



SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Season of Epiphany

14 February 2021

Let us be convinced more and more of the prodigious fertility of the Bible. How much lies hidden and unobserved, even after many perusals; and surely if it be true that a man may read it an hundred times and find something on his next reading which he missed on all his former ones, oftener recourse to this means of grace bids fair for multiplying our blessings. Therefore, let us be quick to be in the way of grace. —Thomas Chalmers

The Bible is authoritative on everything on which it speaks. And, it speaks of everything. —Cornelius Van Til

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—Matthew 4:4

Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Introit—How Shall The Young Direct Their Way (Psalm 119), Vs. 1



How shall the young di - rect their way? What light shall be their per - fect guide?

Your Word, O Lord, will safe - ly lead, if in its wis - dom they con - fide.

Sin - cere - ly I have sought You, Lord O let me not from You de - part;

To know Your will and keep from sin Your Word I hide with - in my heart.

Text: Psalm 119:9-16, *The Psalter*, 1912; Music: DUANE STREET, George Coles, 1835.

Call to Worship—Psalm 119:89-90, 103, 105, 114

Pastor: Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly fixed in the heavens.

All: **Your faithfulness endures to all generations.**

Pastor: You have established the earth, and it stands fast.

Reader 1: How sweet are Your words to our taste, sweeter than honey to our mouths!

Reader 2: Your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.

All: You are our hiding place and our shield.

Pastor: We hope in Your Word.

Psalm of Praise—From Heav'n O Praise The Lord (Psalm 148)

From Heav'n O praise the Lord! Ye heights His glo - ry raise.
From Earth O praise the Lord, ye deeps and all be - low;
Let all the peo - ple praise and kings of ev - ery land,
Je - ho - vah's name be praised a - bove the Earth and sky.

All an - gels praise ac - cord; let all His hosts give praise.
Wild winds that do His word, ye clouds, fire, hail, and snow;
Let all their voic - es raise who judge and who com - mand
For He His saints has raised and set their pow'r on high.

Praise Him on high, sun, moon, and star,
Ye moun - tains high, ye ce - dars tall,
By young and old by maid and youth,
Him praise ac - cord, O Is - rael's race,

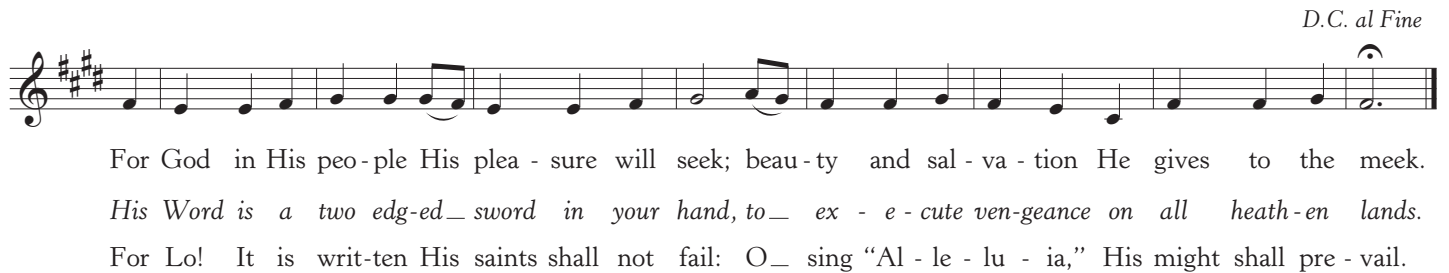
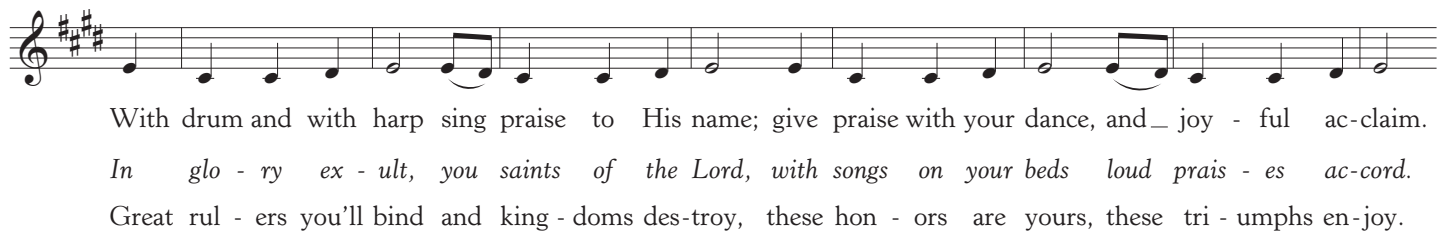
Sun, moon and star, ye heav'ns a - far, and cloud - y sky.
Ye ce - dars tall, beasts great and small and birds that fly.
By maid and youth His name in truth should be ex - tolled.
O Is - rael's race, near to His grace Praise ye the Lord!

Text: *The Book of Psalms for Singing*, Copyright © 1973 Crown and Covenant Publications;
Music: ST. CATHERINES, Horatio R. Palmer.

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 Praise Ye The Lord And Sing A New Song (Psalm 149)



Text: *The Psalter*, 1909; *New Version of the Psalms of David in Meter*, 1709; Alt. Henry C. Haffner, 2019;
Music: PULASKI, Henry C. Haffner, 2019.

Scripture Reading—Psalm 19:7-11

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is Your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God**

Psalm of Praise—O Lord, Teach Me To Follow You (Psalm 27)



O— Lord, teach me to fol - low You, in - struct me in Your way,
Give me not to my foes' de - sire; false wit - ness-es a - rise
Oh! What if I had not be - lieved! I am by faith as - sured
With pa - tience wait up - on the Lord, O let your strength be great;



And lead me on a le - vel path be - cause of foes, I pray!
A - gainst me breath - ing vi - o - lence and seek - ing my de - mise.
That in the land of life I'll see the good - ness of the Lord.
And so let cour - age fill your heart as on the Lord you wait.

Copyright © 2009 Crown and Covenant Publications, *Psalms for Worship*.
Text: Psalm 27:11-14; Music: LOUISE, Robert M. Copland, 1972.

Reading of the Word—1 Corinthians 4:1-21

This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ²Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. ³But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. ⁴For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

⁶I have applied all these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, brothers, that you may learn by us not to go beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up in favor of one against another. ⁷For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?

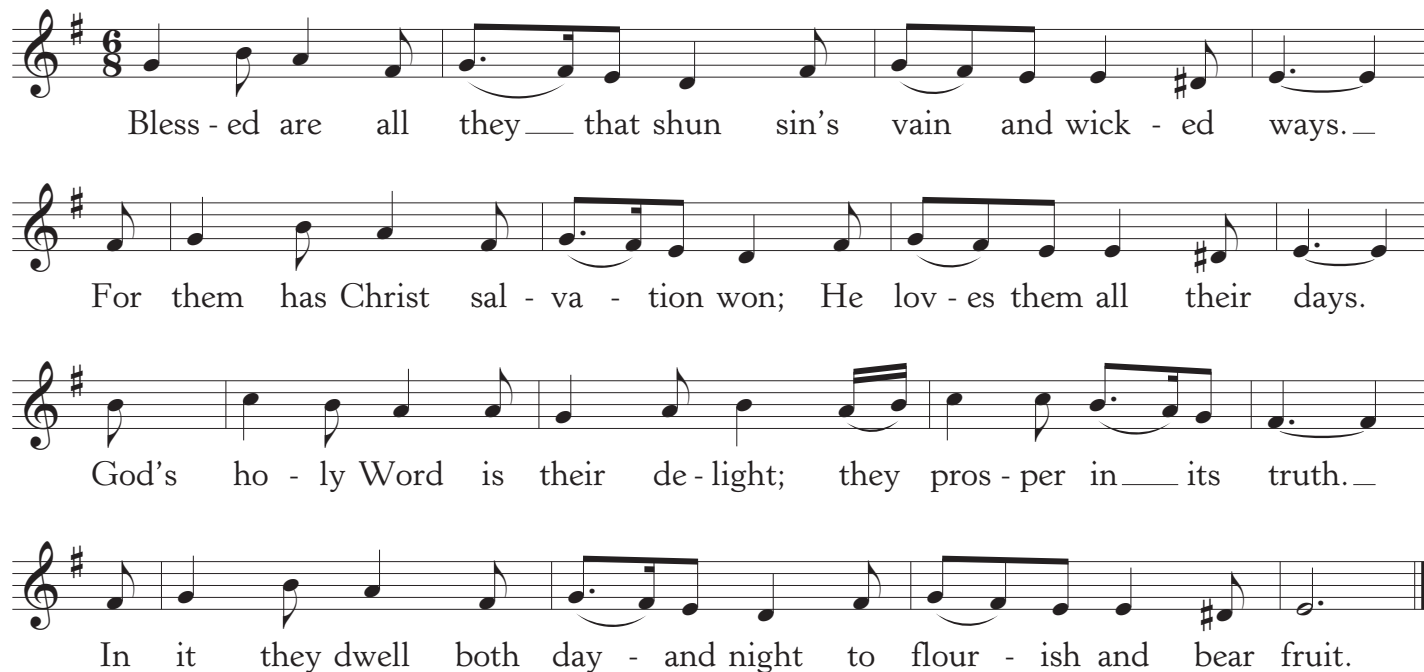
⁸Already you have all you want! Already you have become rich! Without us you have become kings! And would that you did reign, so that we might share the rule with you! ⁹For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death, because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men. ¹⁰We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. ¹¹To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are poorly dressed and buffeted and homeless, ¹²and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; ¹³when slandered, we entreat. We have become, and are still, like the scum of the world, the refuse of all things.

¹⁴I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. ¹⁵For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ¹⁶I urge you, then, be imitators of me. ¹⁷That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church. ¹⁸Some are arrogant, as though I were not coming to you. ¹⁹But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I will find out not the talk of these arrogant people but their power. ²⁰For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power. ²¹What do you wish? Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love in a spirit of gentleness?

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sung Response—Blessed Are All They (Psalm 1), Vs. 1



Bless - ed are all they ___ that shun sin's vain and wick - ed ways. ___

For them has Christ sal - va - tion won; He lov - es them all their days.

God's ho - ly Word is their de - light; they pros - per in ___ its truth. ___

In it they dwell both day - and night to flour - ish and bear fruit.

Text: T. M. Moore, *The Ailbe Psalter*, 2009; Music: Nathan George, 2011.

Sermon—*Nothing Beyond What Is Written*

—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 Psalm 119:123, 145, 169-170, 174-176

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. Our eyes long for Your salvation and for the fulfillment of Your righteous promise. With the whole of our hearts we cry; answer us, O Lord!

All: Deal with Your servants according to Your steadfast love.

Pastor: Let our plea come before You; deliver us according to Your Word.

All: We have gone astray like lost sheep.

Pastor: We long for Your salvation, O Lord. Your law is our delight.

All: Let us live and praise You.

Assurance of Pardon—from Psalm 119:124, 156, 159-160; Matthew 28:19-20

Deal with Your servants according to Your steadfast love and teach us Your statutes. Great is your mercy, O Lord; give us life. Give us life according to Your steadfast love. The sum of Your Word is truth, and every one of Your righteous rules endures forever.

Pastor: This is the promise of God, our great inheritance from Him.

All: This is the Word of the Lord.

Pastor: Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

All: Thanks be to God, our refuge, our strength, and our redeemer.

Sung Response—Teach Me, O Lord, Thy Way Of Truth (Psalm 119), Vs. 1

Teach me, O Lord, Thy way of truth, and from it I will not de-part;

That I may stead-fast-ly o-bey, give me an un-der-stand-ing heart.

Text: Psalm 119:33-34, *The Psalter*, 1912;
Music: TALLIS' CANON, Thomas Tallis, 1560.

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 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.

Text: Is 6:3, Rev 4:8, Mt 21:9; Music: FRANKLIN SANCTUS, Gregory Wilbur, 2009. ©2009 Greyfriars Press.

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 Waited Patient For The Lord (Psalm 40)



I wait - ed pa - tient for the Lord, He bowed to hear my cry;
Firm on a rock He made me stand, and taught my cheer - ful tongue
How man - y are Thy thoughts of love! Thy mer - cies, Lord, how great!

He saw me rest - ing on His Word, and brought sal - va - tion nigh.
To praise the won - ders of His hand, in a new thank - ful song.
We have not words nor hours e - nough their num - bers to re - peat.

He raised me from a hor - rid pit, where mourn - ing long I lay,
I'll spread His works of grace a - broad; the saints with joy shall hear,
When I'm af - flict - ed, poor, and low, and light and peace de - part,

And from my bonds re - leased my feet, deep bonds of mir - y clay.
And sin - ners learn to make my God their on - ly hope and fear.
My God be - holds my hea - vy woe, and bears me on His heart.

Text: Based on Psalm 40; Music: Based on a Traditional Irish Melody, Gregory Wilbur & Jeremiah Small, 2008.

Hymn of Praise—Speak, O Lord



Speak, O Lord, as we come to You to re - ceive the food of Your Ho - ly Word.
Teach us, Lord, full o - be - di - ence, ho - ly rev - er - ence, true hu - mil - i - ty;
Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds; help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us—

Take Your truth, plant it deep in us; shape and fash - ion us in Your like - ness,
Test our thoughts and our at - ti - tudes in the ra - di - ance of Your pur - i - ty.
Truths un - changed from the dawn of time that will ech - o down through e - ter - ni - ty.

That the light of Christ might be seen to-day in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see Your ma - jes - tic love and au - thor - i - ty.
And by grace we'll stand on Your prom - is - es, and by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.

Speak, O Lord, and ful - fill in us all Your pur - pos - es for Your glo - ry.
Words of pow'r that can nev - er fail— let their truth pre - vail o - ver un - be - lief.
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built and the Earth is filled with Your glo - ry.

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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—How Firm A Foundation

How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,
Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed;
When through the deep waters I call you to go,
When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
For I am your God, and will still give you aid;
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply;
What more can He say than to you He has said,
I'll strength-en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
For I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
The flame shall not hurt you; I on-ly de-sign
To you who for refuge to Je-sus have fled?
Up-held by My right-eous, om-nip-o-tent hand.
And sanc-ti-fy to you your deep-est dis-tress.
Your dross to con-sume and your gold to re-fine.

Text: "K" in John Rippon's *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787; Music: FOUNDATION, Traditional American 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—based on Isaiah 40:8

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God shall stand forever. Go forth under the banner of His truth. *Amen.*

Sung Response—How Shall The Young Direct Their Way (Psalm 119), Vs. 2

O bless-ed Lord, teach me Your law, Your righ-teous judge-ments I de-clare;

Your test-ti-mo-nies make me glad, for they are wealth be-yond com-pare.

Up-on Your pre-cepts and Your way my heart will med-i-tate with awe;

Your Word shall be my chief de-light, and I will not for-get Your law.

Text: Psalm 119:9-16, *The Psalter*, 1912; Music: DUANE STREET, George Coles, 1835.

Announcements

Worship Notes:

In 1 Corinthians 4:6, Paul gives the Corinthian Christians a warning “not to go beyond what is written.” As Pastor Brian preached last week, their foundation was laid on things other than the Word of God. By contrast, every element in this morning’s service drives us back to the Scriptures. Passages from Matthew 4, Psalm 19, Isaiah 40, and Psalm 119 remind us of several truths—that we live by the Word; that the Word is a light to our path; that it is perfect, true, and righteous; and that while we will wither and fade, “the Word of our God shall stand forever.” Nearly all the songs we sing this morning are taken directly from the text of the Psalms, and all refer to the excellence of the Word itself. We’ll sing that the Word is a sword in our hands (Psalm 149), our delight (Psalm 1) and a resting place in times of trouble (Psalm 40). We ask to be instructed in His way (Psalm 27; Psalm 119), and we promise to follow the leading of His Word (Psalm 119). The service does conclude with two non-Scriptural hymns, *Speak O Lord* and *How Firm A Foundation*, but even these point to the sufficiency of “the food of [His] Holy Word” and the firm foundation laid for us in it. As we go out from this place, let’s heed Paul’s warning to stay rooted in the words of Scripture. After all, “what more can He say than to you He has said?” —Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Servants, Stewards, Judged, Beyond, Written, Boast, Ashamed, Admonish
Keystone Verse: That you may learn by us not to go beyond what is written. (1 Corinthians 4:6)



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