



PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Kingdomtide
12 November 2023

There is no broader way to apostasy than to reject God's sovereignty in all things concerning the revelation of Himself and our obedience. —John Owen

The mature Christian has been finely shaped by the Holy Spirit and has been “filled out” in a character which showed the fruit of the Spirit. Mature Christians possess the qualities which only Jesus Christ can produce, because He alone has exhibited them perfectly. This is maturity. —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—Colossians 1:13-14

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

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

The musical score is written for voice and piano in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: '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!' The score ends with a double bar line.

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

Call to Worship—Psalm 66:1-4, 8-10

Pastor: Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!

All: All the earth worships You and sings praises to You; they sing praises to Your name.

Reader 1: How awesome are Your deeds! So great is Your power that Your enemies come cringing to You.

Reader 2: For You, O God, have tested us; You have tried us as silver is tried.

All: Come and see what God has done: He is awesome in His deeds toward the children of man.

Pastor: Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of His praise be heard, who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.

Congregational Hymn—Come, Thou Fount Of Every Blessing

Come, Thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer; hith - er by Thy help I'm come;
O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be;

Streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
And I hope, by Thy good pleas - ure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - d'ring heart to Thee.

Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove;
Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger, wan - d'ring from the fold of God:
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

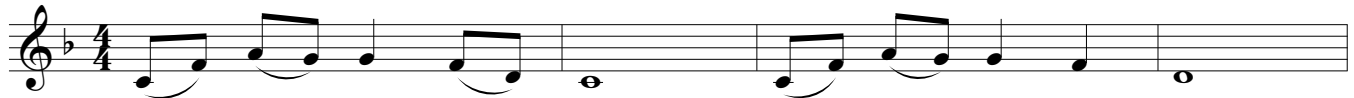
Praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love.
He, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed His pre - cious blood.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts a - bove.

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

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—I Will Lift My Voice (Psalm 101)



I will lift my voice. I will ever sing,
I will raise my song for that glorious day!
By Your mighty hand I will turn my eyes
I will look to see, all the faithful souls



For Your steadfast love a bounds, O my Lord and King!
Lord if You should tarry long, I will ever wait.
From these fading shadow lands to eternal light.
Ever walk in unity, pressing toward the goal.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



I will ever sing, O my Lord and King.
For that glorious day I will ever wait.
I will turn my eyes to eternal light.
All the faithful souls pressing toward the goal.

Text and Music: Nathan George, 2014.

Scripture Reading—Philippians 3:7-17

But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and may share His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me His own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. Only let us hold true to what we have attained. Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.

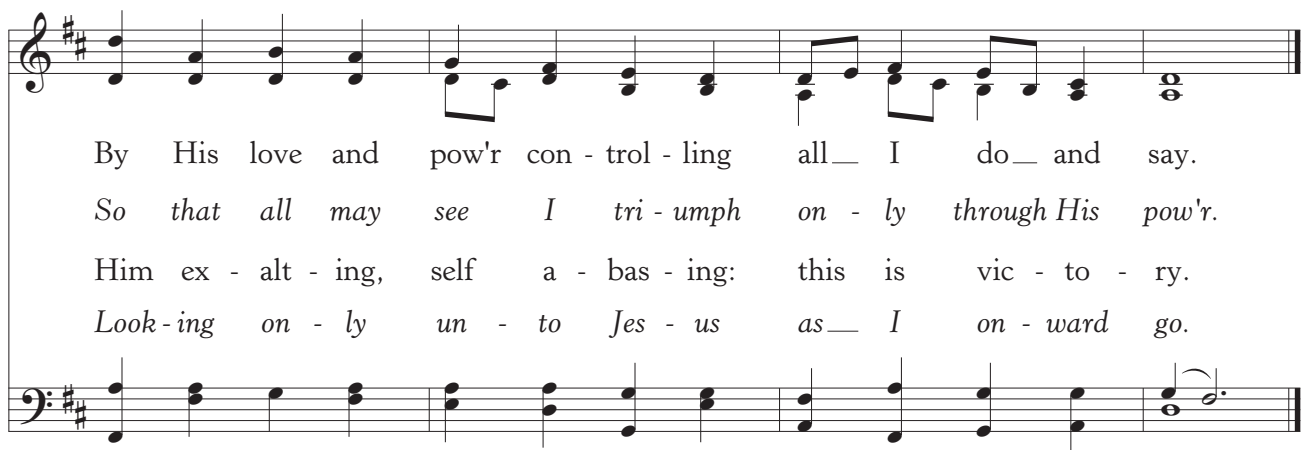
Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

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 Je - sus as I on - ward go.

Reading of the Word—Hebrews 6:1-12

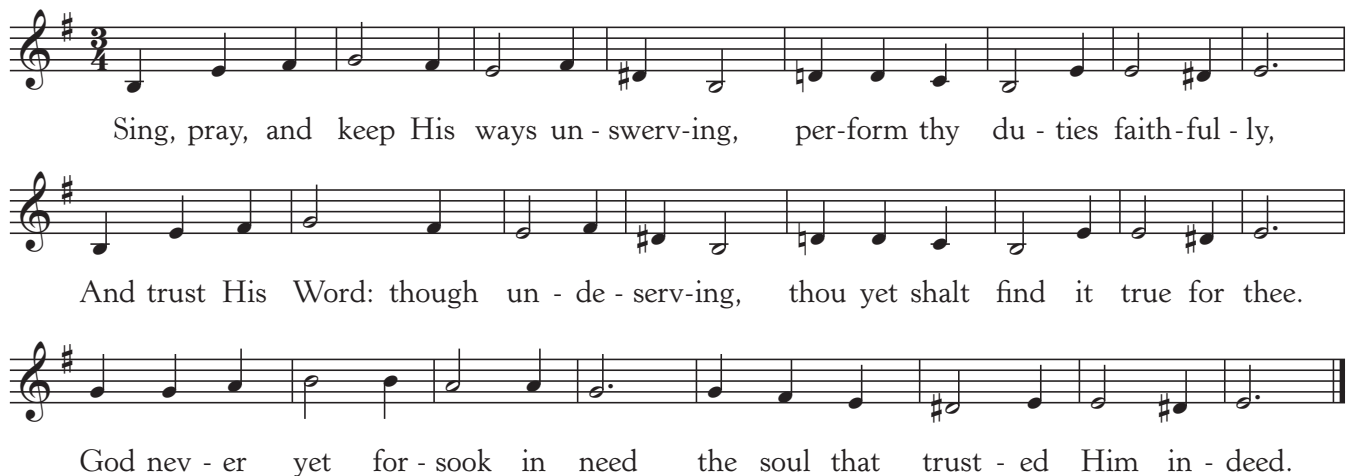
Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,² and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.³ And this we will do if God permits.⁴ For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit,⁵ and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come,⁶ and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding Him up to contempt.⁷ For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God.⁸ But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned.

⁹Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things—things that belong to salvation.¹⁰ For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for His name in serving the saints, as you still do.¹¹ And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end,¹² so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to 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.

Sermon—*Press on to Maturity in Christ*

—Associate Pastor, Brian Phillips

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 130:1-4, 7-8

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. Out of the depths we cry to You, O Lord! Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of our pleas for mercy!

All: If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, who could stand?

Pastor: But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared.

All: For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with Him is plentiful redemption.

Pastor: O Israel, hope in the Lord!

All: For He will redeem Israel from all our iniquities.

Assurance of Pardon—Titus 3:4-7; Titus 2:11-14

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

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—Fret Not Yourself (Psalm 37), Vs. 3



Be still be - fore the Lord and wait; de - light in His com - mands. —



And He shall keep your path-way straight, up - hold you with His hand.



A strong - hold sure in trou-bled days, the Lord His peo - ple saves.

Text: paraphrase of Psalm 37, Elizabeth Dowdell, 2020;
Music: GRAYMERE, Henry C. Haffner and Elizabeth Dowdell, 2020.

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—The Wicked Man Fears Not The Lord (Psalm 36)



The wick - ed man fears not the Lord, But trusts in his own way.
But Your a - bun - dant love ex - tends To heav - en, Lord most high.
Let not Your stead - fast love de - part, Nor let us fall to — pride,

Vs. 1 & 2, then Chorus



In his in - i - qui - ty as - sured He — sins both night and day.
In just - ice You pre - serve the men And beasts who to You cry.
But help us be up - right of heart, And Your name glor - i - fy.

Chorus



Un - der the sha - dow of Your wings Is a ri - ver of de - light.



In You, — we true a - bun - dance find, And in Your light, see light.

Text: based on Psalm 36, Elizabeth Dowdell, 2018; Music: FLAT CREEK, Henry C. Haffner, 2019.

Congregational Hymn—O Love That Will Not Let Me Go



O Love that will not let — me — go, I rest my wea - ry soul in Thee.
O Light that fol - lows all — my — way, I yield my flick' - ring torch to Thee.
O Joy that seek - est me — through pain, I can - not close my heart to Thee.
O Cross that lift - est up — my — head, I dare not ask to fly from thee.



I give Thee back the life — I — owe, that in Thine oce - an depths its flow
My heart re - stores its bor - rowed ray, that in Thy sun - shine's blaze its day
I trace the rain - bow through the — rain, and feel the pro - mise is not vain,
I lay in dust, life's glo - ry — dead, and from the ground there blos - soms red,



May rich - er, ful - ler — be.
May bright - er, fair - er — be.
That morn shall tear - less be.
Life that shall end - less — be.

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—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 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—Jude 1:24-25

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. *Amen.*

Sung Response—Gloria Patri

The musical score for the Gloria Patri is written in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. 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 - end - - men." The score includes various musical notations such as treble and bass clefs, time signatures, and dynamic markings.

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 - end - - men.

Text: Lesser Doxology, 2nd century;
Music: Nathan George, 2015, harm. Henry C. Haffner, 2015.

Announcements

Worship Notes:

Faced with a stern warning against apostasy in the sermon text from Hebrews 6, the elements in this morning's service were chosen to highlight our own natural tendency to "fall away" (Hebrews 6:6) and God's promise to grant us perseverance. In our opening hymn, we confess that we are "prone to wander" even from the love of our gracious God (*Come Thou Fount Of Every Blessing*). Passages from the Psalms remind us that the Lord has not let our foot slip (Psalm 66) and that He promises to keep our pathway straight (*Fret Not Yourself—Psalm 37*). We'll ask Him to equip us to run the race set before us (*May The Mind Of Christ My Savior*) and to keep us from falling to pride (*The Wicked Man Fears Not The Lord—Psalm 36*), and we'll encourage one another to "keep His ways unswerving" (*If Thou But Suffer God To Guide Thee*) and to press on toward the goal (*I Will Lift My Voice—Psalm 101*). The benediction from Jude sends us out with hope, describing our Lord as "Him who is able to keep you from stumbling"—a glorious promise and one we all surely need. —Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Maturity, Leave, Elementary, Fall Away, Permit, Taste, Assurance, Hope, Promise, Inherit
Keystone verse: Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. (Hebrews 6:1-2)



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

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)	Nolan Reategui (829-0412)
Tim Simmons (850-532-8997)	Joshua Scheenstra (818-653-1113)	Robert Simmons (850-532-1075)
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All Biblical quotes taken from the English Standard Version unless otherwise noted.