



PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Ordinary Time

23 July 2023

Let us not be carried about by every wind of doctrine; and in the present reeling of opinions, let us remember that it is Thy Word alone which shall never pass away. We must not forget that though doubted, decried, and disowned, the Bible is the Word of God with power to recall a lost world from its state of exile and degeneracy and to dethrone sin from its ascendancy. —Thomas Chalmers

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—2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Sung Response—Come, Thou Fount Of Every Blessing, Vs. 1

Come, Thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace;

Streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.

Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove;

Praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1758; Music: NETTLETON, Asahel Nettleton, 1825.

Call to Worship—from Psalm 25:1-2, 9-10

Pastor: To you, O Lord, we lift up our souls.

All: **O our God, in You do we trust; let us not be put to shame.**

Reader 1: Make us to know Your ways, O Lord; teach us Your paths.

Reader 2: Lead us in Your truth and teach us, for you are the God of our salvation; for you do we wait all the day long.

All: **He leads the humble in what is right and teaches the humble His way.**

Pastor: All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness for those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.

Congregational Psalm—From Heav'n O Praise The Lord (Psalm 148)

From Heav'n O praise the Lord! Ye heights His glo - ry raise.
 Yea, let them glo - rious make Je - ho - vah's match - less name;
 From Earth O praise the Lord, ye deeps and all be - low;
 Let all the peo - ple praise and kings of ev - ery land,
 Je - ho - vah's name be praised a - bove the Earth and sky.

All an - gels praise ac - cord; let all His hosts give praise.
 For when the word He spake, they in - to be - ing came.
 Wild winds that do His word, ye clouds, fire, hail, and snow;
 Let all their voic - es raise who judge and who com - mand
 For He His saints has raised and set their pow'r on high.

Praise Him on high, sun, moon, and star,
 And from that place, where fixed they be,
 Ye moun - tains high, ye ce - dars tall,
 By young and old by maid and youth,
 Him praise ac - cord, O Is - rael's race,

Sun, moon and star, ye heav'ns a - far, and cloud - y sky.
 Where fixed they be by His de - cree they can - not pass.
 Ye ce - dars tall, beasts great and small and birds that fly.
 By maid and youth His name in truth should be ex - tolled.
 O Is - rael's race, near to His grace praise ye the Lord!

Text: Psalm 148:1-14, *The Book of Psalms for Singing*, Copyright © 1973 Crown and Covenant Publications;
 Music: ST. CATHERINES, Horatio R. Palmer, 19th century.

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—O Lord Most High (Psalm 9)



O Lord most high, with all my heart, Your great works I will pro - claim;
The Lord, the ev - er - last - ing King, seat - ed on His judg - ment throne;
Je - ho - vah will a re - fuge prove, re - fuge strong for all op - pressed,
All they, O Lord, that know Your name, place their trust in the Word of truth,



I will be glad and give You thanks and sing the prais - es of Your name.
The right - eous judge of all the world will make His per - fect jus - tice known.
A safe de - fense, where wear - y souls in troub - led times may sure - ly rest.
For You have ne - ver turned a - way from those who tru - ly seek for You.



Hope of the poor, to You we cry! A - rise, O Lord, de - fend the weak!



Sing Praise to the Lord en - throned on High! De - clare to all His might - y deeds!

Text: from Psalm 9:1-2, 7-11, 18-19, *The Psalter*, 1912; Music: Nathan George, 2013.

Scripture Reading—Deuteronomy 8:11-13, 17-18

Take care lest you forget the Lord your God by not keeping His commandments and His rules and His statutes, which I command you today, lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the Lord your God. . . . Beware lest you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.’ You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may confirm His covenant that He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Congregational Hymn—Teach Me, O Lord, Your Way Of Truth (Psalm 119)

The image shows a musical score for a congregational hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines. The first system ends with a 'G' time signature change. The second system ends with a double bar line.

Teach me, O Lord, Your way of truth, and from it I will not de - part;
In Your com - mand - ments make me walk, for in Your law my joy shall be;
Turn now my eyes from van - i - ty, and cause me in Your ways to tread;
Lord, turn a - way re - proach and fear; Your righ - teous judg - ments I con - fess;

That I may stead - fast - ly o - bey, give me an un - der - stand - ing heart.
Give me a heart that loves Your will, from dis - con - tent and en - vy free.
O let Your ser - vant prove Your word and thus to god - ly fear be led.
To know Your pre - cepts I de - sire; re - vive me in Your righ - teous - ness.

Text: Psalm 119:33-40, *The Psalter*, 1912; Music: TALLIS' CANON, Thomas Tallis, 1560.

Reading of the Word—2 Timothy 2:14-26

¹⁴Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers. ¹⁵Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. ¹⁶But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, ¹⁷and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus,¹⁸ who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some. ¹⁹But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity."

²⁰Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable.²¹ Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.

²²So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. ²³Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. ²⁴And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, ²⁵correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, ²⁶and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—How Firm A Foundation, Vs. 1

How firm a foun - da - tion, you saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His ex - cel - lent Word!
What more can He say than to you He has said,
To you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?

The musical score is written in 2/2 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are placed between the vocal and piano staves. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Text: "K" in Rippon's *Selection of Hymns*, 1787; Music: FOUNDATION, Traditional American Melody.

Sermon—*Rightly Handling the Word*

—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 Psalm 119:9-12

Pastor: Lord, we do now come confessing our sin. How can we keep our way pure?

All: **By guarding it according to Your Word.**

Pastor: But we have not sought You whole-heartedly.

All: **We have wandered from Your commandments!**

Pastor: May we store up Your Word in our hearts, that we might not sin against You.

All: **Blessed are you, O Lord; teach us Your statutes!**

Assurance of Pardon—from Psalm 25:8, 11-13; Romans 1:16-17

Good and upright is the Lord; therefore He instructs sinners in the way. For Your name's sake, O Lord, pardon our guilt, for it is great. Who is the man who fears the Lord? Him will He instruct in the way that he should choose. His soul shall abide in well-being.

Pastor: This is the promise of God.

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

Pastor: Therefore, I am not ashamed of the Gospel.

All: **It is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.**

Pastor: For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

Sung Response—O Lord, Teach Me To Follow You (Psalm 27), Vs. 1



O — Lord, teach me to fol - low You, in - struct me in Your way,



And lead me on a le - vel path be - cause of foes, I pray!

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

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:

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—Light Of The Anxious Heart



Light of the anx - ious heart, Je - sus, Thou dost ap - pear,
Joy - ous is he with whom, God's Word, Thou dost a - bide,
Bright-ness of God a - bove, un - fath - om - a - ble grace,



To bid the gloom of guilt de - part, and shed Thy sweet-ness here.
Sweet light of our e - ter - nal home, to flesh - ly sense de - nied.
Thy pres - ence be a fount of love with - in Thy cho - sen place.

Text: Bernard of Clairvaux, 12th century. tr. John Henry Newman, 1836;
Music: SELMA, Robert Archibald Smith, 1825.

Congregational Hymn—Trust and Obey



When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word, what a glo - ry He sheds on our way!
Not a bur - den we bear, not a sor - row we share, but our toil He doth rich - ly re - pay;
But we nev - er can prove the de - lights of His love un - til all on the al - tar we lay;
Then in fel - low-ship sweet we will sit at His feet, or we'll walk by His side in the way;



While we do His good will, He a - bides with us still, and with all who will trust and o - bey.
Not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross, but is blest if we trust and o - bey.
For the fa - vor He shows, for the joy He be - stows, are for them who will trust and o - bey.
What He says we will do, where He sends we will go; nev - er fear, on - ly trust and o - bey.



Trust and o - bey, for there's no oth - er way to be hap - py in Je - sus, but to trust and o - bey.

Text: John H. Sammis, 1887; Music: TRUST AND OBEY, Daniel B. Towner, 1887.

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—The Church's One Foundation

The Church - 's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord:
E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the Earth,
The church shall nev - er per - ish! Her dear Lord, to de - fend,
Though with a scorn - ful won - der men see her sore op - pressed,

She is His new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the Word;
Her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:
To guide, sus - tain, and cher - ish, is with her to the end;
by schi - sms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,

From Heav'n He came and sought her to be His ho - ly bride;
One ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
Tho' there be those that hate her and false sons in her pale,
Yet saints their watch are keep - ing, their cry goes up, "How long?"

With His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died.
And to one hope she press - es, with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
A - gainst the foe or trai - tor she ev - er shall pre - vail.
And soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1866; Music: AURELIA, Samuel J. Wesley, 1864.

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—Isaiah 9:2

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.” Go forth therefore in the light of His Word. *Amen.*

Sung Response—Come, Thou Fount Of Every Blessing, Vs. 3

O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be;

Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-d'ring heart to Thee.

Prone to wan-der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1758; Music: NETTLETON, Asahel Nettleton, 1825.

Announcements

Worship Notes:

This morning's sermon text once again finds the Apostle Paul dispensing fatherly wisdom to Timothy. He warns the young pastor not to become embroiled in foolish controversies (vss. 16-17, 23), but instead to ground himself in God's Word (vs. 15). If he were dispensing his advice in the present day, I can imagine him using some of the language in this morning's hymns and psalms. He might point out that all who truly know the name of the Lord "place their trust in the Word of truth." He could observe that those "with whom God's Word abides" are joyous, and that "when we walk with the Lord, in the light of His Word" our way is filled with glory and fellowship. He might urge us to turn to the Scriptures in times of confusion or concern, praying from the psalms, "Teach me, O Lord, Thy way of truth" and "O Lord, teach me to follow You." He might encourage us that a firm foundation has been laid for our faith "in His excellent Word." Perhaps he might even comfort us with the hope that, though the church might be torn by schism and distressed by heresies, Christ has made us a new creation "by water and the Word." —Henry C. Haffner

Key words: Remind, Words, Handling, Foundation, Ignorant, Teach, Knowledge, Truth
Keystone verse: Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)



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Elders Emeritus

Phil Hutcheson Steve Nelson

Deacons

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