



SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Season of Epiphany

12 January 2020

You ask if I ever feel that religion is a sham? No, never. I know it is a reality. If you ask if I am ever staggered by the inconsistencies of professing Christians, I say yes, I am often made heartsick by them; but heartsickness always makes me run to Christ, and one good look at Him pacifies me. This is in fact my panacea for every ill; and as to my own sinfulness, that would certainly overwhelm me if I spent much time in looking at it. God purposely sickens us of man and of self, that we may learn to look long at Jesus. —Elizabeth Prentiss

The grace of faith, whereby the elect are enabled to believe to the saving of their souls, is the work of the Spirit of Christ in their hearts, and is ordinarily wrought by the ministry of the Word, by which also, and by the administration of the sacraments, and prayer, it is increased and strengthened.

—Westminster Confession of Faith, 14:1

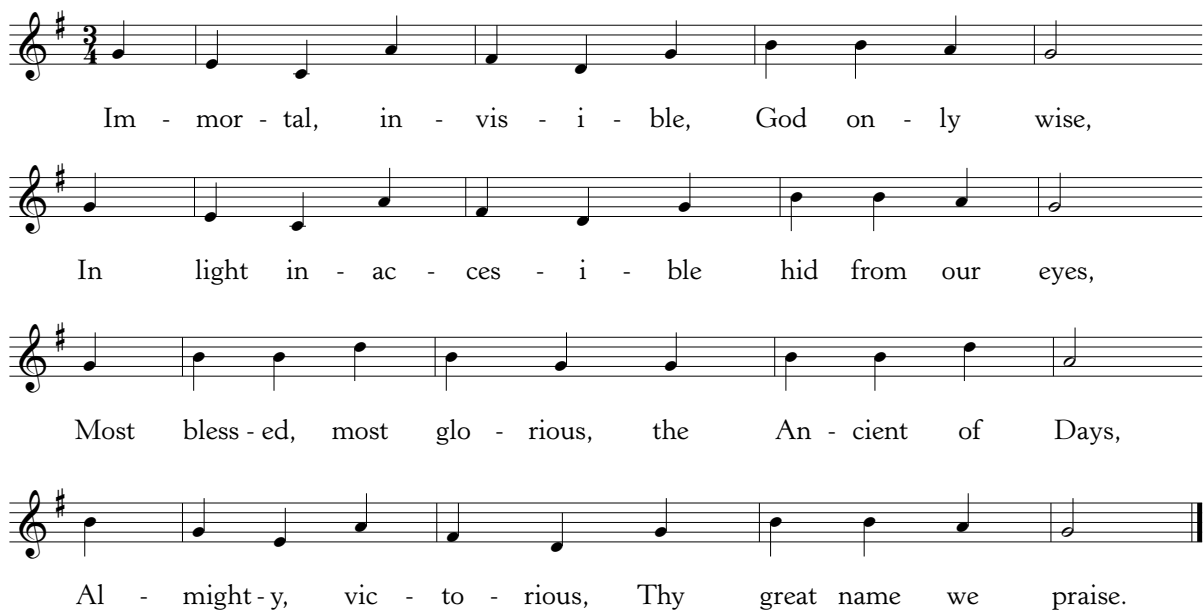
GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

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—Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Introit—Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise, Vs. 1



Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
In light in - ac - ces - i - ble hid from our eyes,
Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
Al - mighty, vic - to - rious, Thy great name we praise.

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867; Music: ST. DENIO, Traditional Welsh Melody.

Call to Worship—from Psalm 25:4-5, 8-10

Pastor: Good and upright is the Lord.

All: All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness.

Reader 1: He instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in what is right, and He teaches the humble His way.

Reader 2: Make us to know Your ways, O Lord. Teach us Your paths.

All: Lead us in Your truth and teach us.

Pastor: For You are the God of our salvation.

Hymn of Praise—Praise To The Lord, The Almighty

Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won - drous - ly reign - eth,
 Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy work and de - fend thee!
Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a - dore Him!

O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and sal - va - tion!
Shel - ters thee un - der His wings, yea, so gent - ly sus - tain - eth!
 Sure - ly His good - ness and mer - cy here dai - ly at - tend thee;
All that hath life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore Him!

All ye who hear, now to His tem - ple draw near,
Hast thou not seen how thy de - sires e'er have been
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y will do,
Let the A - men sound from His peo - ple a - gain;

Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion.
Grant - ed in what He or - dain - eth?
 If with His love He be - friend thee.
Glad - ly for aye we a - dore Him.

Text: Joachim Neander, 1680, Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863;
 Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Stralsund Gesangbuch*, 1665.

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—Within Your Temple Lord (Psalm 48)



With - in Your tem - ple Lord, — we on Your mer - cies dwell; —
Let Zi - on's mount re - joice, — let Ju - dah's daugh - ters praise —
The walls of Zi - on tell, — her pal - a - ces sur - vey, —



As is Your name a - dored, — so let Your praise ex - cel: —
The Lord with cheer - ful voice, — for judg - ment He dis - plays; —
Mark all her tow - ers well, — and to your child - ren say: —



Your prais - es sound through ev - ery land, and right Your scep - ter shall com-mand,
Go round the walls on Zi - on's mount, go round her splen - dors to re - count
“Our God for - ev - er shall a - bide, and He ‘till death, will be our guide
Our God for - ev - er shall a - bide, and He ‘till death, will be our guide



Your scep - ter shall com - mand.
Her splen - dors to re - count.
“Till death, will be our guide.”
‘Till death, will be our guide.”

Text: Psalm 48:9-14, *The Psalter of the United Presbyterian Church*, 1887, Alt. Henry C. Haffner, 2019;
Music: SAINT JOHN’S, Henry C. Haffner, 2019.

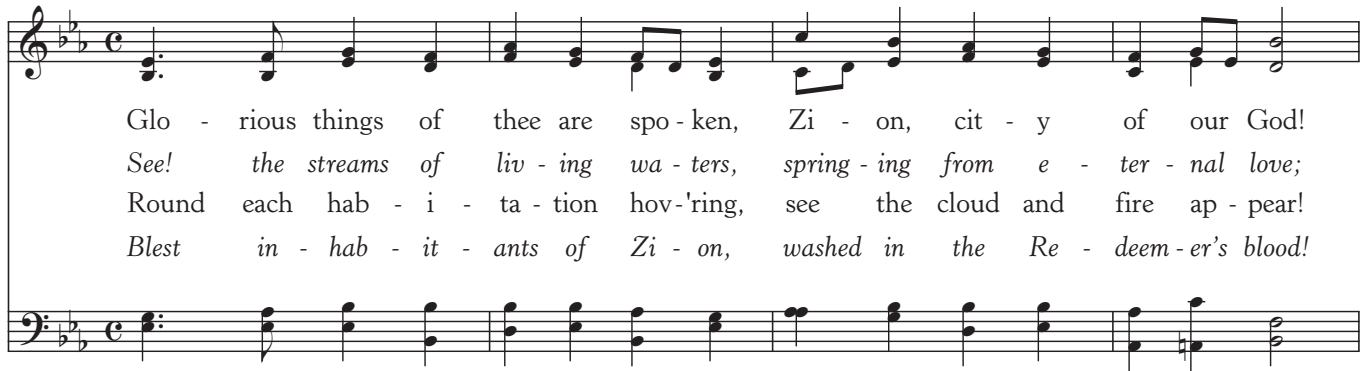
Scripture Reading—Isaiah 52:7-10, 12

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted His people; He has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. The Lord will go before you, and the God of Israel will be your rear guard.

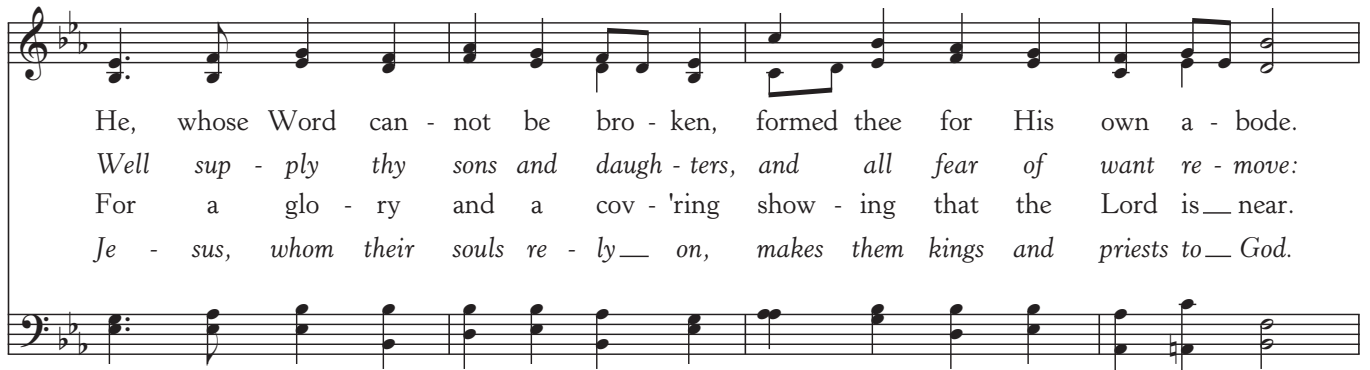
Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

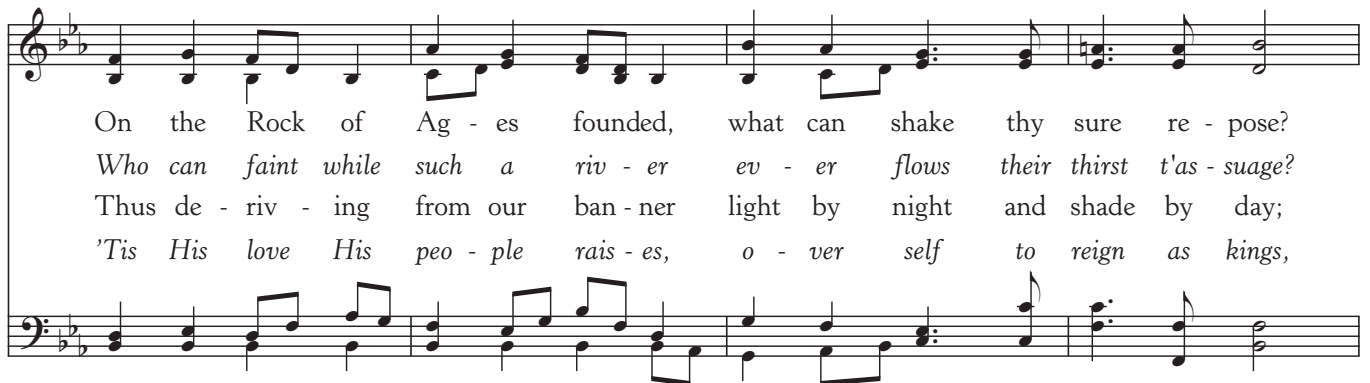
Hymn of Praise—Glorious Things Of Thee Are Spoken



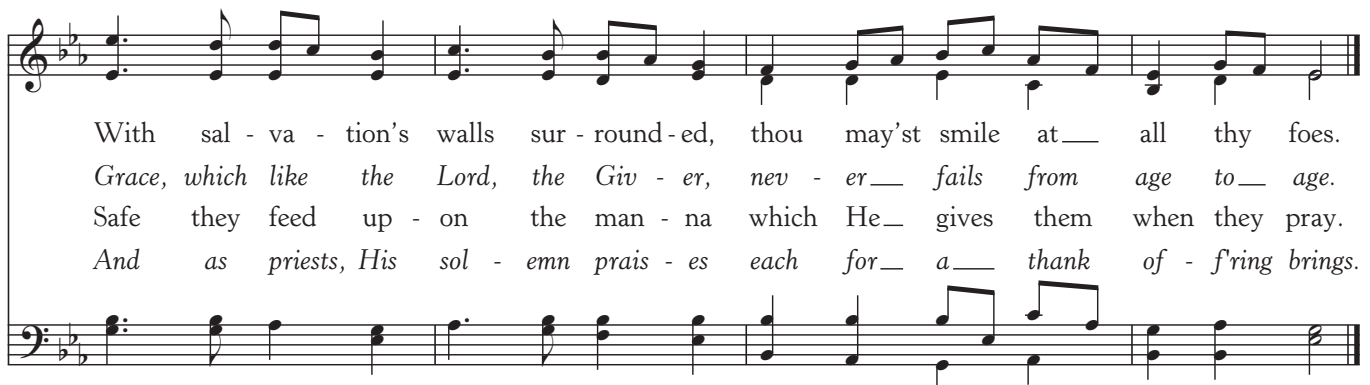
Glo - rious things of thee are spo - ken, Zi - on, cit - y of our God!
See! the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring - ing from e - ter - nal love;
Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov - 'ring, see the cloud and fire ap - pear!
Blest in - hab - it - ants of Zi - on, washed in the Re - deem - er's blood!



He, whose Word can - not be bro - ken, formed thee for His own a - bode.
Well sup - ply thy sons and daugh - ters, and all fear of want re - move:
For a glo - ry and a cov - 'ring show - ing that the Lord is__near.
Je - sus, whom their souls re - ly__on, makes them kings and priests to__God.



On the Rock of Ag - es founded, what can shake thy sure re - pose?
Who can faint while such a riv - er ev - er flows their thirst t'as - suage?
Thus de - riv - ing from our ban - ner light by night and shade by day;
'Tis His love His peo - ple rais - es, o - ver self to reign as kings,



With sal - va - tion's walls sur - round - ed, thou may'st smile at__all thy foes.
Grace, which like the Lord, the Giv - er, nev - er__fails from age to__age.
Safe they feed up - on the man - na which He__gives them when they pray.
And as priests, His sol - emn prais - es each for__a__thank of - fring brings.

Text: John Newton, 1789; Music: AUSTRIA, Joseph Haydn, 1779.

Reading of the Word—2 Thessalonians 1:1-4

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: ²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. ⁴Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—I Love the Lord, He Heard My Voice (Psalm 116), Vs. 5



Trust ye the Lord, nor yield to fear; on His rich love de - pend:—



He will pre-serve you while you're here, and save you to the end. —

Text: Joseph Proud, 19th. Century; Music: SALEM, *The Southern Harmony*, 1854;
Arr. Gregory Wilbur, 2007.

Sermon—*Gospel Faith*

—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 James 4:4; Romans 3:22-26

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. We know that friendship with the world is enmity with God. We know that whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

All: **For there is no distinction: all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and are justified only by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.**

Pastor: God put Jesus forward as a propitiation by His blood, to be received by faith.

All: **This was to show God's righteousness, because in His divine forbearance He had passed over former sins.**

Pastor: It was to show His righteousness at the present time, so that He might be both the just and the justifier.

All: **And thus, He has completely redeemed the one who has faith in Jesus.**

Assurance of Pardon—Psalm 85:8-12; Matthew 11:28

Let us hear what God the Lord will speak, for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints; surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in the land. Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other. Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky. Yes, the Lord will give what is good.

Pastor: This is the promise of God.

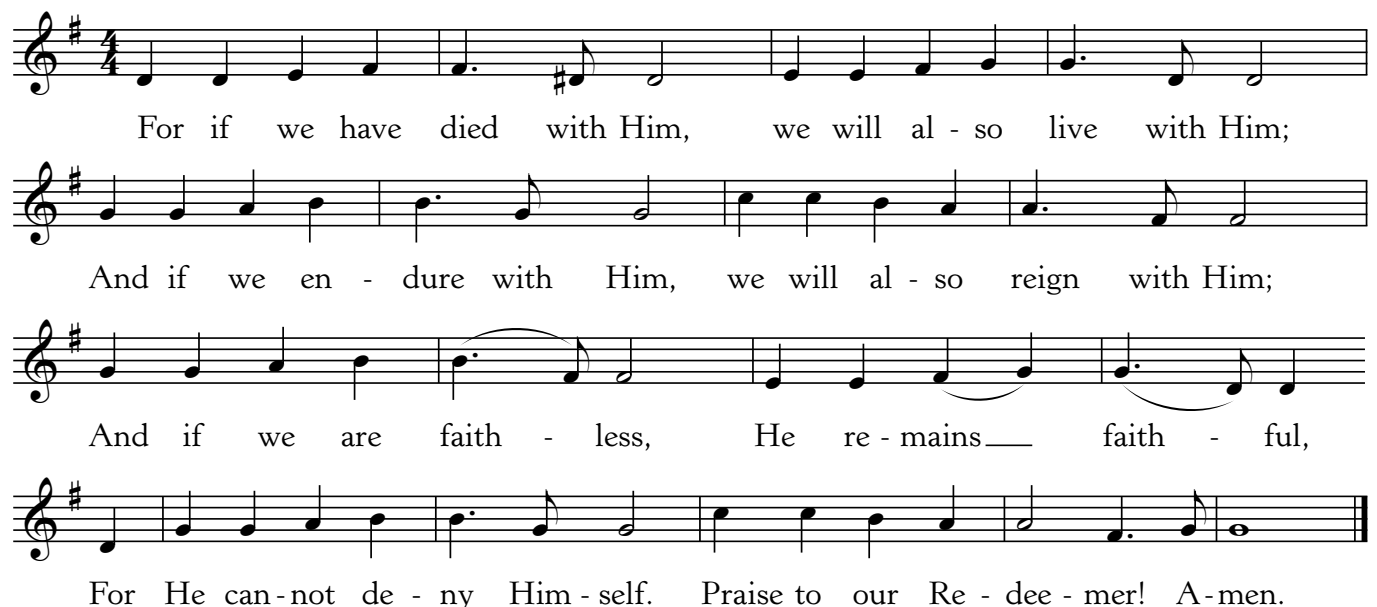
All: **This is the Word of the Lord.**

Pastor: He says to us, "Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: Amen.

Sung Response—The Creed Of Timothy



For if we have died with Him, we will al - so live with Him;

And if we en - dure with Him, we will al - so reign with Him;

And if we are faith - less, He re - mains — faith - ful,

For He can - not de - ny Him - self. Praise to our Re - dee - mer! A - men.

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



MEN Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly, Lord. Ho-ly, ho-ly, God of pow'r and might,
Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly, Lord. Ho-ly, ho-ly, God of pow'r and might, -
Heav'n and Earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the high - est.
Heav'n and Earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho san-na in the high - est.
Bless-ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the
Bless-ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est, Ho
high - est, Ho san-na in the high - est, Ho - san-na in the high - est. A - men.
san-na in the high - est, Ho san-na in the high - est. A - men.

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

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.

Psalm of Supplication—Be My Contender In The Strife (Psalm 35)



Be my con - ten - der in the strife, O Lord my strong de - fen - der be ____
My foes re - joice at my dis - may, but You, O Lord, have seen it all; ____
I look to You, my God, my Lord; my right - eous judge, to You I pray; ____
Yes, let the Lord be mag - ni - fied, be - cause Your ser - vants You have blessed ____



Your migh - ty shield pro - tect my life, Your spear con - front my en - e - my ____
O be no long - er far a - way, nor si - lent when to You I call. ____
Let not my foes cry out with scorn and laugh with joy at my dis - may. ____
And from the morn - ing to the night, I dai - ly praise Your right - eous - ness ____



A - mid the con - flict, O my Lord, Your pre - cious pro - mise let me hear ____
O vin - di - cate me from Your throne, O Lord, my right - eous cause main - tain; ____
Give woe and shame to those whose spite would see my right - eous cause des - troyed; ____
My soul is joy - ful in the Lord, in His sal - va - tion I re - joice; ____



That faith - ful, re - as - sur - ing word: "I am your Sav - ior, do not fear." ____
You are my Lord and God a - lone; a - wake, and make Your just - ice plain. ____
But those who in the good de - light, let them be glad and shout for joy. ____
To Him my heart will praise ac - cord and bless His name with thank - ful voice. ____

Text: 1912 Psalter, Alt. Henry C. Haffner, 2016; Music: WEST HARPETH, Henry C. Haffner, 2016.

Hymn of Adoration—Great Is Thy Faithfulness



Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee;
Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth Thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide;



Thou chang - est not, Thy com - pass - ions, they fail not; as Thou hast been, Thou for - ev - er will be.
Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness to Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy and love.
Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!



Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see.



All I have need - ed Thy hand hath pro - vi - ded; great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923; Music: FAITHFULNESS (RUNYAN), William M. Runyan, 1923.

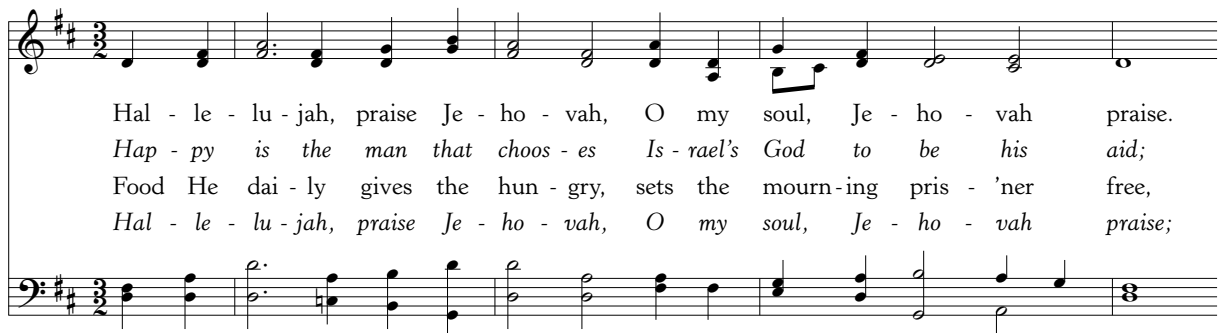
GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND IN GRATEFUL PRAISE, PETITIONS, TITHES & OFFERINGS

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.*

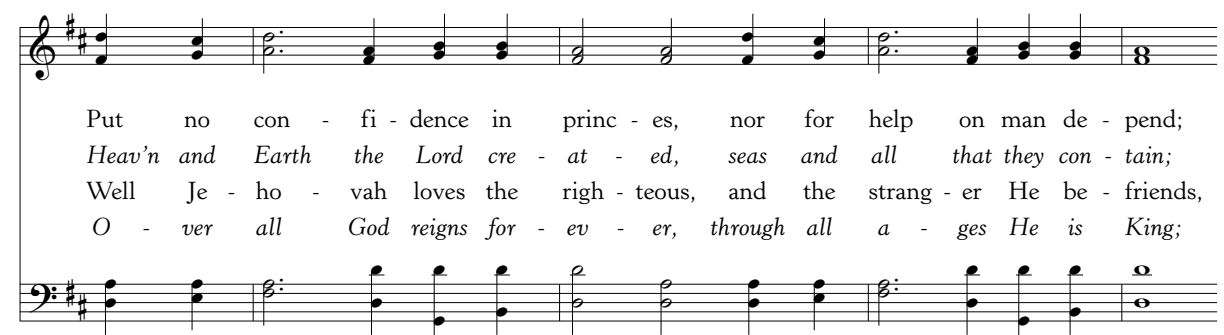
Psalm of Praise—Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah (Psalm 146)



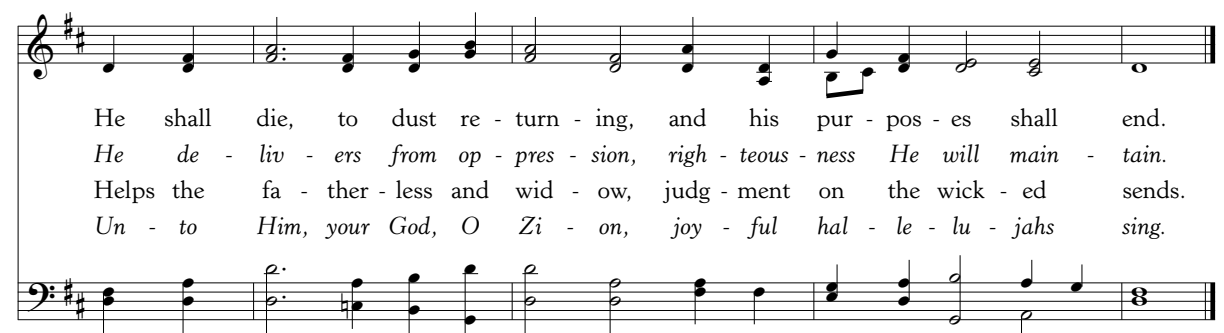
Hal - le - lu - jah, praise Je - ho - vah, O my soul, Je - ho - vah praise.
Hap - py is the man that choos - es Is - rael's God to be his aid;
Food He dai - ly gives the hun - gry, sets the mourn - ing pris - 'ner free,
Hal - le - lu - jah, praise Je - ho - vah, O my soul, Je - ho - vah praise;



I will sing the glo - rious prais - es of my God through all my days.
He is blessed whose hope of bles - sing on the Lord his God is stayed.
Rais - es those bowed down with an - guish, makes the sight - less eye to see.
I will sing the glo - rious prais - es of my God through all my days.



Put no con - fi - dence in princ - es, nor for help on man de - pend;
Heav'n and Earth the Lord cre - at - ed, seas and all that they con - tain;
Well Je - ho - vah loves the righ - teous, and the strang - er He be - friends,
O - ver all God reigns for - ev - er, through all a - ges He is King;



He shall die, to dust re - turn - ing, and his pur - pos - es shall end.
He de - liv - ers from op - pres - sion, righ - teous - ness He will main - tain.
Helps the fa - ther - less and wid - ow, judg - ment on the wick - ed sends.
Un - to Him, your God, O Zi - on, joy - ful hal - le - lu - jahs sing.

Text: *The Psalter*, 1912; Music: RIPLEY, Gregorian Chant, arr. Lowell Mason, 1839.

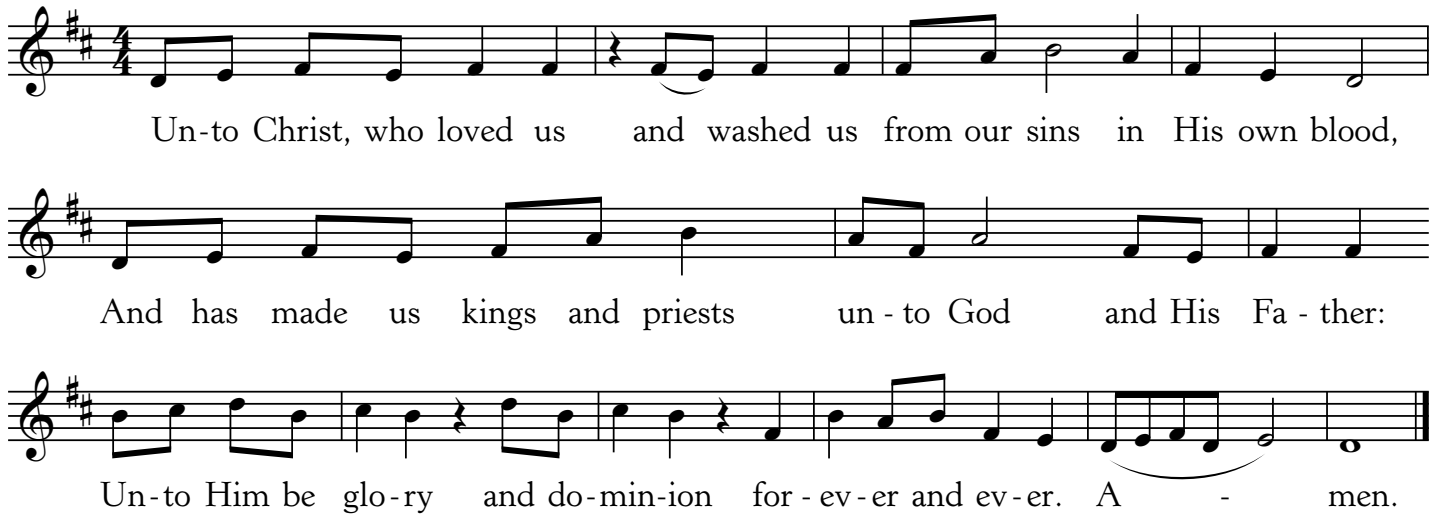
GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT

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—based on Hebrews 11:1; 12:1-2

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Let us therefore run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith. *Amen.*

Sung Response—Unto Christ Who Loved Us



Un-to Christ, who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,
And has made us kings and priests un - to God and His Fa - ther:
Un-to Him be glo-ry and do-min-ion for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

CCLI #2844402 ©1936 Oxford University Press
Text: Revelation 1:5-6; Music: UNTO HIM WHO LOVED US, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1936.

Announcements

Worship Notes:

After a six week break, we return to our study of Paul's letters to the Thessalonians this morning. Once again, we find Paul commending the fledgling church for their growing faith in the midst of persecution (2 Thessalonians 1:4), persecution that had apparently not diminished since his first letter. The themes of patience while enduring trials and hope in God's eventual victory are found throughout the service this morning. Psalms and hymns such as *Praise To The Lord The Almighty, I Love The Lord He Heard My Voice—Psalm 116, Be My Contender In The Strife—Psalm 35, and Great Is Thy Faithfulness* all center around God's sustaining hand in times of trouble: "He will preserve you while you're here and save you till the end." By faith, we look forward to the Lord's ultimate victory, singing "Our God forever shall abide" (*Within Your Temple Lord—Psalm 48*) and "with salvation's walls surrounded" we may smile at all our foes (*Glorious Things Of Thee Are Spoken*). As John Calvin puts it in his commentary on this passage, "There is nothing that sustains us in tribulations as faith does." —Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Church, Grace, Peace, Faith, Love, Persecutions, Afflictions, Enduring
Keystone Verse: We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. (2 Thessalonians 1:3)



Presbyterian Church in America
4150 Clovercroft Rd. Franklin, TN 37067

Web: www.parishpres.org / Twitter: @parishpres
Church Office: Teresa Sharp (574-1029), office@parishpres.org
Prayer requests: prayer@parishpres.org

Pastor: George Grant (574-1029 Office), george@parishpres.org
Assistant Pastor: Brian Phillips (429-8125), brian@parishpres.org
Music Director: Henry C. Haffner (497-6573), henry@parishpres.org
Staff Accompanist: Mirandi Herrenbruck, mirandi@parishpres.org
Music Intern: Elizabeth Dowdell, elizabeth@parishpres.org
Audio Coordinator: Chris Ragsdale, chris@parishpres.org
Technology Manager: Ian Kern (512-9337), ian@parishpres.org
Parish Nursery Coordinator: Chelsea Quintana (495-0423), chelsea@parishpres.org
Assistant Pastor: Cam Clausing (on study leave), cam@parishpres.org

Elders

Tom Goddard (218-3654)	Brandon Goodin (306-3652)	Brandon Herrenbruck (339-5516)
Phil Hutcheson (775-7546)	Michael Mastroberti (973-879-1368)	Mike Miserocchi (594-3880)
Matt Morrison (482-5107)	Steve Nelson (Emeritus)	Jason Parolini (497-3337)
	John Scherrer (916-0654)	

Deacons

Jimmy Allen (815-9368)	Brandon Blair (575-430-6436)	Christopher Burr (499-3043)
Ben Crist (509-3040)	Jeff Dokkestul (618-6064)	Ian Kern (512-9337)
Tom Milligan (805-403-2166)	Chris Ragsdale (619-988-1876)	Nolan Reategui (829-0412)
Thomas Rickstrew (830-834-1001)	Randy Sadler (972-1914)	Tim Simmons (850-532-8997)
Charlie Snow (400-5925)	Nae Soundara (519-3720)	Walt Yates (785-477-0990)

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