



# PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Kingdomtide  
*19 November 2023*

The central “spine” of the Biblical narrative can be described in a single word: covenant. —Barry Cooper

Covenant theology is the basic understanding of the whole Bible story and a description of the way in which God relates to His creation and humanity by way of His very great eternal promises. Covenant is not the only thing in the storyline of the Bible, but it is the undergirding structure that unites the whole and makes sense of it. —Sinclair Ferguson

## 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—from Isaiah 54:10

Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet My steadfast love shall not depart from you, and My covenant of peace shall not be removed.

### Sung Response—Come, Thou Almighty King, Vs. 1



Come, Thou Al - might - y King, help us Thy name to sing,



Help us to praise! Fa - ther all glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic - to - ri - ous,



Come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days!

Text: Anonymous, 1757; Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1769.

### Call to Worship—from Psalm 111:2, 7, 10

Pastor: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

**All: Praise the Lord! We will give thanks to the Lord with our whole hearts.**

Reader 1: Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them. Full of splendor and majesty is His work, and His righteousness endures forever. He has shown His people the power of His works.

Reader 2: The works of His hands are faithful and just; all His precepts are trustworthy; they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

**All: He has established His covenant forever.**

Pastor: Holy and awesome is His name!

## Congregational Hymn—The God Of Abraham Praise

The God of A - braham praise, who reigns en - throned a - bove,  
 He by Him - self hath sworn, I on His oath de - pend;  
 The good - ly land I see, with peace and plen - ty blest,  
 There dwells the Lord our King, the Lord our Right - eous - ness,  
 The whole tri - um - phant host gives thanks to God on high;

An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days and God of love.  
 I shall, on ea - gles' wings up - borne, to Heav'n as - cend.  
 A land of sa - cred lib - er - ty and end - less rest.  
 Tri - um - phant o'er the world and sin, the Prince of Peace.  
 "Hail Fath - er, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost!" they ev - er cry,

Je - ho - vah! Great I AM! by earth and heav'n con - fessed;  
 I shall be - hold His face, I shall His pow'r a - dore,  
 There milk and hon - ey flow, and oil and wine a - bound,  
 On Zi - on's sa - cred height His king - dom He main - tains,  
 Hail, Abra - ham's God and mine! I join the heav'n - ly lays;

I bow and bless the sa - cred name for - ev - er - blest.  
 And sing the won - ders of His grace for - ev - er - more.  
 And trees of life for - ev - er grow, with mer - cy crowned.  
 And glor - ious with His saints in light for - ev - er reigns.  
 All might and maj - es - ty are Thine, and end - less praise.

Text: Thomas Olivers, 1770; Music: LEONI, Jewish melody, arr. Meyer Lyon, 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—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—Psalm 103:17-19

The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children, to those who keep His covenant and remember to do His commandments. The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, and His kingdom rules over all.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

## Congregational Hymn—Praise, My Soul, The King Of Heaven

The image shows a musical score for a congregational hymn. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

Praise, my soul, the King of Heav - en, to His feet your trib - ute bring;  
*Praise Him for His grace and fa - vor, to our fa - thers in dis - tress;*  
Fa - ther - like, He tends and spares us; well our fee - ble frame He knows;  
*Frail as sum - mer's flow'r we flour - ish, blows the wind and it is gone;*

Ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, who, like me, His praise should sing?  
*Praise Him, still the same for - ev - er, slow to chide and swift to bless;*  
In His hands He gent - ly bears us, res - cues us from all our foes;  
*But while mor - tals rise and per - ish, God en - dures un - chang - ing on.*

Praise Him, praise Him, praise Him, praise Him, praise the ev - er - last - ing King.  
*Praise Him, praise Him, praise Him, praise Him, glo - rious in His faith - ful - ness.*  
Praise Him praise Him, praise Him, praise Him, wide - ly as His mer - cy goes.  
*Praise Him, praise Him, praise Him, praise Him, praise the High E - ter - nal One.*

Text: based on Psalm 103, Henry F. Lyte, 1834; Music: LAUDA ANIMA, John Goss, 1869.

## Reading of the Word—Hebrews 6:13-20

For when God made a promise to Abraham, since He had no one greater by whom to swear, He swore by Himself, <sup>14</sup> saying, “Surely I will bless you and multiply you.” <sup>15</sup> And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise. <sup>16</sup> For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. <sup>17</sup> So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of His purpose, He guaranteed it with an oath, <sup>18</sup> so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. <sup>19</sup> We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, <sup>20</sup> where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

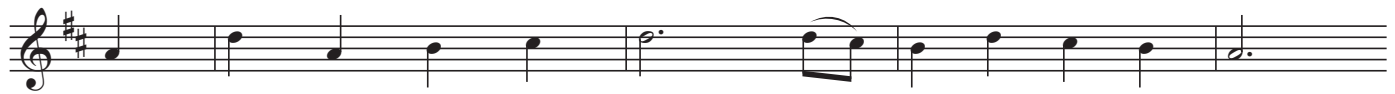
## Sung Response—O Put Your Trust In God, Vs. 2



Though years on years roll on, His cov'-nant shall en - dure;



Though clouds and dark - ness hide His path, the prom-ised grace is sure.



Give to the winds your fears; hope, and be un - dis - mayed;



God hears your sighs and counts your tears; God shall lift up your head.

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

## Sermon—*The Covenant Promise*

—Pastor Emeritus, 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 Nehemiah 1:5-11

Pastor: O Lord God of heaven, You are the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with Your people. Therefore, let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open, to hear our confession that we pray before You now.

All: **We Your people have sinned against You.**

Pastor: We have not kept the commandments and statutes that You gave us.

All: **Yet we are the people whom You have redeemed by Your great power and by Your strong hand.**

Pastor: Hear, O Lord, the prayer of Your servants who would delight to fear Your name.

All: **Make us walk in faithfulness, bearing witness across the generations.**

### Assurance of Pardon—2 Peter 1:3-4; Titus 2:11-14

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us to His own glory and excellence, by which He has granted to us His precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

Pastor: This is the promise of God.

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

Pastor: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age.

All: **And so we await our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.**

### Sung Response—Amazing Grace, Vs. 4

The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His Word my hope se - cures;

He will my shield and por - tion be, as long as life en - dures.

The image shows a musical score for the song 'Amazing Grace, Vs. 4'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are: 'The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His Word my hope se - cures;' and 'He will my shield and por - tion be, as long as life en - dures.'

Text: John Newton, 1779; Music: NEW BRITAIN, Traditional American Melody,  
*Columbian Harmony*, 1829, harm. Edwin O. Excell, 1900.

# 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:

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly is the Lord God Al - might - y,  
Heav'n and Earth are full of Thy glor - y, glor - y— be un - to— Thee,  
O Lord most high, O Lord most high, O Lord most high, A - men.

Text: Traditional, based on Isaiah 6:3, Revelation 4:8;  
Music: Nathan George, 2013.



# 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—Gently, Gently Lay Your Rod (Psalm 6)



Gent - ly, Gent - ly lay Your rod on my sin - ful heart, O God;  
My soul is in great dis - tress. Send, O send Your pro - mised rest;  
Who with - in the si - lent grave will re - call or give You praise?  
So de - part from me, a - way! Men of e - vil, be a - shamed!

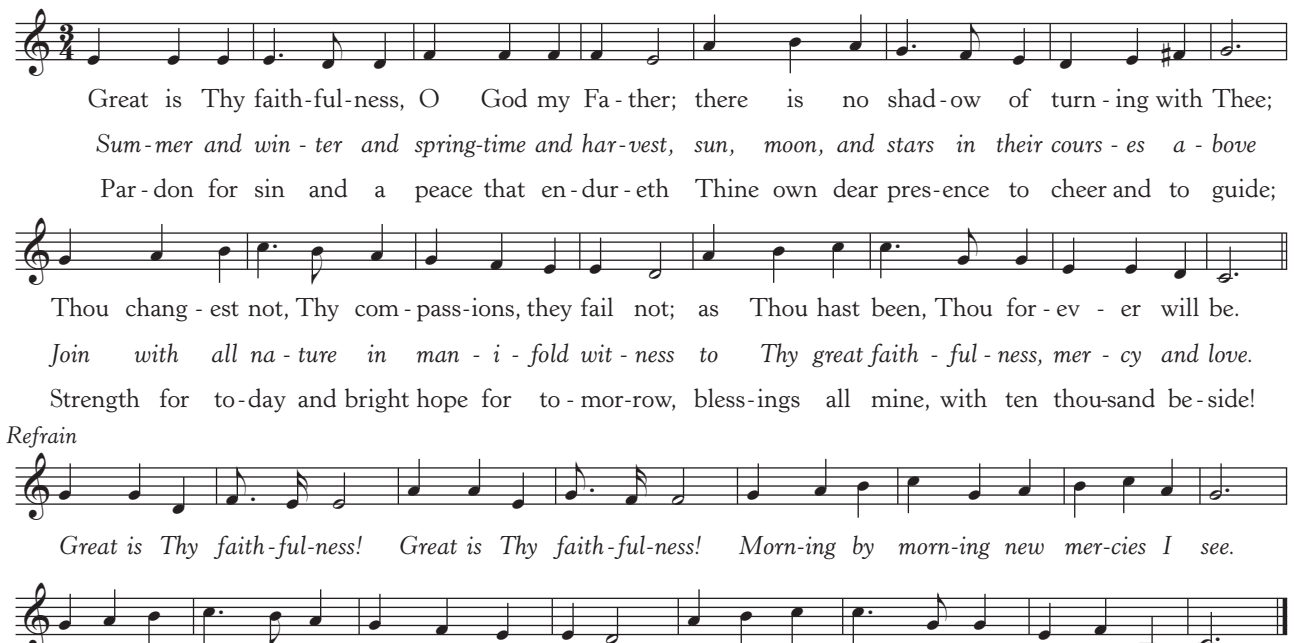
Stay Your wrath, in merc - y, stay, or I sink be - fore its sway.  
Lord, I cry how long, how long? My great need has been my song.  
Lord, my trem - bling soul now give words of grace and I will live.  
For the Lord has heard my cry, as my prayer as - cends on high.

Heal me, for my flesh is weak; heal me, for Your grace I seek.  
Look, O Lord, with gra - cious eye, turn and take my guilt - y life;  
I am wear - y from the years of the dark - ness filled with tears.  
Lo! He comes! He heeds my plea. Lo! He comes! The sha - dows flee!

This my on - ly plea I make, heal me for Your merc - y's sake.  
By Your grace from Heav'n a - bove, save me in Your stead-fast love.  
Oh, my sight, be - cause of grief, wastes a - way and now is weak.  
Glo - ry round me dawns once more; rise my spir - it and a - dore!

Text: paraphrase of Psalm 6:1-10, Henry F. Lyte, 1834, alt. Nathan George, 2012; Music: Nathan George, 2012.

## Congregational Hymn—Great Is Thy Faithfulness



Great is Thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no shad-ow of turn - ing with Thee;  
Sum-mer and win - ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove  
Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth Thine own dear pres-ence to cheer and to guide;

Thou chang - est not, Thy com - pass-ions, they fail not; as Thou hast been, Thou for - ev - er will be.  
Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness to Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy and love.  
Strength for to-day and bright hope for to - mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

*Refrain*

Great is Thy faith-ful-ness! Great is Thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by morn-ing new mer-cies I see.

All I have need - ed Thy hand hath pro - vi - ded; great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923; Music: FAITHFULNESS (RUNYAN), William M. Runyan, 1923.

# 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—My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less

My hope is built on noth - ing less than Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness:  
When dark - ness veils His love - ly face, I rest on His un - chang - ing grace;  
His oath, His cov - e - nant, His blood sup - port me in the whelm - ing flood;  
When He shall come with trum - pet sound, O may I then in Him be found;

I dare not trust the sweet - est frame, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
In ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my an - chor holds with - in the veil.  
When all a - round my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.  
Dressed in His righ - teous - ness a - lone, fault - less to stand be - fore the throne.

On Christ the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand,

All oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

The musical score consists of four systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines.

Text: Edward Mote, 1834; Music: SOLID ROCK, William Bradbury, 1863.

# 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—from Hebrews 8:10

“This is the covenant that I have made with you, declares the Lord: I have put My laws into your minds, and written them on your hearts, so I will be your God, and you shall be My people.” Go, therefore, in peace. Amen.

## 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> century;  
Music: Nathan George, 2015, harm. Henry C. Haffner, 2015.

## Announcements

## Worship Notes:

*His oath, His covenant, His blood support me in the whelming flood...*  
—William Bradbury

This morning's service points us to the enduring reality of God's covenant and urges us to rest upon these precious promises. In the gospel invitation, the Lord Himself states that "My covenant of peace shall not be removed" (Isaiah 54:10). *The God Of Abraham Praise* declares that we "on His oath depend," and *All Nations Clap Your Hands—Psalm 47* reminds us that promises made to Abraham are for us as well ("The heirs of gentile thrones as Abram's children meet," Psalm 47:9). We'll sing in various places that the Lord has promised good to us (*Amazing Grace*), that His promised grace is sure (*O Put Your Trust In God*), that He promises rest to the weary (*Gently, Gently Lay Your Rod—Psalm 6*), and that we hope in His faithfulness (*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*). And just as the text from Hebrews describes our hope in Jesus as a "sure and steadfast anchor of the soul" (Hebrews 6:19), we will go out singing that "in every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil" (*My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less*). —Henry C. Haffner

**Key Words:** Promise, Greater, Swear, Oath, Unchangeable, Hope, Anchor

**Keystone verse:** We have this hope as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul. (Hebrews 6:19)



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### Elders

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Michael Mastroberti (973-879-1368)

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Matt Morrison (482-5107)

Jason Parolini (497-3337)

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### Elders Emeritus

Phil Hutcheson

Steve Nelson

John Scherrer

### Deacons

Aaron Anderson (973-1797)

Brandon Blair (575-430-6436)

Kevin Cowherd (967-5099)

Ben Crist (509-3040)

Chris Ragsdale (619-988-1876)

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