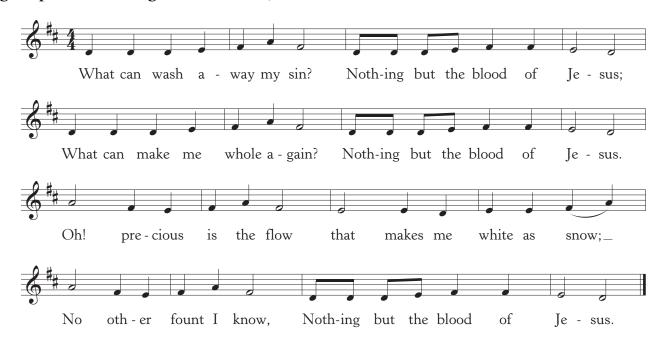
Pastor: Therefore, I am not ashamed of the Gospel.

All: It is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.

Pastor: For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live

by faith."

#### Sung Response—Nothing But The Blood, Vs. 1



Text: Robert Lowry, 1876; Music: Plainfield, Robert Lowry, 1876.

#### 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:

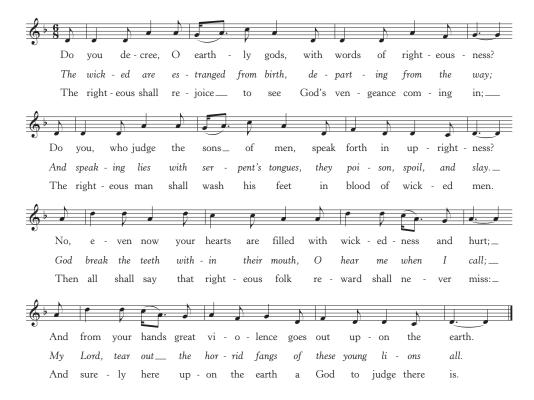


Text: Traditional, based on Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 21:9; Music: CLOVERCROFT SANCTUS, Henry C. Haffner, 2019.

#### 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 Psalm—Do You Decree, O Earthly Gods (Psalm 58)



Text: The Psalter with Music, 1900, alt. Henry C. Haffner, 2021; Music: GALLAWAY, Henry C. Haffner, 2021.

### Congregational Psalm—The Lord Has Spoken To My Lord (Psalm 110)



# 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—O Church, Arise



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

# 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—Romans 16:20

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. *Amen.* 

# Sung Response—Come, Thou Fount Of Every Blessing, Vs. 3



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

#### Announcements

#### Worship Notes:

Paul's description of the "times of difficulty" that Timothy is likely to face in his leadership of the church is rather distressing. He will face people who are "arrogant," "abusive," "brutal," and "treacherous" (just to list a few of the adjectives used), who oppose the truth and attempt to deceive the faithful with false teachings. But Paul ends this passage with a comforting aside: "But they will not get very far..." (vs. 9). He knows that our King will "triumph evermore" and all His foes will submit (Rejoice, The Lord Is King). Our Lord will break the kings of earth with a rod of iron (Why Do Gentile Nations Rage—Psalm 2), break the teeth of roaring lions (Do You Decree, O Earthly Gods—Psalm 58), and crush both kings and nations (The Lord Has Spoken To My Lord—Psalm 110). He rose from the grave to see His foes crushed under His feet, and His victory march will continue through eternity (O Church, Arise). Just like Timothy, we are also called to live in a world "with devils filled" that "threaten to undo us" (A Mighty Fortress Is Our God), and we can rest assured that "God has willed His truth to triumph through us." —Henry C. Haffner

Key words: Last Days, Self Love, Sins, Passions, Corrupt, Disqualified, Appearance, Godliness, Truth

**Keystone verse:** But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all... (2 Timothy 3:9)



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