

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Season of Easter 24 April 2022

When there is the exposition of the Scriptures, an enlarging and opening of the preacher's heart, and the exposing of the hearts of the hearers, then the majesty of the word of God *written* will be self-evident and the presence of the Word of God *incarnate* will stand forth in all His glory. —Sinclair Ferguson

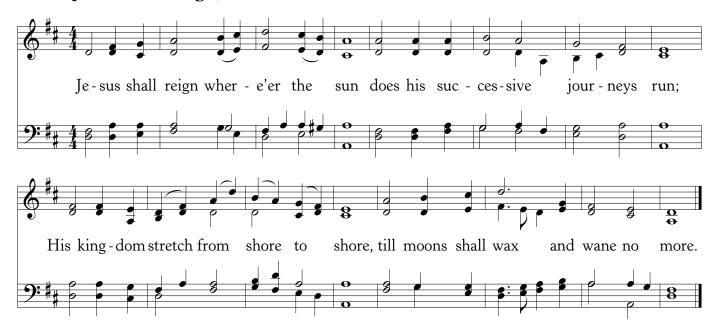
GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

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—1 John 3:1a

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.

Introit—Jesus Shall Reign, Vs. 1



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

Call to Worship—based on Psalm 36:5-10

Pastor: Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed!

Pastor: Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens, Your faithfulness to the clouds.

All: Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; Your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast You save, O Lord.

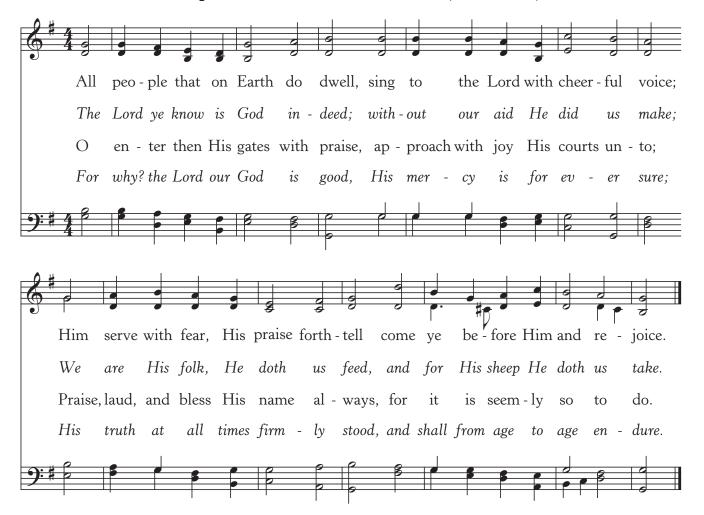
Reader 1: How precious is Your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of Your wings.

Reader 2: They feast on the abundance of Your house, and You give them drink from the river of Your delights.

All: For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light do we see light.

Pastor: Oh, continue Your steadfast love to those who know You, and Your righteousness to the upright of heart!

Psalm of Praise—All People That On Earth Do Dwell (Psalm 100)



Text: William Kethe, 1561; Music: OLD 100TH, Louis Bourgeois's Genevan Psalter, 1551.

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—The King In Your Strength Shall Be Glad (Psalm 21)



Text: The Psalter, 1898; Alt. Henry C. Haffner, 2021; Music: KING PHILIP, Henry C. Haffner, 2021.

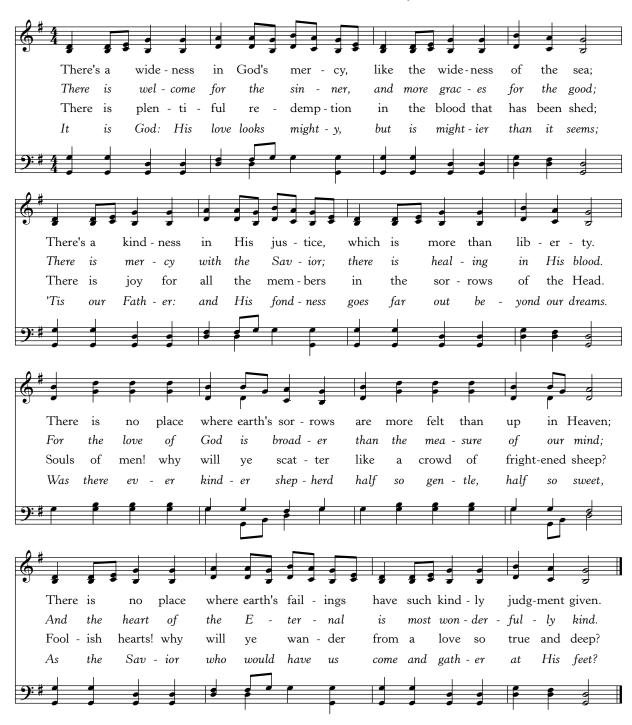
Scripture Reading—1 Thessalonians 2:1, 5-8

For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not in vain... For we never came with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness. Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Hymn of Praise—There's A Wideness In God's Mercy



Baptism of Roland George, son of Jonathan and Lela Grace George

Reading of the Word—2 Corinthians 6:3-13

³We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴ but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵ beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶ by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷ by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸ through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹ as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰ as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything. ¹¹ We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians; our heart is wide open. ¹² You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted in your own affections. ¹³ In return (I speak as to children) widen your hearts also.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—Praise, My Soul, The King Of Heaven, Vs. 3



Text: from Psalm 103, Henry F. Lyte, 1834; Music: LAUDA ANIMA, John Goss, 1869.

Sermon—Wide Open Ministry

—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 51:1, 3-4, 10, 12-13, 17

Pastor: We come confessing that we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions.

All: Against You, and You only, have we sinned and done what is evil in Your sight.

Pastor: Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew us from within.

All: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

Pastor: Restore to us the joy of our salvation and uphold us with a willing spirit.

All: Then we will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will return to You.

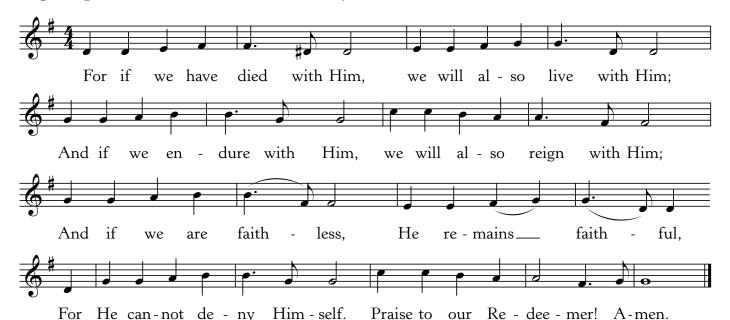
Assurance of Pardon—Psalm 32:1-2, 10-11; Luke 18:27

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit... Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the Lord. Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

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—The Creed Of Timothy



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

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.
Lift up your hearts.

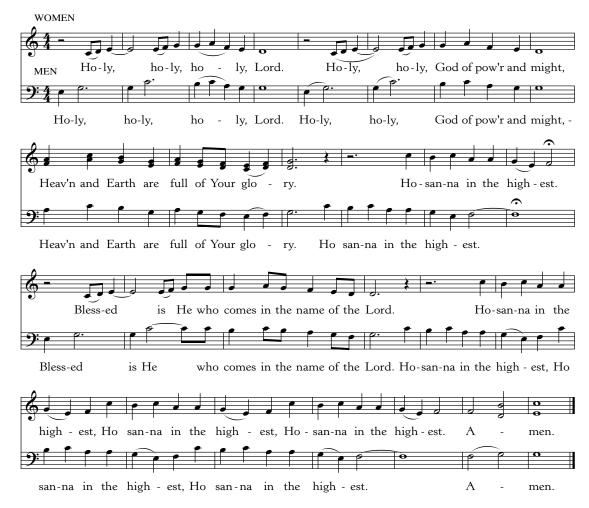
People: We lift them up to the Lord.

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:



CCLI #2844402 ©2009 Greyfriars Press. Text: Is 6:3, Rev 4:8, Mt 21:9; Music: FRANKLIN SANCTUS, Gregory Wilbur, 2009.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND THE LORD'S TABLE

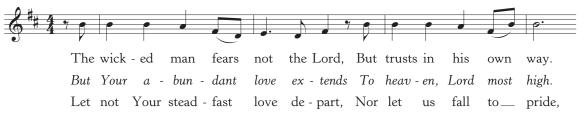
This table is open to all baptized Christians who have made a profession of faith. You may come forward to receive the bread and wine or grape juice.

Hymn of Praise—Come Ye Sinners, Poor And Needy

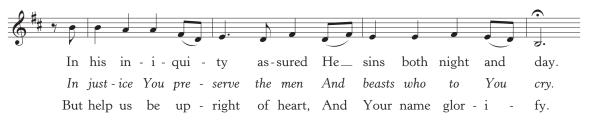


Text: Joseph Hart, 1759; Music: RESTORATION (ARISE), William Walker's The Southern Harmony, 1835.

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



Vs.1 & 2, then Chorus



Chorus



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—Come, Thou Fount Of Every Blessing



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

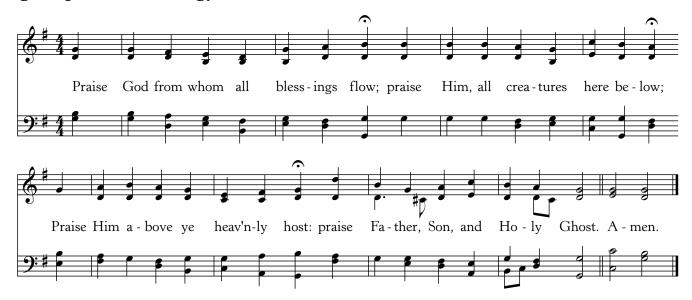
GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT

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—Doxology



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

Announcements

Worship Notes:

The elements in this morning's service point us to the extravagance of God's grace in our lives—both the abundance and the totality of the undeserved blessings He gives. Jesus Shall Reign and All People That On Earth Do Dwell—Psalm 100 speak of Christ's kingdom reaching from "shore to shore," compelling the praise of "all people." The Call to Worship from Psalm 36 describes God's love as extending "to the heavens," as vast as both mountains and seas, as an abundant feast, and as a river of delight (we'll sing this same psalm, The Wicked Man Fears Not The Lord—Psalm 36, during communion). The King In Your Strength Shall Be Glad—Psalm 21 joyfully proclaims that the Lord has poured out all the blessings we have craved and that His fame will be widely spread. Praise, My Soul, The King of Heaven implores us to praise the Lord as "widely as His mercy goes." Though we do not deserve this mercy, The Creed Of Timothy and Come Ye Sinners, Poor And Needy remind us that even when we are faithless, "He remains faithful," providing a "free bounty" of every grace that brings us near to Him. There's A Wideness In God's Mercy speaks of a love that is "broader than the measure of our mind," a "plentiful redemption," and a love that "goes far out beyond our dreams." In response to this love that is even mightier than it seems, we widen our hearts (as Paul commends the Corinthians in this morning's sermon text), extending grace to our brethren and praise to our God. As the closing hymn puts it: "Streams of mercy never ceasing call for songs of loudest praise." —Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Widen, Heart, Commend, Servants, Ministry, Endurance, Patience, Affections **Keystone Verse:** We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians; our heart is wide open. (2 Corinthians 6:11)



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Phil Hutcheson Steve Nelson

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