



PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Ordinary Time

25 June 2023

If the Spirit guides us unto all truth and all truth is to be found in the Bible; the Spirit therefore guides us unto the Bible. As an embryo in the womb has all the parts of which manhood is the perfection, so grace is glory begun; and glory is grace consummated. —Charles Simeon

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—John 17:3

And this is eternal life, that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

Sung Response—Holy God, We Praise Your Name, Vs. 1



Ho - ly God, we praise Your name; Lord of all, — we bow be - fore You!

All on Earth Your scep - ter claim. All in Heav'n a - bove a - dore You:

In - fi - nite — Your vast do - main, Ev - er - last - ing is — Your reign.

Text: based on *Te Deum*, 4th century, attr. Ignace Franz, 1774;
Music: GROSSER GOTT, WIR LOBEN DICH, *Katholisches Gesangbuch*, 1774.

Call to Worship—from Psalm 105:1, 3-5

Pastor: Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon His name.

All: Make known His deeds among the peoples!

Reader 1: Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!

Reader 2: Remember the wondrous works that He has done, His miracles, and the judgments He uttered.

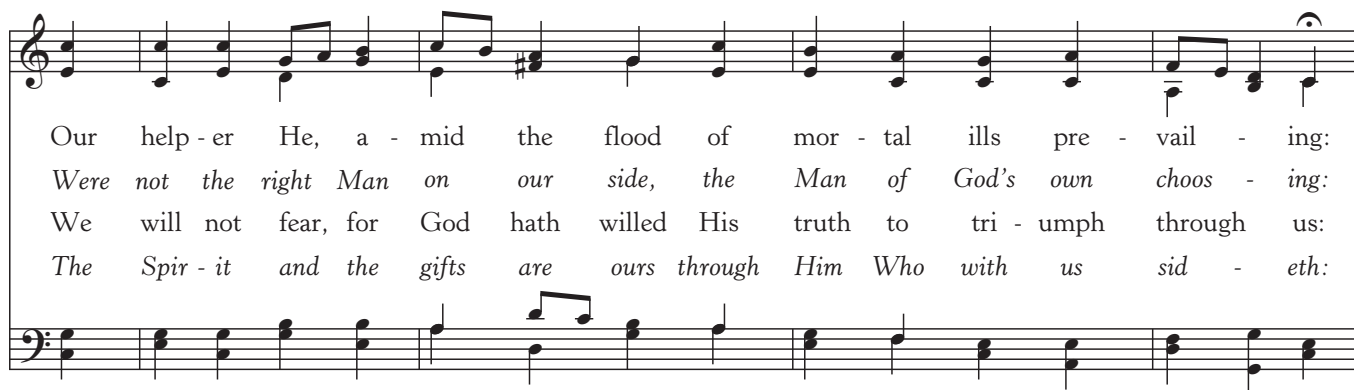
All: Seek the Lord and His strength!

Pastor: Seek His face evermore!


Congregational Hymn—A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



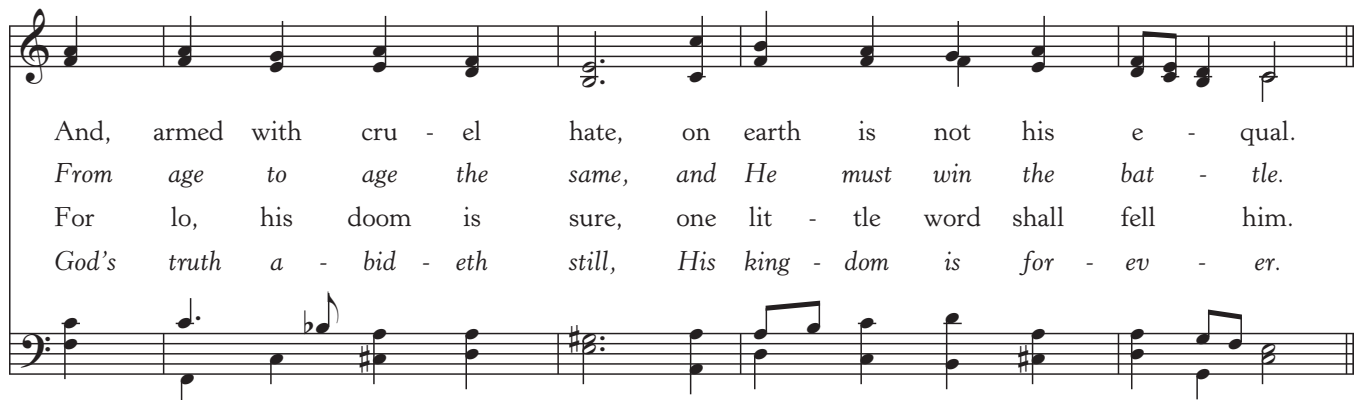
A might - y fort - ress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er fail - ing;
Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be los - ing;
And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un - do us,
That Word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a - bid - eth;



Our help - er He, a - mid the flood of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing;
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choos - ing:
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to tri - umph through us:
The Spir - it and the gifts are ours through Him Who with us sid - eth:



For still our an - cient foe doth seek to work us woe; His craft and power are great,
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus, it is He; Lord Sa - ba - oth, His Name,
The Prince of Dark - ness grim, we trem - ble not for him; his rage we can en - dure,
Let goods and kin - dred go, this mor - tal life al - so; The bod - y they may kill:



And, armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.
From age to age the same, and He must win the bat - tle.
For lo, his doom is sure, one lit - tle word shall fell him.
God's truth a - bid - eth still, His king - dom is for - ev - er.

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

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—Alleluia! How Blest The Man (Psalm 112)



A - le - lu - ia! How blest the man who great-ly__fears the Lord!
Light to the up - right shall a - rise, though he in__dark-ness be;
When e - vil ti - dings he shall hear, he shall not be a - fraid:
A - bun - dant wealth with - in his house shall ev - er__be in store;



Who dai - ly finds de - light with - in Je - ho - vah's Ho - ly Word
Com - pass - ion - ate, and mer - ci - ful and ev - er__just is he.
His__heart is fixed, his__con - fi - dence up - on the__Lord is stayed.
And his un - spot - ted__right - eous - ness en - dures for - ev - er - more.



His__child - ren for their might shall be in__all the land re - nowned;
There sure - ly is not__an - y thing that ev - er shall him move:
Es - tab - lished firm - ly__is his heart, a - fraid he shall not be,
The__wick - ed ones shall see, and grieve: their teeth will gnash a - way,



The gen - er - a - tion of the just in bless - ings shall a - bound.
The right - eous man's me - mor - i - al shall ev - er - last - ing prove.
Un - til a - mong his__en - e - mies, his tri - umph He__shall see.
For__what the wick - ed__most de - sire shall ut - ter - ly__de - cay.

Text: Psalm 112:1-4, 6-8, 10, *The Psalter of the United Presbyterian Church*, 1887, alt. Henry C. Haffner 2018;
Music: POTTSVILLE, Henry C. Haffner, 2018.

Scripture Reading—John 20:24-31

Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into His side, I will never believe.”

Eight days later, His disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then He said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in My side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” Thomas answered Him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Congregational Hymn—'Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus



'Tis so sweet to trust in Je - sus, just to take Him at His word;
O how sweet to trust in Je - sus, just to trust His cleans-ing blood;
Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Je - sus, just from sin and self to cease;
I'm so glad I learned to trust Thee, pre - cious Je - sus, Sav - ior, friend;

Just to rest up - on His pro - mise, just to know, "Thus saith the Lord."
Just in sim - ple faith to plunge me neath the heal - ing, cleans-ing flood!
Just from Je - sus sim - ply tak - ing life and rest, and joy and peace.
And I know that Thou art with me, wilt be with me to the end.

Je - sus, Je - sus, how I trust Him! How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!

Je - sus, Je - sus, pre - cious Je - sus! O for grace to trust Him more!

Text: Louisa M. R. Stead, 1882; Music: William J. Kirkpatrick, 1882.

Reading of the Word—1 John 5:13-21

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. ¹⁴ And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of Him.

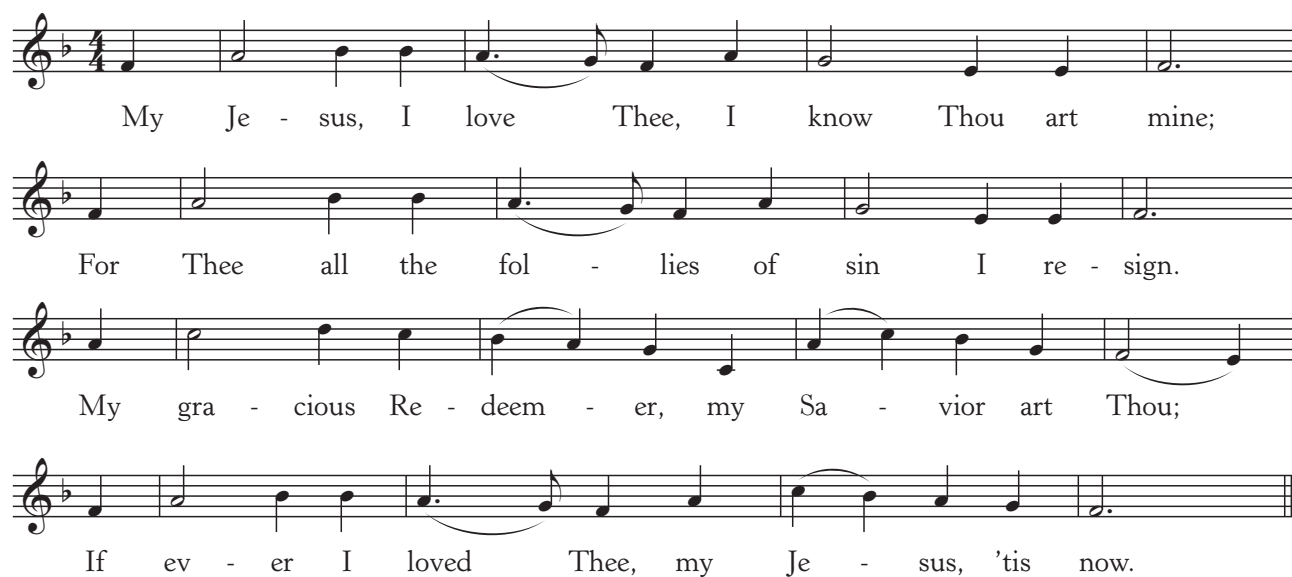
¹⁶ If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life—to those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that. ¹⁷ All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death.

¹⁸ We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him. ¹⁹ We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. ²⁰ And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. ²¹ Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—My Jesus, I Love Thee, Vs. 1



My Je - sus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine;
For Thee all the fol - lies of sin I re - sign.
My gra - cious Re - deem - er, my Sa - vior art Thou;
If ev - er I loved Thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.

Text: William R. Featherston, 1864; Music: GORDON, Adoniram J. Gordon, 1876.

Sermon—*The Gift of Knowing Eternal Life*

—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 Ezekiel 14:3-7

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. We have taken our idols into our hearts and set the stumbling block of our iniquity before our faces. Should You indeed let Yourself be consulted by us?

All: **We have taken our idols into our heart and set the stumbling block of our iniquity before our face, and yet we come to the prophet with the multitude of our idols.**

Pastor: Have mercy on us, for we are all estranged from You through our idols.

All: **We have separated ourselves from You, taking our idols into our heart and putting the stumbling block of our iniquity before our face.**

Pastor: Give us grace to repent and turn away from our idols, and turn away our faces from all our abominations.

Assurance of Pardon—1 John 1:9; Acts 1:8

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Pastor: This is the promise of God.

All: **This is the Word of the Lord.**

Pastor: For Christ Himself confirmed: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses."

All: **"In Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."**

Sung Response—Before The Throne Of God Above, Vs. 1



Be-fore the throne of God a - bove I have a strong and per-fect plea.



A great high priest whose name is Love, who ev - er lives and pleads for me.



My name is grav - en on His hands, my name is writ - ten on His heart.



I know that while in Heaven He stands no tongue can bid me thence de - part.



No tongue can bid me thence de - part.

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

MEN
Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow'r and might Hea-ven and Earth are

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

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—Be Still, My Soul



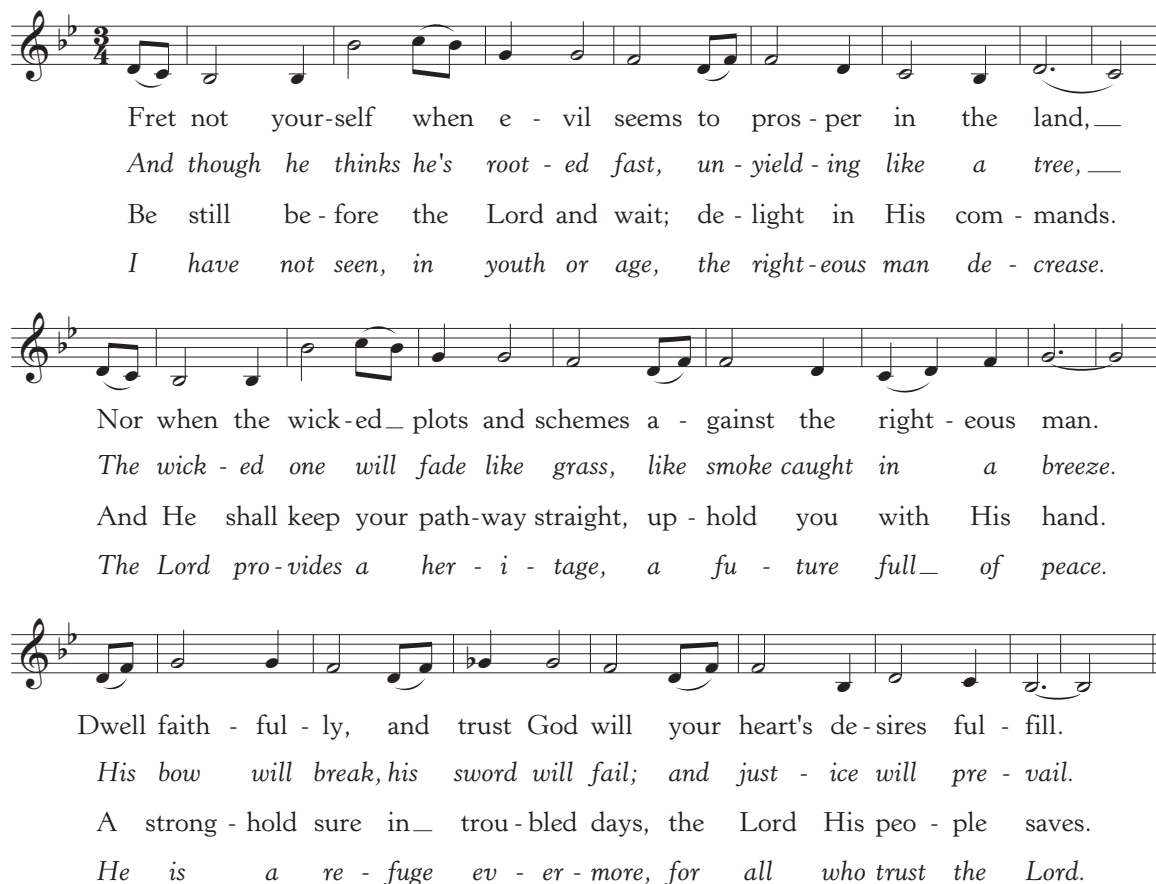
Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side. Bear pa - tient - ly the cross of grief or pain.
Be still, my soul: thy God doth un - der - take to guide the fu - ture, as He has the past.
Be still, my soul: the hour is hast' - ning on when we shall be for - ev - er with the Lord.
Be still, my soul: be - gin the song of praise on Earth, be - liev - ing, to thy Lord on high;

Leave to thy God to or - der and pro - vide; in eve - ry change, He faith - ful will re - main.
Thy hope, thy con - fi - dence let no - thing shake; all now mys - ter - ious shall be bright at last.
When dis - ap - point - ment, grief and fear are gone, sor - row for - got, love's pur - est joys re - stored.
Ac - know - ledge Him in all thy words and ways, so shall He view thee with a well pleased eye.

Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heav'n - ly friend thro' thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know His voice who ruled them while He dwelt be - low.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past all safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.
Be still, my soul: the sun of life di - vine thro' pas - sing clouds shall but more brightl - y shine.

Text: Katharina A. von Schlegel, 1752, tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1855; Music: FINLANDIA, Jean Sibelius, 1899.

Congregational Psalm—Fret Not Yourself (Psalm 37)



Fret not your - self when e - vil seems to pros - per in the land, —
And though he thinks he's root - ed fast, un - yield - ing like a tree, —
Be still be - fore the Lord and wait; de - light in His com - mands.
I have not seen, in youth or age, the right - eous man de - crease.

Nor when the wick - ed_ plots and schemes a - gainst the right - eous man.
The wick - ed one will fade like grass, like smoke caught in a breeze.
And He shall keep your path - way straight, up - hold you with His hand.
The Lord pro - vides a her - i - tage, a fu - ture full_ of peace.

Dwell faith - ful - ly, and trust God will your heart's de - sires ful - fill.
His bow will break, his sword will fail; and just - ice will pre - vail.
A strong - hold sure in_ trou - bled days, the Lord His peo - ple saves.
He is a re - fuge ev - er - more, for all who trust the Lord.

Text: paraphrase of Psalm 37, Elizabeth Dowdell, 2020; Music: GRAYMERE, Henry C. Haffner and Elizabeth Dowdell, 2020.

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—I Know That My Redeemer Lives



I___ know that my re - deem - er lives, glor - y, hal - le - lu - jah!
He___ lives to bless me___ with His love; glor - y, hal - le - lu - jah!
He___ lives to crush the fiends of hell; glor - y, hal - le - lu - jah!



What com - fort this sweet sen - tence gives, glor - y, hal - le - lu - jah!
He___ lives to plead my___ cause a - bove; glor - y, hal - le - lu - jah!
He___ lives and doth with - in me dwell; glor - y, hal - le - lu - jah!



Shout___ on, pray on, we're gain - ing ground, glor - y, hal - le - lu - jah!



The dead's a - live, and the lost is found, glor - y, hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: Samuel Medley, 1775; Music: ANTIOCH, Samuel Wood, *The Sacred Harp*, 1850;
arr. Henry C. Haffner, 2017.

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—Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

Sung Response—Gloria Patri

The musical score for the Gloria Patri is presented in three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Glor - y be__ to the Fath - er, and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the be - gin - ning, is__ now, and ev - er shall be, World__ with - out end. A - men. A - - - men." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody. The final system includes a double bar line and a fermata over the final notes.

Text: Lesser Doxology, 2nd century;
Music: Nathan George, 2015, harm. Henry C. Haffner, 2015.

Announcements

Worship Notes

I know that my redeemer lives, what comfort this sweet sentence gives.—Samuel Medley

This year's two sermon series have been a study in contrasts. After spending three months studying Exodus 20, and finding ourselves coming up woefully short of the law of God, these last two months in 1 John have provided such comfort and security. John writes to his "little children" that they "may know that [they] have eternal life" (1 John 5:13). When our confidence is placed on the Lord, we know that we shall never be moved (*Alleluia! How Blest The Man—Psalm 112*). When we learn to trust in Jesus, we can know that He is with us till the end (*'Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus*). If we love Him, we know that He is ours (*My Jesus, I Love Thee*). If we ask anything of Him, He hears us (1 John 5:14), giving us the strength to bear the cross of grief or pain (*Be Still, My Soul*). He is a mighty fortress (*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*) and a stronghold in troubled days (*Fret Not Yourself—Psalm 37*), who makes even His commands a delight. —Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Know, Eternal Life, Confidence, Ask, Sin, True God, Idols

Keystone Verse: I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. (1 John 5:13)



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John Scherrer (on sabbatical)

Jonathan Thornton (703-801-1355)

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Phil Hutcheson

Steve Nelson

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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.