



PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Season of Easter

7 April 2024

God whispers to us in our pleasure, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world. —C.S. Lewis

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—Romans 8:16-17

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs— heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.

Sung Response—Christ Is Risen! Hallelujah! Vs. 1

Christ is ris - en! Hal - le - lu - jah! Ris - en our vic - tor - ious Head!

Sing His prais - es! Hal - le - lu - jah! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

Grate - ful - ly our hearts a - dore Him, as His light once more ap - pears,

Bow - ing down in joy be - fore Him, ris - ing up from grief and tears,

Sing His prais - es! Hal - le - lu - jah! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

CCLI #2844402 Text: James S.B. Monsell, 1863; Music: BEACH SPRING (FOUNT OF GLORY),
attr. B. F. White, 1844, R.W. Thompson, 1854, arr. Gregory Wilbur, 2010.

Call to Worship—Isaiah 40:28-31

Pastor: Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

All: **He does not faint or grow weary; His understanding is unsearchable.**

Pastor: He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might He increases strength.

Reader 1: Even youths shall faint and be weary; and young men shall fall exhausted.

Reader 2: But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength.

All: They shall mount up with wings like eagles.

Pastor: They shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Congregational Hymn—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 righ-teous, om-ni-p-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 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—Lord, Hear My Voice (Psalm 61)



Lord, hear my voice, my prayer at - tend, from earth's re - mot - est bound I send
In You my soul has shel - ter found, and You have been from foes a - round
For You, O Lord, my vows have heard, on me their her - i - tage con - ferred,
Be - fore the Lord shall he a - bide; oh, give him truth, and grace pro - vide



My bro - ken heart - ed cry. When trou - bles fill my faint - ing breast,
The tow'r of my de - fense. My home shall your pa - vil - ion be;
That fear Your ho - ly name. Long life You to Your ser - vant give,
To guard him in the way. So I Your prais - es will make known,

Vs. 1 & 2, then Chorus



Then lead me on the rock to rest, the rock high - er than I.
And un - der - neath Your wings I'll flee, to find de - liv - er - ance.
Through gen - er - a - tions he shall live, from age to age the same.
And hum - bly bend - ing at Your throne, my vows will dai - ly pay.

Chorus



When trou - bles fill my faint - ing breast, then lead me on



The rock to rest, the rock high - er than I.

Text: Psalm 61:1-8, *The Psalter with Music*, 1900, alt. Henry C. Haffner, 2022;
Music: TRAVELLER, Henry C. Haffner, 2022.

Scripture Reading—Galatians 4:1–7

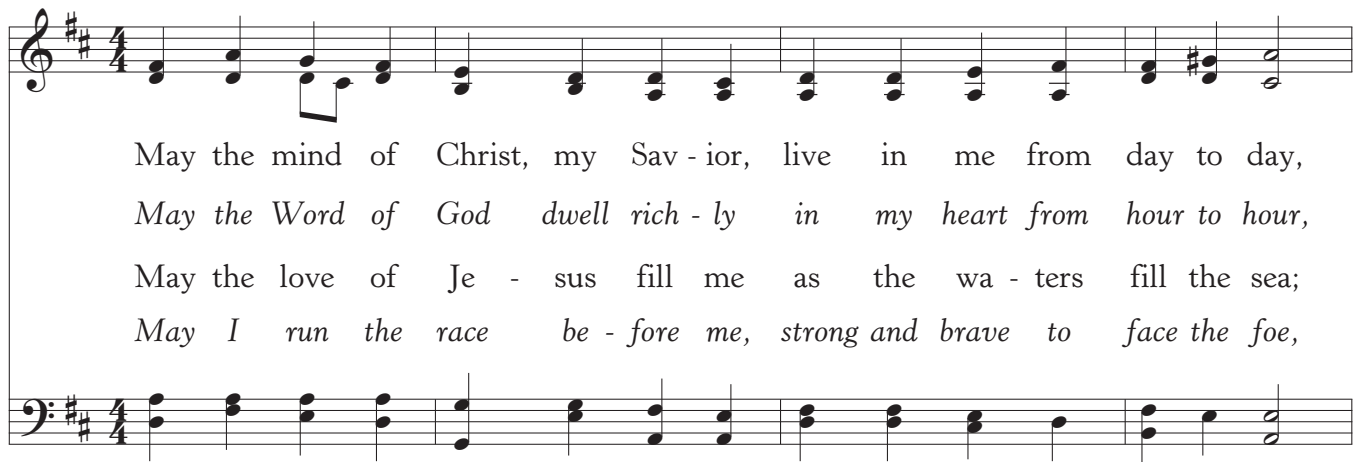
I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

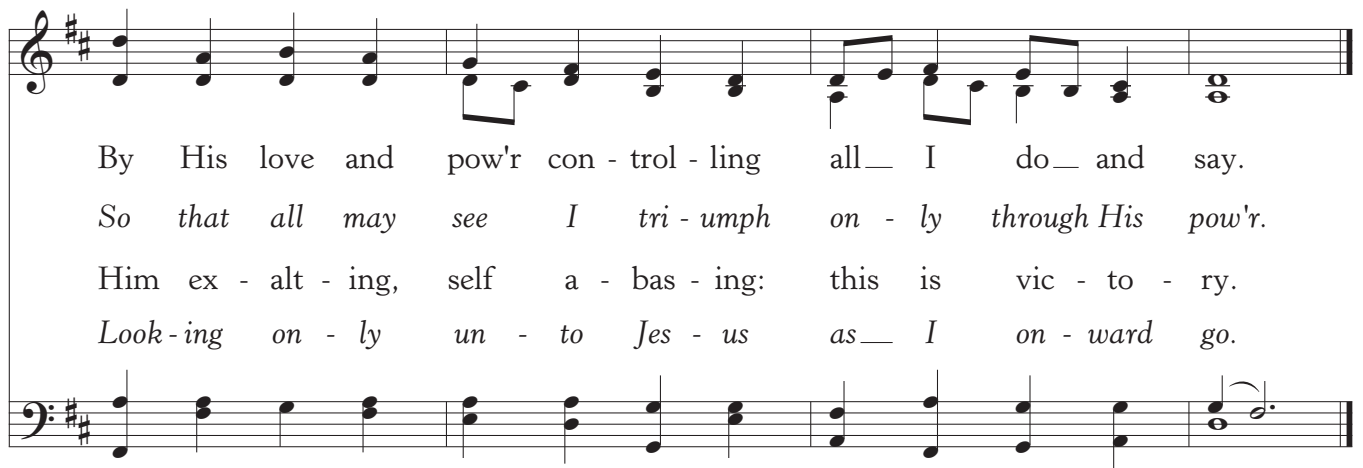
All: Thanks be to God.

Baptism of Henry, Nolan, and Logan Domingos, sons of Kyle and Kayla Domingos

Congregational Hymn—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 Jes - us as I on - ward go.

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

Reading of the Word—Hebrews 12:3-11

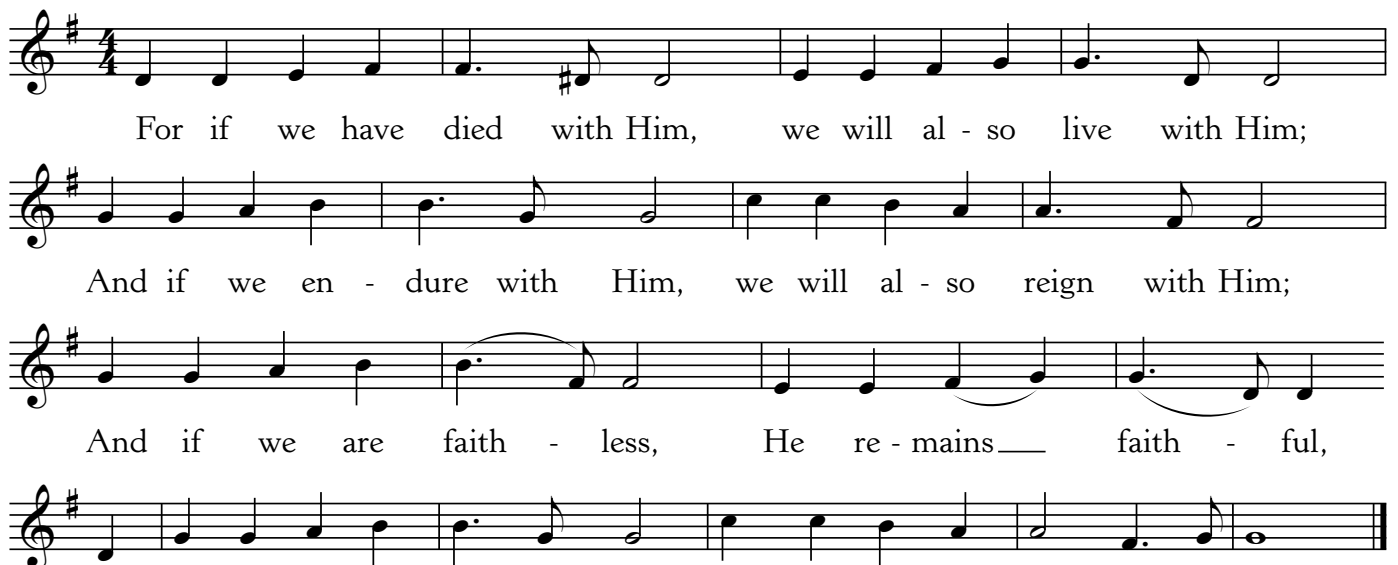
³Consider Him who endured from sinners such hostility against Himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. ⁴In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ⁵And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by Him. ⁶For the Lord disciplines the one He loves, and chastises every son whom He receives.”

⁷It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ⁹Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, that we may share His holiness. ¹¹For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—The Creed Of Timothy



For if we have died with Him, we will al - so live with Him;

And if we en - dure with Him, we will al - so reign with Him;

And if we are faith - less, He re - mains — faith - ful,

For He can - not de - ny Him - self. Praise to our Re - dee - mer! A - men.

Text: based on 2 Timothy 2:11-13, Nathan George, 2012; Music: Nathan George, 2012.

Sermon—*God’s Gift of Discipline*

—Assistant Pastor, Mike Fennema

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

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death (Proverbs 14:12). The soul who sins shall die (Ezekiel 18:20), for the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23).

All: **We have all sinned and fall short of the glory of God** (Romans 3:23).

Pastor: There is none righteous, not even one; there is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God (Romans 3:10-11).

All: **All of us have turned aside; together we have become useless** (Romans 3:12).

Pastor: And all those who hate God, love death (Proverbs 8:36).

All: **Lord, we believe. Help us in our unbelief** (Mark 9:24).

Assurance of Pardon—1 John 1:5-9; Luke 18:27

This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 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. This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **What is impossible with man is possible with God.**

Sung Response—Come, Ye Sinners, Poor And Needy, Vs. 3



Come, ye wear - y, — heav - y lad - en, lost and ru - ined by the fall;



If you tar - ry till you're bet - ter, you will nev - er — come at all.



I will a - rise and go to Je - sus, He will em - brace me — in His arms;



In the arms of my dear Sav - ior, O there are ten thou - sand charms.

Text: Joseph Hart, 1759; Music: RESTORATION (ARISE), William Walker's *The Southern Harmony*, 1835.

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 Bless-ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est, Ho 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.

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—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.

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Text: Psalm 27:11-14; Music: LOUISE, Robert M. Copland, 1972.

Congregational Hymn—He Leadeth Me



He lead - eth me: O bless - ed thought! O words with heav'n - ly— com - fort fraught!
Some - times 'mid scenes of deep - est gloom, some - times where E - den's bow - ers bloom,
Lord, I would clasp Thy hand in mine, nor ev - er mur - mur nor re - pine,
And when at last my race is run, the Sav - ior's work in— me is done,



What - e'er I do, wher - e'er I be still— 'tis God's hand that lead - eth me.
By wa - ters still, o'er trou - bled sea, still— 'tis God's hand that lead - eth me.
Con - tent, what - ev - er lot I see, since 'tis my God that lead - eth me.
E'en death's cold wave I will not flee, since God through Jor - dan lead - eth me.

Refrain



He lead - eth me, He lead - eth— me; by His own hand He— lead - eth me.



His faith - ful fol - l'wer I would be, for by His hand He lead - eth me.

Text: Joseph H. Gilmore, 1862; Music: HE LEADETH ME, William Bradbury, 1864.

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.

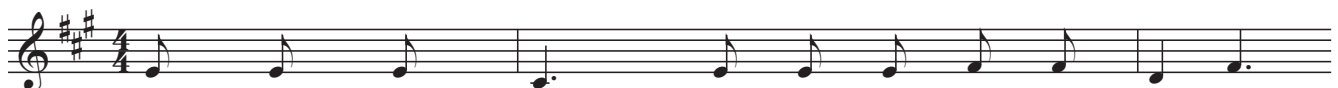
Give us this day our daily bread.

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—How Great Thou Art



O Lord my God, when I in awes - ome won - der
And when I think that God, His Son not spar - ing,
When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion



Con - si - der all the worlds Thy hands have made, I see the stars,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow



I hear the roll - ing thun - der, Thy power through - out the un - i - verse dis - played:
My bur - den glad - ly bear - ing, He bled and died to take a - way my sin:
In hum - ble ad - o - ra - tion, and there pro - claim, "My God, how great Thou art!"

Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to Thee: How great Thou art! How great Thou art!



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to Thee: How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

CCLI #2844402 Text: Stuart K. Hine, 1949; Music: O STORE GUD, Swedish Folk Melody, harm. Stuart K. Hine, 1949.

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. *Amen.*

Sung Response—Christ The Lord Is Risen Today, Vs. 3

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of four systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "Lives a - gain our glor - ious King, - Al - - - le - lu - ia! Where, O death, is now thy sting? Al - - - le - lu - ia! Once He died our souls to save, Al - - - le - lu - ia! Where thy vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - - - le - lu - ia!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1739; Music: EASTER HYMN, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708.

Announcements

Worship Notes:

Last week we celebrated the glorious victory our King has over death. Our King endured the hostility of sinners so that those sinners might be saved and become sons. This morning we are called to walk in the path our Savior has set before us. Jesus traveled through deep rivers of sorrow and so will we, but His grace all sufficient shall be our supply. He endured the cross and now He stands ready to save, full of pity, love, and power. He has run the race set before Him and now we run looking only unto Him. We have died with Him and now we will also live with Him. We will grow faint and weary and faithless, but He will remain faithful. He hears our broken-hearted cries and leads us to the higher rock. Sometimes there will be scenes of deepest gloom, but He leads us by His own hand. We live in the power of the resurrection and one day, Christ will come again, and we shall bow in humble adoration and proclaim, "My God how great Thou art!" —Emma Marsh

Key Words: Consider, Endured, Weary, Fainthearted, Blood, Sons, Discipline, Holiness, Righteousness

Keystone Verse: Consider Him who endured from sinners such hostility against Himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. (Hebrews 12:3)



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Michael Mastroberti (973-879-1368)	Mike Misericchi (594-3880)	Matt Morrison (482-5107)
Jason Parolini (497-3337)	Jonathan Thornton (703-801-1355)	

Elders Emeritus

Steve Nelson John Scherrer

Deacons

Aaron Anderson (973-1797)	Brandon Blair (575-430-6436)	Kevin Cowherd (967-5099)
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All Biblical quotes taken from the English Standard Version unless otherwise noted.