



PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Season of Lent

26 March 2023

We must look at the law with gospel spectacles. —Francis Roberts

O how desirable is a Savior to a troubled soul! How welcome is a surgeon to a man who is bleeding from his wounds!
—Thomas Watson

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—Romans 4:5

And to the one who does not work but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness.

Sung Response—What Wondrous Love Is This, Vs. 1

What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!

What won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this

That caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul,

For my soul, to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul?

Text: American Folk Hymn; Music: WONDROUS LOVE, William Walker, *The Southern Harmony*, 1835.

Call to Worship—Psalm 98:1-3

Pastor: Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

All: His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.

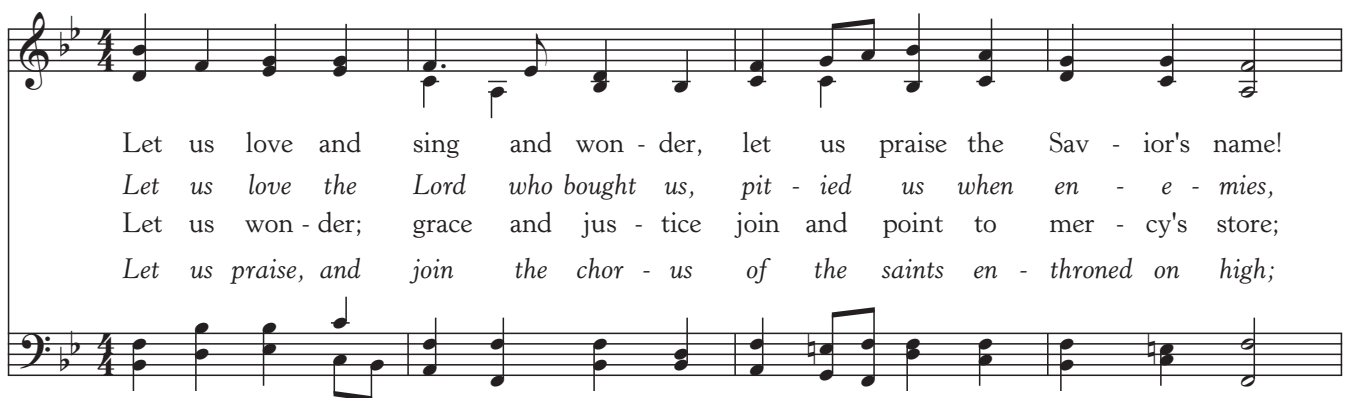
Reader 1: The Lord has made known His salvation.

Reader 2: He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

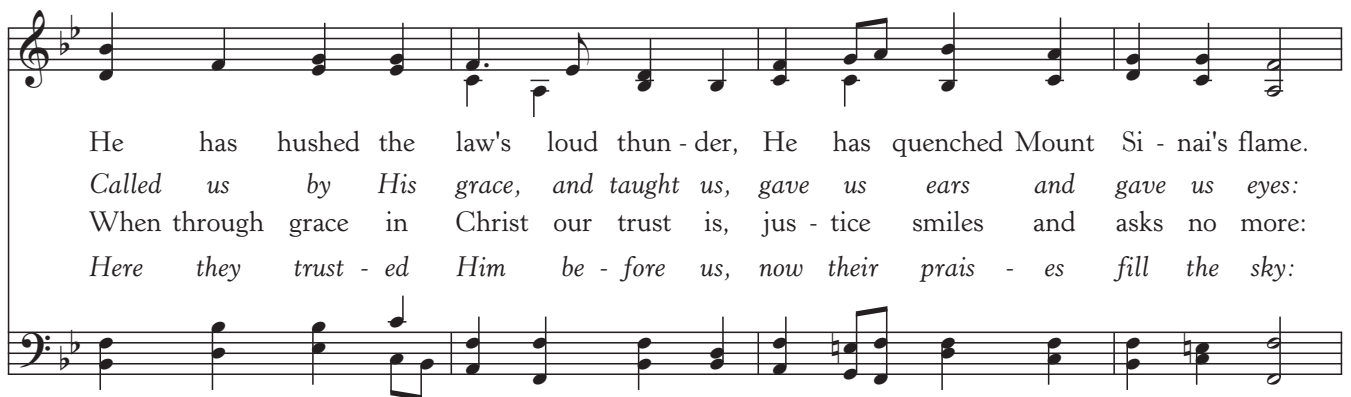
All: He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

Pastor: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

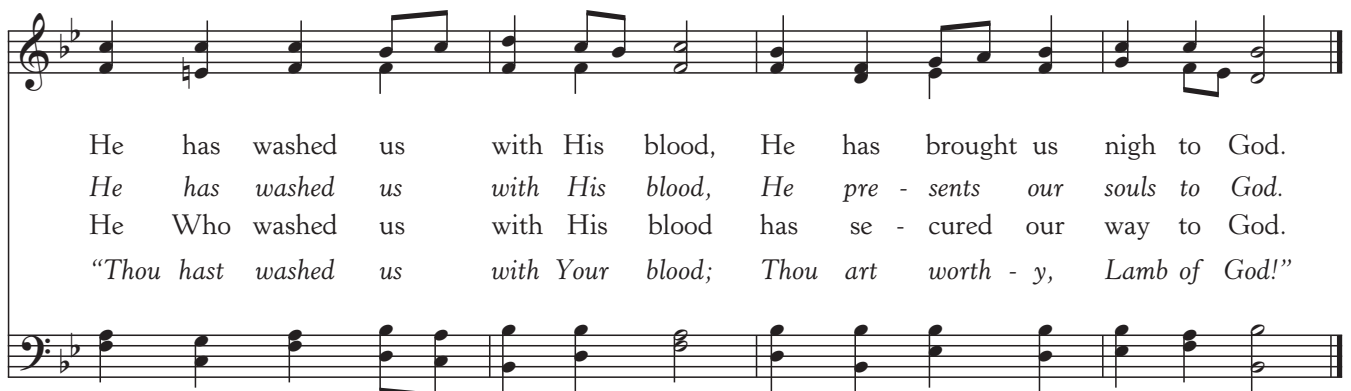
Congregational Hymn—Let Us Love And Sing And Wonder



Let us love and sing and won - der, let us praise the Sav - ior's name!
Let us love the Lord who bought us, pit - ied us when en - e - mies,
Let us won - der; grace and jus - tice join and point to mer - cy's store;
Let us praise, and join the chor - us of the saints en - throned on high;



He has hushed the law's loud thun - der, He has quenched Mount Si - nai's flame.
Called us by His grace, and taught us, gave us ears and gave us eyes:
When through grace in Christ our trust is, jus - tice smiles and asks no more:
Here they trust - ed Him be - fore us, now their prais - es fill the sky:



He has washed us with His blood, He has brought us nigh to God.
He has washed us with His blood, He pre - sents our souls to God.
He Who washed us with His blood has se - cured our way to God.
"Thou hast washed us with Your blood; Thou art worth - y, Lamb of God!"

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—Lord, Hear My Voice (Psalm 61)



Lord, hear my voice, my prayer at - tend, from earth's re - mot - est bound I send
In You my soul has shel - ter found, and You have been from foes a - round
For You, O Lord, my vows have heard, on me their her - i - tage con - ferred,
Be - fore the Lord shall he a - bide; oh, give him truth, and grace pro - vide



My bro - ken heart - ed cry. When trou - bles fill my faint - ing breast,
The tow'r of my de - fense. My home shall your pa - vil - ion be;
That fear Your ho - ly name. Long life You to Your ser - vant give,
To guard him in the way. So I Your prais - es will make known,

Vs. 1 & 2, then Chorus



Then lead me on the rock to rest, the rock high - er than I.
And un - der - neath Your wings I'll flee, to find de - liv - er - ance.
Through gen - er - a - tions he shall live, from age to age the same.
And hum - bly bend - ing at Your throne, my vows will dai - ly pay.

Chorus



When trou - bles fill my faint - ing breast, then lead me on



The rock to rest, the rock high - er than I.

Text: Psalm 61:1-8, *The Psalter with Music*, 1900, alt. Henry C. Haffner, 2022;
Music: TRAVELLER, Henry C. Haffner, 2022.

Scripture Reading—Matthew 22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question to test Him. “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Congregational Hymn—Fountain Of Never Ceasing Grace



Foun - tain of nev - er ceas - ing grace, Thy saints' ex - haust - less theme,
Whom Heaven's an - ge - lic host a - dores, was slaugh - tered for our sin;
In Him we have a right - eous - ness, by God Him - self ap - proved;
Our souls His watch - ful love re - trieves, nor lets them go a - stray,



Great ob - ject of im - mor - tal praise, es - sen - tial - ly su - preme;
The guilt, O Lord was whol - ly ours, the pun - ish - ment was Thine:
Our rock, our sure foun - da - tion this, which nev - er can be moved.
His right - eous - ness to us He gives, and takes our sins a - way:



We bless Thee for the glor - ious fruits Thine in - car - na - tion gives;
Our God in flesh, to set us free, was man - i - fest - ed here;
Our ran - som by His death He paid, for all His peo - ple giv'n,
We claim sal - va - tion in His right, a - dop - ted and for - giv'n,



The right - eous - ness which grace im - putes, and faith a - lone re - ceives.
And meek - ly bare our sins, that we His right - eous - ness might wear.
The law He per - fect - ly o - beyed, that they might en - ter Heav'n.
His mer - it is our robe of light, His death the gate of Heav'n.

Text: Augustus Toplady, 1774; Music: KINGSFOLD, Old English Folk Song,
harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906.

Reading of the Word—Romans 8:1-4

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—Not What My Hands Have Done, Vs. 2



Your voice a - lone, O Lord, can speak to me of grace;



Your pow'r a - lone, O Son of God, can all my sin e - rase.



No oth - er work but Yours, no oth - er blood will do;



No strength but that which is div - ine can bear me safe - ly through.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1861; Tune: LEOMINSTER, George Walter Martin, 1862.

Sermon—*The Law of the Spirit of Christ*

—Assistant Pastor, James Crampton

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—Lamb Of God

UNISON

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. —

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. —

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,

Slightly faster WOMEN

Grant us Thy peace, Grant us Thy, Grant us Thy peace,

MEN

Grant us Thy peace, Grant us Thy peace, Grant us Thy peace.

Text: Traditional, based on John 1:29; Music: CLOVERCROFT AGNUS DEI, Henry C. Haffner, 2019.

Assurance of Pardon—Galatians 3:13-14; Mark 12:30

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us – for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree” – so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

Pastor: This is the promise of God. This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Therefore, let us love the Lord our God with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our mind and with all our strength.

Sung Response—Twofold Amen

A - men, a - men

Text: Traditional; Music: DRESDEN, Johann Naumann, 18th Century.

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:

UNISON



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to His peo-ple on earth. —

WOMEN



We praise You, we bless You, we wor-ship You, we glo-ri-fy You,

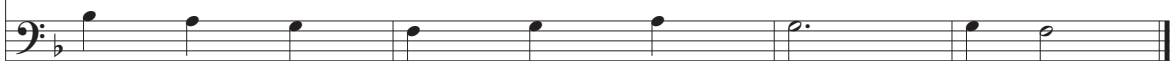
MEN



We praise You, we bless— You, we wor-ship You, we glo-ri-fy You,



We give You thanks for Your great glo - ry.



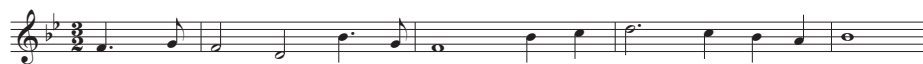
We give You thanks for Your great glo - ry.

Text: Traditional, based on Luke 2:14; Music: CLOVERCROFT GLORIA, Henry C. Haffner, 2019.

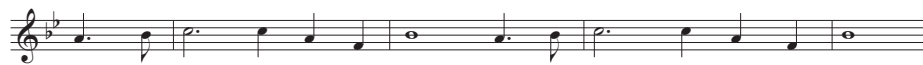
WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND THE LORD'S TABLE

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—Rock Of Ages, Cleft For Me



Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in Thee;
Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill Thy law's de - mands;
Noth - ing in my hand I bring, simp - ly to the cross I cling;
While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eyes shall close in death,



Let the wa - ter and the blood, from Thy wound - ed side which flowed,
Could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
Nak - ed, come to Thee for dress; help - less, look to Thee for grace;
When I soar to worlds un - known, see Thee on Thy judg - ment throne,



Be of sin the doub - le cure; save from wrath and make me pure.
All for sin could not a - tone; Thou must save, and Thou a - lone.
Foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in Thee.

Text: Augustus Toplady, 1776; Music: TOPLADY, Thomas Hastings, 1830.

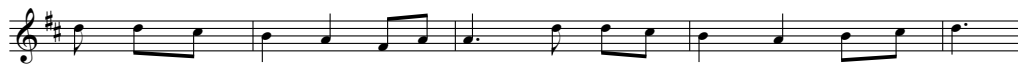
Congregational Hymn—Before The Throne Of God Above



Be - fore the throne of God a - bove I have a strong and per - fect plea.
When Sa - tan tempts me to des - pair and tells me of the guilt with - in,
Be - hold Him there the ris - en Lamb, my per - fect spot - less right - eous - ness,



A great High Priest whose name is Love who ev - er lives and pleads for me.
Up - ward I look and see Him there who made an end of all my sin.
The great un - change - a - ble I AM, the King of glo - ry and of grace,



My name is grav - en on His hands, my name is writ - ten on His heart.
Be - cause the sin - less Sav - ior died my sin - ful soul is count - ed free.
One in Him - self I can - not die. my soul is pur - chased by His blood,



I know that while in Heaven He stands no tongue can bid me thence de - part.
For God the just is sat - is - fied to look on Him and par - don me.
My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my Sav - ior and my God!



No tongue can bid me thence de - part.
To look on Him and par - don me.
With Christ my Sav - ior and my God!

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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—Not All The Blood Of Beasts

Not all the blood of beasts on Jew - ish al - tars slain
But Christ, the Heav'n - ly Lamb, takes all our sins a - way;
My faith would lay her hand on that dear head of Thine,
My soul looks back to see the bur - dens Thou didst bear
Be - liev - ing, we re - joice to see the curse re - move;

Could give the guil - ty con - science peace or wash a - way the stain.
A sac - ri - fice of no - bler name and rich - er blood than they.
While, like a pen - i - tent, I stand, and there con - fess my sin.
When hang - ing on the curs - ed tree, and hopes her guilt was there.
We bless the Lamb with cheer - ful voice, and sing His bleed - ing love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1709, Alt. 1961; Music: SOUTHWELL, William Damon, 1579.

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—Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. *Amen.*

Sung Response—Christ Be With Me



Christ be with me, Christ with-in me, Christ be-hind me, Christ be-fore me,



Christ be-side me, Christ to win me, Christ to com-fort and re-store me,



Christ be-neath me, Christ a-bove me, Christ in qui-et, Christ in dan-ger,



Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stran-ger.

Text: attr. St. Patrick, 5th Century, tr. C. F. Alexander, 1889; Music: CLONMACNOISE, Traditional Irish Melody, arr. Richard Terry, *The Westminster Hymnal*, 1912.

Announcements

Worship Notes:

While we have been on a journey through the Ten Commandments since January, our companion for the last five weeks of this series has been *Lord, Hear My Voice*, a new setting of Psalm 61. This Davidic psalm was possibly written while the king was fleeing from his son Absalom's rebellion (see 2 Samuel 15-19). Like the Israelites wandering in the Sinai desert, David felt lost in the wilderness (he calls "from earth's remotest bound," Psalm 61:2) and was acutely aware of his own inadequacy. Just as the Israelites needed a mediator to even speak to God (Exodus 20:19), David recognizes his need for something greater than himself to rectify his situation, a "rock higher than I" (Psalm 61:2-3). Aren't we in the same position? When faced with the totality of God's Law, we know that we fall woefully short. We break every commandment daily. So let's make David's prayer our own. We cry for the Lord to "lead us to the rock"—the rock of Christ Jesus. Jesus is the tower of our defense. Because of Christ, we can know with confidence that the Lord hears us (Psalm 61:5), and we can end our journey through the law by offering daily praises to His name (Psalm 61:8).

—Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Condemnation, Law, Jesus, Spirit, Sin, Righteousness

Keystone Verse: There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:1)



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Mike Miserocchi (594-3880)

Matt Morrison (482-5107)

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.