



SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Season of Easter

19 April 2020

The streets of hell are paved with good intentions. —Mark Twain

Before we can pray, “Thy Kingdom come,” we must be willing and able to pray, “My kingdom go.” —Alan Redpath

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 1 Timothy 3:15-16

The church of the living God is a pillar and buttress of the truth. Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness.

Introit—Jesus Shall Reign, Vs. 1

Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does his suc - ces - sive jour - neys run;
His king - dom stretch from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Jesus Shall Reign, Vs. 1'. 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 sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does his suc - ces - sive jour - neys run;' and 'His king - dom stretch from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.'

Text: Isaac Watts, 1719; Music: DUKE STREET, John Hatton, 1793.

Call to Worship—based on Psalm 145:2-4, 8-13

Pastor: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.

All: We will extol Him, our God and our King.

Reader 1: One generation shall commend Your works to another, O Lord, and shall declare Your mighty acts.

Reader 2: The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The Lord is good to all, and His mercy is over all that He has made.

All: We shall speak of the glory of Your Kingdom and tell of Your power.

Pastor: For Your kingdom is an everlasting Kingdom, and Your dominion endures throughout all generations.

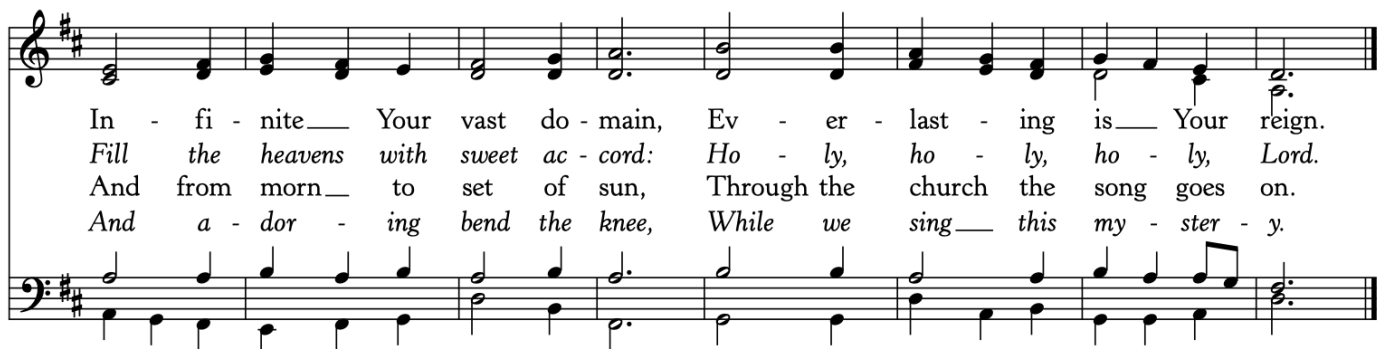
Hymn of Praise—Holy God, We Praise Your Name



Ho - ly God, we praise Your name; Lord of all, we bow be - fore You!
Hark! the loud ce - lest - ial hymn An - gel choirs a - bove are rais - ing,
Lo! the a - po - sto - lic train Join the sac - red name to hal - low;
Ho - ly Fath - er, Ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it, three we name You;



All on Earth Your scep - ter claim. All in Heaven a - bove a - dore You:
Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim, In un - ceas - ing chor - us prais - ing;
Pro - phets swell the loud re - frain, And the white - robed mar - tyrs fol - low;
While in es - sence onl - y One, Un - di - vid - ed God we claim You;



In - fi - nite Your vast do - main, Ev - er - last - ing is Your reign.
Fill the heavens with sweet ac - cord: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord.
And from morn - to set of sun, Through the church the song goes on.
And a - dor - ing bend the knee, While we sing this my - ster - y.

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

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 Lord Of Hosts, How Lovely (Psalm 84)



O Lord of Hosts, how love - ly Thy dwell - ing pla - ces are
Be - neath Thy care the spar-row shall find a place of rest
Blest they who dwell in Zi - on whose joy and strength Thou art



For them my heart is yearn - ing, though I have wan - dered far,
To keep her young in safe - ty the swal - low finds a nest
For - ev - er they will praise Thee, Thy ways are in their heart



My soul is near - ly faint - ing Thy sa - cred courts to see
Then, Lord, my King al - migh - ty, Thy love will shel - ter me
Though tired, their tears like show - ers shall fill the springs of peace



My heart and flesh are cry - ing O liv - ing God, to Thee.
Be - side Thy ho - ly al - tar my home shall ev - er_ be.
And all the way to Zi - on their strength shall be in - creased.

Text: *The Psalter*, 1912, Alt. Henry C. Haffner, 2016; Music: CHAPEL HILL, Henry C. Haffner, 2016.

Scripture Reading—1 Chronicles 29:10 -14, 19-20, 22

David blessed the Lord in the presence of all the assembly. And David said: “Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever. Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is Yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and You are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come from You, and You rule over all. In Your hand are power and might, and in Your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. And now we thank You, our God, and praise Your glorious name.

“But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to thus offer willingly? For all things come from You, and of Your own have we given You. Grant to Solomon my son a whole heart that we may keep Your commandments, Your testimonies, and Your statutes.” Then David said to all the assembly, “Bless the Lord your God.” And all the assembly blessed the Lord, the God of their fathers, and bowed their heads and paid homage to the Lord... on that day with great gladness.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

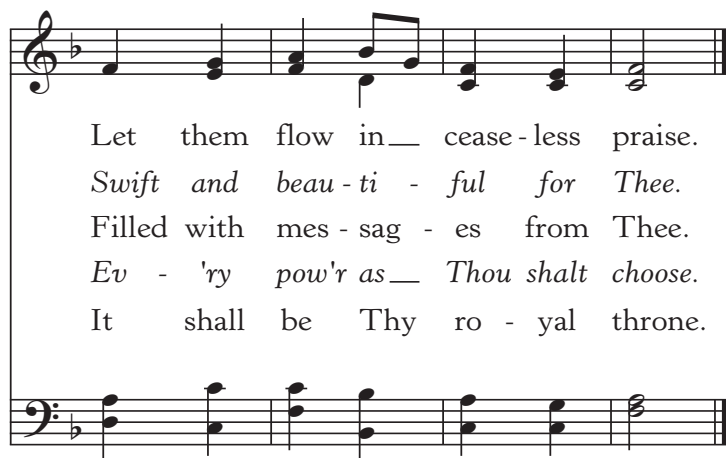
Hymn of Praise—Take My Life And Let It Be



Take my life, — and let it be con - se - crat - ed, — Lord, to — Thee.
Take my hands, and let them move at the im - pulse of Thy love.
Take my voice, and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, — for my King.
Take my sil - ver and my gold; not a mite would I with - hold.
Take my will, — and make it Thine; it shall be — no — long - er — mine.



Take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less — praise,
Take my feet, and — let them be — swift and beau - ti - ful — for — Thee, —
Take my lips, and — let them be — filled with mes - sag - es — from Thee,
Take my in - tel - lect and use — ev - 'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose,
Take my heart, it — is Thine own; it shall be Thy ro - yal — throne,



Let them flow in — cease - less praise.
Swift and beau - ti - ful for Thee.
Filled with mes - sag - es from Thee.
Ev - 'ry pow'r as — Thou shalt choose.
It shall be Thy ro - yal throne.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1874; Music: HENDON, Henri A. C. Malan, 1827;
Harm. Lowell Mason, 1841.

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 Ephesians 2:1-5

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. We come confessing because we are sinners, every one of us, without exception.

All: **We all were dead in the trespasses and sins in which we once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air.**

Pastor: The spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience, was once at work among us.

All: **We all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.**

Pastor: But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ.

All: **In Him we have forgiveness. By grace we have been saved.**

Assurance of Pardon—Titus 2:11-14; Luke 18:27

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, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works.

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—If Thou But Suffer God To Guide Thee, Vs. 3



Sing, pray, and keep His ways un - swerv-ing, per-form thy du - ties faith-ful - ly,



And trust His Word: though un - de - serv-ing, thou yet shalt find it true for thee.



God nev - er yet for - sook in need the soul that trust - ed Him in - deed.

Text: Georg Neumark, 1641, Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863;
Music: NEUMARK, Georg Neumark, 1657.

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! Lord God Al-might-y! Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to Thee;

Ho-ly, ho-ly ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y! God in three per-sons, bless-ed Trin - i - ty!

Text: Reginald Heber, 1826; Music: NICAEA, John B. Dykes, 1861.

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—Rise Up, O Men Of God!

Rise up, O Men of God! Have done— with less - er things;
Rise up, O Men of God! His king - dom tar - ries long;
Rise up, O sons of God! The church for you doth wait,
Lift high the cross of Christ! Tread where— His feet have trod;

Give heart and mind and soul and strength to serve the King of kings.
Bring in the— day of broth - er - hood and end— the night of wrong.
Her strength un - e - qual to her task, rise up, — and make her great!
As foll' - wers of the Son of Man, rise up, — O church of God!

Text: William P. Merrill, 1911; Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1872.

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 Ephesians 4:15-16

Therefore beloved, having received the good gifts of the Lord, speak the truth in love and grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body is now joined and held together. Grace, peace, and joy. *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 bass 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

*How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!
My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord;
My heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.*

*Even the sparrow finds a home,
And the swallow a nest for herself,
Where she may lay her young,
At your altars, O Lord of hosts,
My King and my God.
Blessed are those who dwell in your house,
Ever singing your praise!*

*Blessed are those whose strength is in you,
In whose heart are the highways to Zion.
As they go through the Valley of Baca
They make it a place of springs;
The early rain also covers it with pools.
They go from strength to strength;
Each one appears before God in Zion.
O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;
Give ear, O God of Jacob!*

*Behold our shield, O God;
Look on the face of your anointed!
For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
Than dwell in the tents of wickedness.
For the Lord God is a sun and shield;
The Lord bestows favor and honor.
No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.
O Lord of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in you!*

—Psalm 84

Worship Notes:

In today's sermon text from Romans 12, Paul lays out some ways that the hope that we have in the Gospel works its way into our daily lives. In light of "the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God" which we read about last week, we are to "present our bodies as a living sacrifice" and "be transformed by the renewal of our minds" (Romans 12:1-2). We respond to this call to live the Christian life with hymns such as *Take My Life, And Let It Be* and *Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed*. We declare that our lives will be "consecrated" to our Lord, and that we will "give ourselves away" to Him. After being assured from Titus 2 that God's grace is training us to renounce ungodliness and to be self-controlled, we encourage one another with a verse from *If Thou But Suffer God To Guide Thee*: "keep His ways unswerving, perform thy duties faithfully." The final hymn this morning, *Rise Up, O Men Of God*, sends us out with a charge to "give heart and mind and soul and strength to serve the King of kings." I pray that these hymns would encourage each of us to use our gifts in service of the one who gave Himself for our redemption.

—Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Therefore, Mercies, Sacrifice, Conformed, Transformed, Body, Gifts
Keystone Verse: Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.
(Romans 12:2)



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