

# SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Season of Ordinary Time 19 September 2021 They were as earnest to go wrong, as he had been to reclaim them. —George Hutcheson

This is the heart of biblical religion: peaceful enjoyment in the presence of the Holy God. —Alec Motyer

#### 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—John 14:1

Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me.

#### Introit—Come, Thou Almighty King, Vs. 1



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

### Call to Worship—from Psalm 145:1, 3, 8-9

Pastor: Let us extol Him, our God and King, and bless His name forever and ever.

All: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and His greatness is unsearchable.

Reader 1: The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Reader 2: The Lord is good to all, and His mercy is over all that He has made.

All: The Lord is righteous in all His ways and kind in all His works.

Pastor: The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth.

### Hymn of Praise—Holy, Holy, Holy!



Text: Reginald Heber, 1826; Music: NICAEA, John B. Dykes, 1861.

#### 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—In Judah The Almighty's Known (Psalm 76)



Text: A New Version of the Psalms of David, 1696, Alt. Henry C. Haffner, 2021; Music: RODERICK, Henry C. Haffner, 2021.

#### Scripture Reading—Hebrews 10:19-22

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that He opened for us through the curtain, that is, through His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### Psalm of Praise—Arise, O God (Psalm 82)



Text: Psalm 82, The Psalter of the United Presbyterian Church, 1887, Alt. Henry C. Haffner, 2015; Music: WINSTEAD HILL, Henry C. Haffner, 2015.

#### Baptism of Nolan, Micah, Titus, and Caleb Kafoure, Sons of Solomon and Katie Kafoure

#### Reading of the Word—Zephaniah 3:1-8

Woe to her who is rebellious and defiled, the oppressing city! <sup>2</sup>She listens to no voice; she accepts no correction. She does not trust in the Lord; she does not draw near to her God.

<sup>3</sup>Her officials within her are roaring lions; her judges are evening wolves that leave nothing till the morning. <sup>4</sup>Her prophets are fickle, treacherous men; her priests profane what is holy; they do violence to the law. <sup>5</sup>The Lord within her is righteous; He does no injustice; every morning He shows forth His justice; each dawn He does not fail; but the unjust knows no shame.

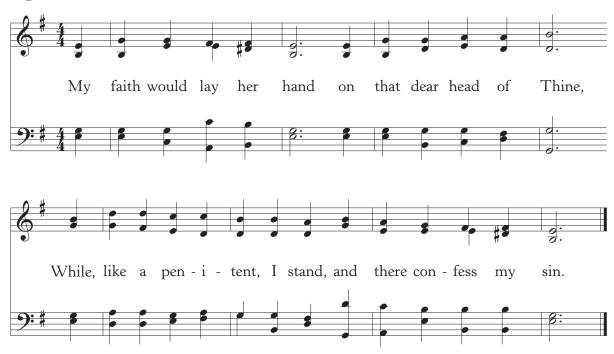
6"I have cut off nations; their battlements are in ruins; I have laid waste their streets so that no one walks in them; their cities have been made desolate, without a man, without an inhabitant. I said, 'Surely you will fear Me; you will accept correction. Then your dwelling would not be cut off according to all that I have appointed against you.' But all the more they were eager to make all their deeds corrupt.

<sup>8</sup>"Therefore wait for Me," declares the Lord, "for the day when I rise up to seize the prey. For My decision is to gather nations, to assemble kingdoms, to pour out upon them My indignation, all My burning anger; for in the fire of My jealousy all the earth shall be consumed."

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### Sung Response—Not All The Blood Of Beasts, Vs. 3



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

Sermon—God's Judgment of God's City

—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 30:9-11, 15-16

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. For we are a rebellious people, lying children, children unwilling to hear the instruction of the Lord; who say to the seers, "Do not see," and to the prophets, "Do not prophesy what is right."

All: We have said, "Speak to us smooth things, prophesy illusions, leave the way, turn aside from the path, let us hear no more about the Holy One of Israel."

Pastor: For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength."

All: But we were unwilling, and we said, "No! We will flee upon horses."

#### Assurance of Pardon—Isaiah 30:18-20; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you, and therefore He exalts Himself to show mercy to you. For the Lord is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for Him. For a people shall dwell in Zion, in Jerusalem; you shall weep no more. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry. As soon as He hears it, He answers you. And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide Himself anymore, but your eyes shall see your Teacher.

Pastor: This is the promise of God.

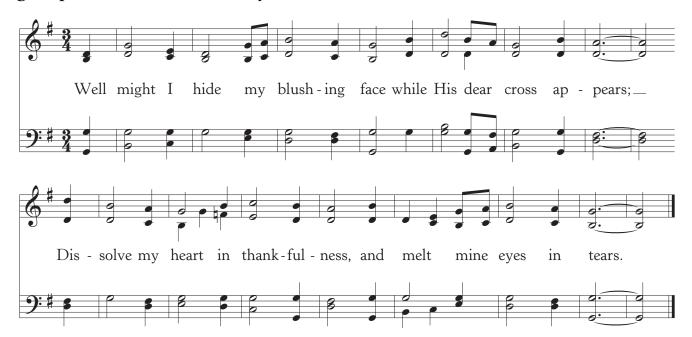
All: This is the Word of the Lord.

Pastor: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: He is the Father of mercies and God of all comfort.

Pastor: He comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

#### Sung Response—Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed, Vs. 4



#### 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.

#### Psalm of Praise—Blest Is The Man (Psalm 32)



Blest ev - er\_ blest, whose guilt is is the man, for par-doned by his God; Blest theman whom the Lord im - putes not his in- i - qui - ties; From guile his hum-ble joy, his ho - ly fear, heart and lips are free; his How glor-ious that right - eous - ness that hides and can - cels all his sins,



Whose sins with sor-row are con-fessed, and cov-ered with his Sav-ior's blood.

He pleads no mer - it of re - ward, and not on works, but grace re - lies.

With deep re - pen-tance well a - gree, and join to prove his faith sin - cere.

While a bright ev - i - dence of grace through his whole life ap - pears and shines!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1719; Music: DISTRESS, William Walker, 1854; Arr. Gregory Wilbur. © 2008 Greyfriars Press, Used by Permission.

#### Psalm of Praise—God Be Merciful To Me (Psalm 51)



# 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.

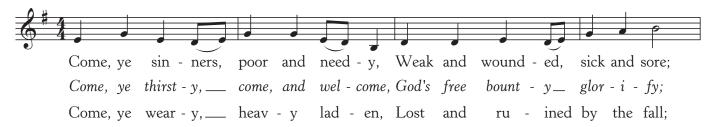
Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

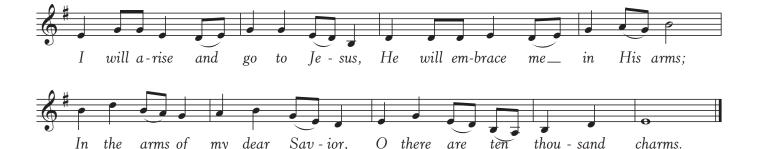
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

#### Hymn of Praise—Come Ye Sinners, Poor And Needy







Text: Joseph Hart, 1759; Music: RESTORATION, The Southern Harmony, 1835.

Refrain

#### 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 (from St. Patrick's Breastplate)



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

#### Announcements

#### Worship Notes:

Come ye thirsty, come and welcome, God's free bounty glorify; True belief, and true repentance, every grace that brings you nigh.
—Joseph Hart

In the first two chapters of Zephaniah, the prophet paints a portrait of universal judgment, followed by specific woes for the wicked nations surrounding the people of God. But here in the beginning of chapter 3, we see the Lord's judgment brought to bear on His own house. The Lord's righteousness requires that He deals with our sins just as He deals with those of our enemies. Because of this, most of the music we sing this morning takes a posture of repentance. After acknowledging God's pure righteousness (Holy, Holy, Holy) and justice (Arise, O God—Psalm 82), we respond to God's Word by calling ourselves penitents and confessing our sin before Him (Not All The Blood Of Beasts). Even after being assured by Isaiah to "weep no more," our eyes melt in tears considering our own wickedness, and the price Christ had to pay on the cross (Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed). We call out from the psalter "cleanse me from my sin" (God Be Merciful To Me—Psalm 51), and we rest in the promise that the Lord "hides and cancels all [our] sins" (Blest Is The Man—Psalm 32). Our service concludes on a hopeful note from the hymn Come Ye Sinners, Poor And Needy: though we are lost and ruined by the fall, our dear Savior stands ready to embrace us in His arms. —Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Rebellious, Listen, Correction, Trust, Draw Near, Just, Fear, Wait, Anger

**Keystone Verses:** The Lord within her is righteous; He does no injustice; every morning He shows forth His justice; each dawn He does not fail; but the unjust knows no shame. (Zephaniah 3:5)



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