



PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Season of Epiphany

19 February 2023

Unless a man becomes the enemy of an evil, he will not even become its slave, but rather its champion.

—G.K. Chesterton

There are but two ways: a way of life and a way of death. —*Didache*, c. 120 AD

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 6:35

Jesus said, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst.”

Sung Response—Rejoice, The Lord Is King, Vs. 1

Re - joi - ce, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King a - dore!

Re - joi - ce, give thanks and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more;

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Re - joi - ce, a - gain I say, re - joi - ce!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1746; Music: DARWALL, John Darwall, 1770.

Call to Worship—from Psalm 16:5-6, 8-9, 11

Pastor: The Lord is our chosen portion and our cup; You hold our lot.

All: **The lines have fallen for us in pleasant places; we have a beautiful inheritance.**

Reader 1: I have set the Lord always before me; because He is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

Reader 2: Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh dwells secure.

All: **You make known to us the path of life.**

Pastor: In Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Congregational Hymn—At The Lamb's High Feast We Sing

At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to our vic-to - rious King,
Where the pas - chal blood is poured, death's dark an - gel sheathes his sword;
Migh - ty vic - tim from the sky, Hell's fierce pow'rs be-neath Thee lie;

Who hath washed us in the tide flow - ing from His pierc - ed side;
Is - rael's hosts tri - um-phant go through the wave that drowns the foe.
Thou hast con - quered in the fight, Thou hast brought us life and light;

Praise we Him, whose love di - vine gives His sa - cred blood for wine,
Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, pas - chal vic - tim, pas - chal bread;
Now no more can death ap - pall, now no more the grave en - thrall;

Gives His bod - y for the feast, Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest.
With sin - cer - i - ty and love eat we man - na from a - bove.
Thou hast op - ened par - a - dise, and in Thee Thy saints shall rise.

Text: Latin Hymn, 6th century., tr. Robert Campbell, 1849;
Music: ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR, George J. Elvery, 1859.

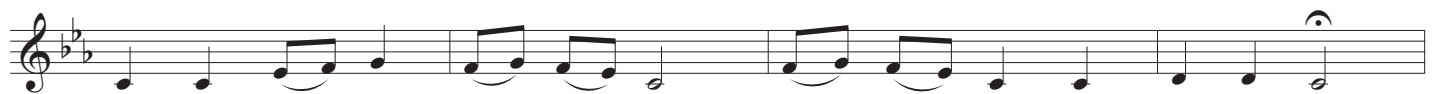
GOD SPEAKS TO HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

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—Hear Me, All You People (Psalm 49)



Hear me, all_ you peo - ple hear, folk of_ all the earth, give ear;
When with wick - ed - ness_ my foes shall sur - round me and op - pose,
If from death one would be_ free and cor - rup - tion ne - ver see,



All of high and low de - gree, rich and poor, give heed to me
Should I then to fear give way when I_ see the e - vil day?
Cost - ly is_ life's ran - som price, far_ be - yond all sac - ri - fice.



Truth with all my heart I_ seek, and_ my mouth shall wis - dom speak;
They that trust in trea - sured gold, though they boast of wealth un - told,
If men be not tru - ly_ wise, they_ are like the beast that dies,



Lis - ten how with mu - sic's strain I_ make hid - den wis - dom plain.
None can bid_ his bro - ther live; none to_ God a ran - som give.
Death their shep - herd, they the sheep; He_ with - in his fold will keep.



If men be not tru - ly_ wise, they are_ like the beast that dies,



But my Lord my soul shall save; God will raise me from the grave.

Text: *The Psalter*, 1912, alt. Henry C. Haffner, 2019;
Music: ROSE HILL, Henry C. Haffner, 2019.

Scripture Reading—2 Timothy 1:8-10, 14

Do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord. He has saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of His own purpose and grace, which He gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel. By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Congregational Hymn—Christ Jesus Lay In Death's Strong Bands



Christ Je - sus lay in death's strong bands, for our of - fens - es_ giv - en;
It was a strange and dread - ful strife when life and death con - tend - ed;
So let us keep the fes - ti - val to which the Lord in - vites us;



But now at God's right hand He stands and brings us life from Heav - en:
The vic - tor - y re - mained with life: the reign of death was_ end - ed.
Christ is Him - self the joy of all, the sun that warms and lights us.



There - fore let us joy - ful be and sing God's prais - es thank - ful - ly
Stripped of pow'r, no more it reigns, an emp - ty form a - lone re - mains;
Now His grace to us im - parts e - ter - nal sun - shine to our hearts;



With songs of al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
Death's sting is lost for - ev - er! Al - le - lu - ia!
The night of sin is end - ed. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Martin Luther, 1524, tr. Richard Massie 1858; Music: CHRIST LAG IN TODESBANDEN, Medieval melody,
arr. Johann Walther, 1524.

Baptism of Mercy Nohrenberg, daughter of Scott and Jenna Nohrenberg

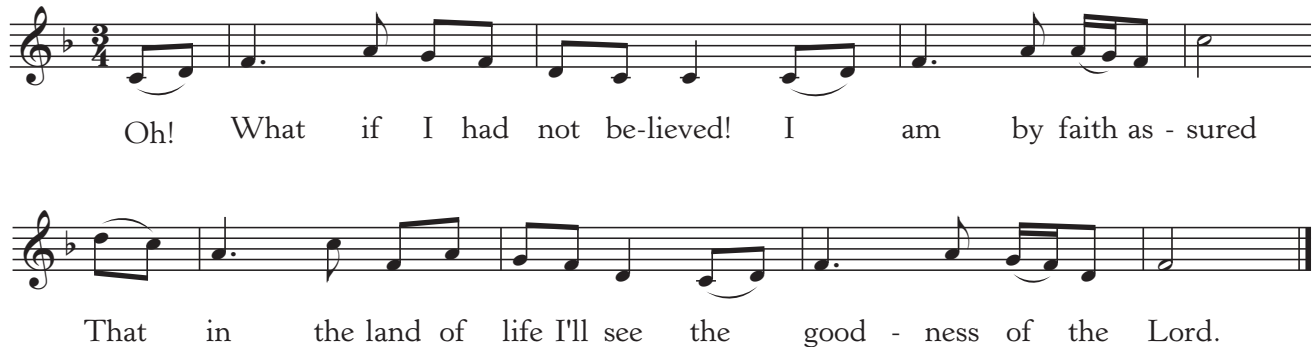
Reading of the Word—from Exodus 20:1-17

God spoke all these words, saying, “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image... You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain... Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy... Honor your father and your mother... You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—O Lord, Teach Me To Follow You (Psalm 27), Vs. 3



Oh! What if I had not be-lieved! I am by faith as - sured

That in the land of life I'll see the good - ness of the Lord.

Text: Psalm 27:13, *The Book of Psalms for Worship*, Copyright © 2010 Crown and Covenant Publications;
Music: LOUISE, Robert M. Copland, 1972.

Sermon—*The Gospel of Life*

—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 Isaiah 55:8; Exodus 20:1-17

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. We acknowledge that our thoughts are not Your thoughts, neither are our ways Your ways. You spoke all these words, saying, “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

All: “You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.”

Pastor: Your law pierces our heart. Lord, have mercy.

All: “Honor your father and your mother. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. “

Pastor: Your law pierces our heart and drives us to Christ. Lord, have mercy.

All: **“You shall not bear false witness. You shall not covet.”**

Pastor: Your law pierces our heart and drives us to Christ. Lord, have mercy upon us, for we are foolish, poor, and rebellious sinners in need of Your grace, Your favor, and Your love.

(Silent Prayers of Confession)

Sung Response—Kyrie

WOMEN
Lord have mer - cy — Christ have mer - cy —

MEN
Lord have mer - cy — Christ have mer - cy —

— Lord have mer - cy — Up - on us.
Lord have mer - cy — Up - on us.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It features two parts: Women (treble clef) and Men (bass clef). The lyrics are: "Lord have mer - cy — Christ have mer - cy —" for both parts. The second system continues with "— Lord have mer - cy — Up - on us." for both parts.

Text: Traditional; Music: Nathan George & Henry C. Haffner, 2012.

Assurance of Pardon—based on John 10:10; John 3:16; Matthew 28:19-20

The thief does not come except to kill, and to steal, and to destroy, but Jesus has come that we may have life, and that we may have it more abundantly. For God so loved the world, that He sent His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

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—Fivefold Amen

A - men, a - men. A - men, a - men, a - men.

The musical score is written in 6/8 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It features a single melodic line with lyrics: "A - men, a - men. A - men, a - men, a - men."

Text: Traditional; Music: Traditional African-American Spiritual, arr. Nelsie T. Johnson, 1988.

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—My God, My God, Come Hear My Plea (Psalm 22)



My God, My God, come hear my plea; O why have You for - sa - ken me?
On You, On You I learned to rest when I was on my mo - ther's breast;
My foes, My foes would do me wrong, for they sur - round me fierce and strong,
My bones, my bones they have laid bare, the gar - ments torn from me they share

You're far from me in my dis - tress; both day and night I find no rest.
From birth You were my God a - lone, Your care my life has ev - er known.
Like beasts of prey they mock and rail, my strength is spent, my cour - age fails.
My shame and sor - row count - ing not, and for my robe they cast their lots.

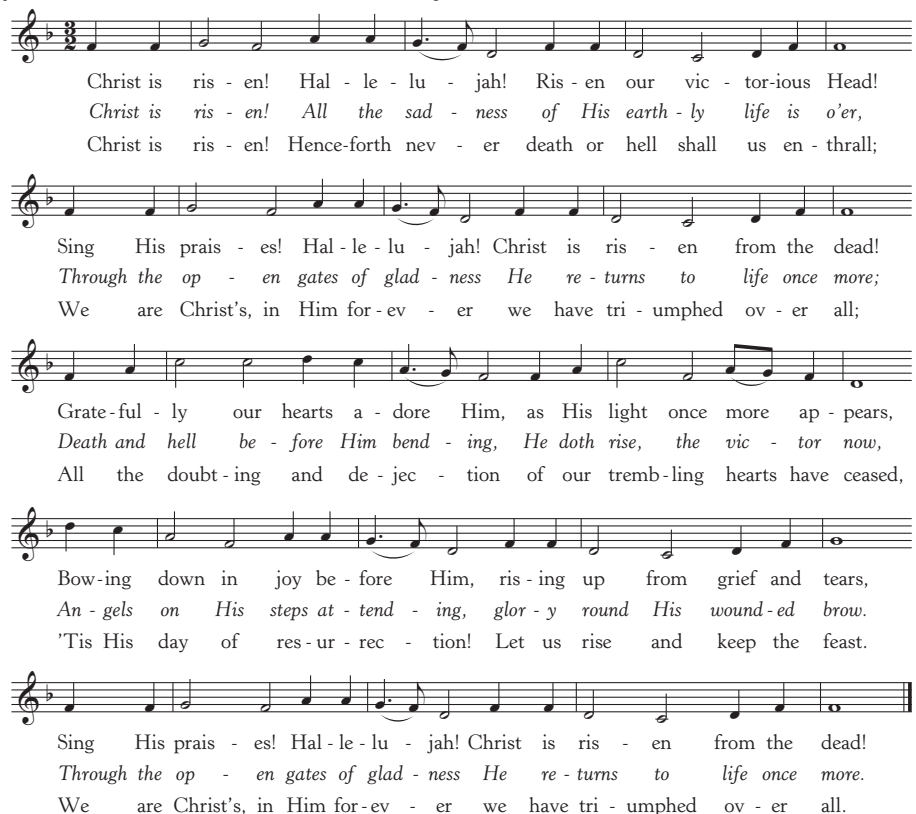
Our fa - thers trust - ed in Your name, were saved, and were not put to shame;
O let Your strength and pre - sence cheer, for trou - ble and des - pair are near;
Near death You have a - ban - doned me, con - sumed by thirst and a - go - ny,
O Lord, a - far no long - er stay; O Lord, my help, make haste, I pray;

But in the dust my hon - or lies, while all re - proach and all des - pise.
O be not far a - way from me, no oth - er source of help I see.
With cru - el hate and an - ger fierce, my help - less hands and feet they pierce.
From death and e - vil set me free; I live, for You have an - swered me.

Text: from Psalm 22:1-21, *The Psalter*, 1912, alt. Henry C. Haffner, 2019;

Music: DONELSON, Henry C. Haffner, 2019.

Congregational Hymn—Christ Is Risen! Hallelujah!



Christ is ris - en! Hal - le - lu - jah! Ris - en our vic - tor - ious Head!
Christ is ris - en! All the sad - ness of His earth - ly life is o'er,
Christ is ris - en! Hence - forth nev - er death or hell shall us en - thrall;

Sing His prais - es! Hal - le - lu - jah! Christ is ris - en from the dead!
Through the op - en gates of glad - ness He re - turns to life once more;
We are Christ's, in Him for - ev - er we have tri - umphed ov - er all;

Grate - ful - ly our hearts a - dore Him, as His light once more ap - pears,
Death and hell be - fore Him bend - ing, He doth rise, the vic - tor now,
All the doubt - ing and de - jec - tion of our tremb - ling hearts have ceased,

Bow - ing down in joy be - fore Him, ris - ing up from grief and tears,
An - gels on His steps at - tend - ing, glor - y round His wound - ed brow.
'Tis His day of res - ur - rec - tion! Let us rise and keep the feast.

Sing His prais - es! Hal - le - lu - jah! Christ is ris - en from the dead!
Through the op - en gates of glad - ness He re - turns to life once more.
We are Christ's, in Him for - ev - er we have tri - umphed ov - er all.

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.

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—Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Guide me, O Thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this bar - ren land.
O - pen now the cry - stal foun-tain, whence the heal - ing stream doth flow;
When I tread the verge of Jor-dan, bid my an - xious fears sub - side;

I am weak, but Thou art might - y; hold me with Thy power - ful hand.
Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me all my jour - ney through.
Death of deaths, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me safe on Can - aan's side.

Bread of Heav - en, Bread of Heav - en, feed me till I want no
Strong De - liv - 'rer, strong De - liv - 'rer, be Thou still my Strength and
Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es, I will ev - er give to

More; (*want no more*) feed me till I want no more.
Shield; (*Strength and Shield*) be Thou still my Strength and Shield.
Thee; (*give to Thee*) I will ev - er give to Thee.

Text: William Williams, 1745; Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1907.

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 Psalm 133:3

Go forth with His promise: “The Lord has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.” *Amen.*

Sung Response—Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above ye heav'nly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1709; Music: OLD 100TH, Louis Bourgeois's *Genevan Psalter*, 1551.

Announcements

Worship Notes:

Q. What is required in the sixth commandment?

A. The sixth commandment requireth all lawful endeavours to preserve our own life, and the life of others.

—Westminster Shorter Catechism, Question 68

The service this morning focuses on the contrast between life and death. We are invited into worship with John 6:35, in which Jesus proclaims, “I am the bread of life,” and Psalm 16, in which we declare to the Lord, “You make known to us the path of life.” We sing from Psalms 22, 27, and 49, asking to be set free from “death and evil,” being assured that we’ll see God’s goodness “in the land of life,” and taking comfort that “God will raise me from the grave.” Many of the hymns we sing are associated with the Easter season, looking to Christ’s ultimate victory over death. *At The Lamb’s High Feast We Sing, Christ Jesus Lay In Death’s Strong Bands, and Christ Is Risen! Hallelujah* celebrate the Savior who “brought us life and light,” ensured that “the reign of death was ended,” and rose so that “henceforth never death or hell shall us enthrall.” Having contemplated the implications of the sixth commandment, the duty to preserve life and the prohibition of “whatsoever tendeth” to the taking away of life unjustly, we can go out with the hope presented in the hymn *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*: “When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside; death of deaths, and hell’s destruction, land me safe on Canaan’s side.” —Henry C. Haffner

Keystone Verse: You shall not murder. (Exodus 20:13)



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Mike Misericocchi (594-3880)

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Jason Parolini (497-3337)

John Scherrer (on sabbatical)

Jonathan Thornton (703-801-1355)

Elders Emeritus

Phil Hutcheson Steve Nelson

Deacons

Aaron Anderson (973-1797)

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.