

# SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Season of Ordinary Time 6 September 2020 On the system of "Do this and live," no peace, and even no true obedience, can ever be attained. It is "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." When this belief enters the heart, joy and confidence enter along with it. The righteousness we try to work out for ourselves eludes our impotent grasp, and never can a soul arrive at a true and permanent rest in the pursuit of this object. —Thomas Chalmers

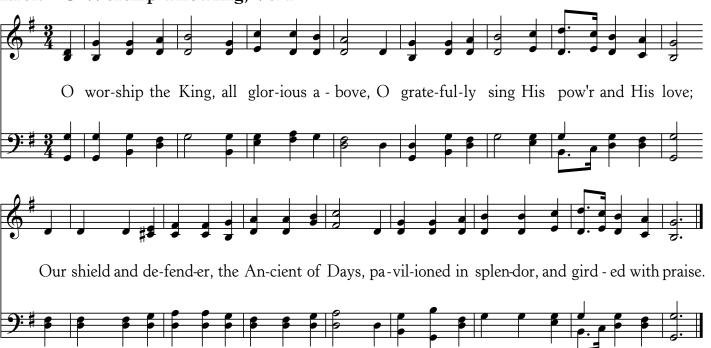
#### GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

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—1 Corinthians 1:18

The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

# Introit—O Worship The King, Vs. 1



Text: Robert Grant, 1833, based on Psalm 104; Music: LYONS, Joseph Martin Kraus, 1784.

#### Call to Worship—based on Psalm 111:2,7,10

Pastor: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

All: Praise the Lord! We will give thanks to the Lord with our whole hearts.

Reader 1: Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them. Full of splendor and majesty is His work, and His righteousness endures forever. He has shown His people the power of His

works.

Reader 2: The works of His hands are faithful and just; all His precepts are trustworthy; they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

All: He has established His covenant forever.

Pastor: Holy and awesome is His name!

#### Hymn of Praise—Christ Is Made The Sure Foundation



Text: Anonymous, 7<sup>th</sup> C. Tr. John M. Neale, 1851; Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry Smart, 1867.

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



Text: The Book of Psalms for Singing, Copyright © 1973 Crown and Covenant Publications; Music: St. Catherines, Horatio R. Palmer.

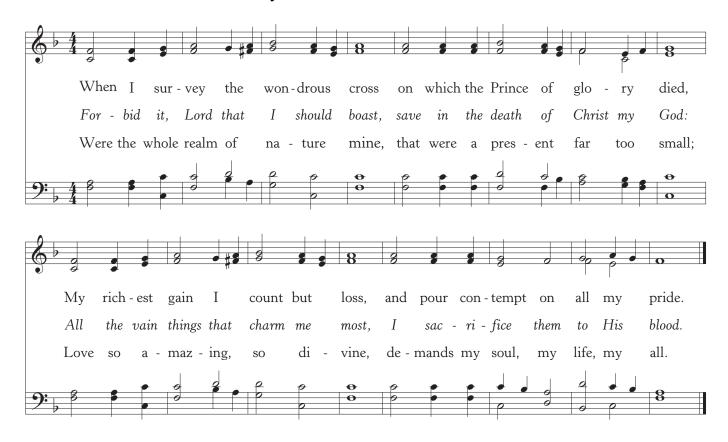
#### Scripture Reading—1 Corinthians 1:19-25

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### Psalm of Praise—When I Survey The Wondrous Cross



Text: Isaac Watts, 1709; Music: Hamburg, Gregorian Chant, arr. Lowell Mason, 1824.

# Reading of the Word—Galatians 1:11-2:14

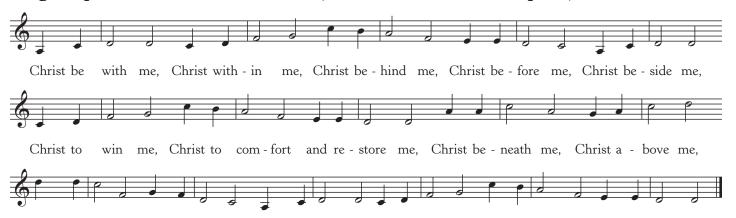
For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. <sup>12</sup> For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>13</sup> For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. <sup>14</sup> And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. <sup>15</sup> But when He who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by His grace, <sup>16</sup> was pleased to reveal His Son to me, in order that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone; <sup>17</sup> nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. <sup>18</sup> Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him fifteen days. <sup>19</sup> But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother. <sup>20</sup> (In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie!) <sup>21</sup> Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. <sup>22</sup> And I was still unknown in person to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. <sup>23</sup> They only were hearing it said, "He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." <sup>24</sup> And they glorified God because of me.

<sup>2:1</sup> Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me. <sup>2</sup>I went up because of a revelation and set before them (though privately before those who seemed influential) the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles, in order to make sure I was not running or had not run in vain. <sup>3</sup>But even Titus, who was with me, was not forced to be circumcised, though he was a Greek. <sup>4</sup>Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in—who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery— 5 to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you. <sup>6</sup> And from those who seemed to be influential (what they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality)—those, I say, who seemed influential added nothing to me. <sup>7</sup>On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised 8 (for He who worked through Peter for His apostolic ministry to the circumcised worked also through me for mine to the Gentiles), <sup>9</sup> and when James and Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. <sup>10</sup> Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do. <sup>11</sup>But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. <sup>12</sup>For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came, he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party. <sup>13</sup> And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. <sup>14</sup>But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, "If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?"

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

# Sung Response—Christ Be With Me (from St. Patrick's Breastplate)



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: Atomriug indui niurt tren, St. Patrick, 5th Century, Tr. Cecil Frances Alexander, 1889; Music: St. Patrick Clonmacnoise, Traditional Irish Hymn Melody.

Sermon—In Step with the Truth

-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 53:6-7; 12

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. All we like sheep have gone astray.

All: We have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Pastor: He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,

and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth.

All: He poured out His soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors.

Pastor: Yet He bore the sin of many and makes intercession for sinners.

(Silent prayers of confession)

#### Assurance of Pardon—Romans 8:1-3, 15

There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. 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. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

Pastor: This is the promise of God.

All: This is the Word of the Lord.

Pastor: For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and are justified by His grace as a gift through the

redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

All: Amen.

#### Sung Response—Jesus, Lover Of My Soul, Vs. 3



Text: Charles Wesley, 1740; Music: Martyn, Simeon B. Marsh, 1834.

#### 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.
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:



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 at the table nearest you. The outer ring of the tray of cups is grape juice; the inner ring is wine.

# Hymn of Communion—Jesus Paid It All



Text: Elvina M. Hall, 1865; Music: John T. Grape, 1865.

# 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—In Christ Alone



CCLI #2844402 © 2002 Thankyou Music; Text and Music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend.

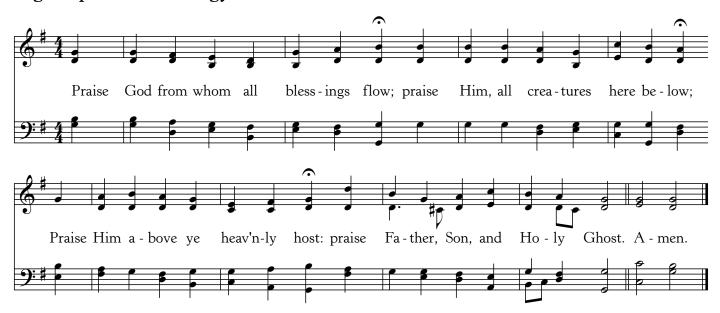
### GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT

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—Romans 8:16-17

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ. Go forth in His hope. *Amen*.

# Sung Response—Doxology



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

#### Announcements

#### Worship Notes:

Several times the past two weeks, we have heard the book of Galatians described as a "one stringed harp," a letter with a single-minded focus on the gospel of Christ. You'll find a similar single-mindedness in the hymns we sing this morning: just as Paul's narrative of his own conversion and ministry puts Christ front and center, each of our hymns does as well. Christ is the foundation which binds us all together, and our confidence alone (Christ Is Made The Sure Foundation). We boast in nothing except the death of Christ (When I Survey The Wondrous Cross). Christ is all we want, in Him we find "more than all" (Jesus, Lover Of My Soul) and our "all in all" (Jesus Paid It All). He is our light, our strength and our song, and we stand in His love and power (In Christ Alone). At the center of the service, just before the sermon, we pray in song that Christ would be with, within, behind, above, and all around us (Christ Be With Me). The music for this Sunday may include more repeated words and phrases ("Christ," "alone," "all") than we are used to, but I hope that singing these hymns will remind us to never waver from our focus on Christ. —Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Revelation, Zealous, Consult, Preach, Spy, Freedom, Gospel

**Keystone Verse:** Their conduct was not in step with the truth of the Gospel. (Galatians 2:14)



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