



# PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Epiphany Sunday

*7 January 2024*

The Old Testament reaches out in longing for Christ who brings an end to its frustrations and brings to accomplishment its promises. —Vern Poythress

## 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—Ephesians 5:14 (NKJV)

Awake, you who sleep: arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.

### Sung Response—O Splendor Of God's Glory Bright, Vs. 1

The image shows a musical score for a two-part setting of the hymn 'O Splendor Of God's Glory Bright, Vs. 1'. The score is written for voice and piano. The top part is the vocal line, and the bottom part is the piano accompaniment. The music is in 3/4 time and G major. The lyrics are: 'O splen-dor of God's glo - ry bright, O Thou that bring - est light from light, O Light of light, light's liv - ing spring, O day, all day's il - lum - in - ing.'

Text: Ambrose of Milan, 4<sup>th</sup> Century, tr. Robert Bridges, 1899;  
Music: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR, Michael Praetorius, 1609.

### Call to Worship—based on Isaiah 60:1-5

Pastor: Arise, shine, for your light has come.

All: **The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.**

Reader 1: For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and His glory will be seen upon you.

Reader 2: Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Pastor: Lift up your eyes all around and see.

All: **We shall see and be radiant.**

Pastor: Your hearts shall thrill and exult.

# Congregational Hymn—Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing and si - lent as light,  
To all, life Thou giv - est, to both great and small;  
Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,

In light in - ac - ces - i - ble hid from our eyes,  
Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, Thou rul - est in might;  
In all life Thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
Thine an - gels a - dore Thee, all veil - ing their sight;

Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
Thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree,  
All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

Al - might - y, vic - to - rious, Thy great name we praise.  
Thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
And with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth Thee.  
'Tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth Thee!

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

# 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—Alleluia! How Blest The Man (Psalm 112)



A - le - lu - ia! How blest the man who great - ly\_\_fears the Lord!  
Light to the up - right shall a - rise, though he in\_\_dark - ness be;  
When e - vil ti - dings he shall hear, he shall not be a - fraid:  
A - bun - dant wealth with - in his house shall ev - er\_\_be in store;



Who dai - ly finds de - light with - in Je - ho - vah's Ho - ly Word  
Com - pass - ion - ate, and mer - ci - ful and ev - er\_\_just is he.  
His\_\_heart is fixed, his\_\_con - fi - dence up - on the\_\_Lord is stayed.  
And his un - spot - ted\_\_right - eous - ness en - dures for - ev - er - more.



His\_\_child - ren for their might shall be in\_\_all the land re - nowned;  
There sure - ly is not\_\_an - y thing that ev - er shall him move:  
Es - tab - lished firm - ly\_\_is his heart, a - fraid he shall not be,  
The\_\_wick - ed ones shall see, and grieve: their teeth will gnash a - way,



The gen - er - a - tion of the just in bless - ings shall a - bound.  
The right - eous man's me - mor - i - al shall ev - er - last - ing prove.  
Un - til a - mong his\_\_en - e - mies, his tri - umph He\_\_shall see.  
For\_\_what the wick - ed\_\_most de - sire shall ut - ter - ly\_\_de - cay.

Text: Psalm 112:1-4, 6-8, 10, *The Psalter of the United Presbyterian Church*, 1887, alt. Henry C. Haffner 2018;  
Music: POTTSVILLE, Henry C. Haffner, 2018.

## Scripture Reading—Romans 8:1-4

There is therefore 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, 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.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

## Congregational Hymn—Light Of The Anxious Heart

The image shows a musical score for a congregational hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written between the staves. The first system of music covers the first three lines of lyrics, and the second system covers the next three lines. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and single notes.

Light of the anx - ious heart, Je - sus, Thou dost ap - pear,  
Joy - ous is he with whom, God's Word, Thou dost a - bide,  
Bright - ness of God a - bove, un - fath - om - a - ble grace,

To bid the gloom of guilt de - part, and shed Thy sweet-ness here.  
Sweet light of our e - ter - nal home, to flesh - ly sense de - nied.  
Thy pres - ence be a fount of love with - in Thy cho - sen place.

Text: Bernard of Clairvaux, 12<sup>th</sup> century. tr. J. H. Newman, 1836; Music: SELMA, Robert A. Smith, 1825.

## Reading of the Word—Hebrews 7:11-25

Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron? <sup>12</sup> For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well. <sup>13</sup> For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. <sup>14</sup> For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests.

<sup>15</sup> This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek, <sup>16</sup> who has become a priest, not on the basis of a legal requirement concerning bodily descent, but by the power of an indestructible life. <sup>17</sup> For it is witnessed of Him, “You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.” <sup>18</sup> For on the one hand, a former commandment is set aside because of its weakness and uselessness <sup>19</sup> (for the law made nothing perfect); but on the other hand, a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God.

<sup>20</sup> And it was not without an oath. For those who formerly became priests were made such without an oath, <sup>21</sup> but this one was made a priest with an oath by the one who said to Him: “The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind, ‘You are a priest forever.’” <sup>22</sup> This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant.

<sup>23</sup> The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, <sup>24</sup> but He holds His priesthood permanently, because He continues forever. <sup>25</sup> Consequently, He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

## Sung Response—O Splendor Of God’s Glory Bright, Vs. 2

O Thou true Son, on us Thy glance let fall in roy - al rad - i - ance;  
The Spir - it's sanc - ti - fy - ing beam up - on our eath - ly sen - ses stream.

The image shows a musical score for a sung response. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are: "O Thou true Son, on us Thy glance let fall in roy - al rad - i - ance;" and "The Spir - it's sanc - ti - fy - ing beam up - on our eath - ly sen - ses stream." The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines in the bass.

Text: Ambrose of Milan, 4<sup>th</sup> Century, tr. Robert Bridges, 1899;  
Music: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR, Michael Praetorius, 1609.

## Sermon—*The Forever-Priest Saves To The Uttermost*

—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 Psalm 14:2-3, Romans 3:10

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. You look down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God.

All: **We have all turned aside; together we have become corrupt.**

Pastor: None of us does good, not even one.

All: **None of us is righteous, no, not one.**

*(Silent Prayers of Confession)*

## Sung Response—Kyrie

WOMEN

MEN

Lord have mer - cy — Christ have mer - cy —

— Lord have mer - cy — Up - on us.

Lord have mer - cy — Up - on us.

Text: Traditional; Music: Nathan George & Henry C. Haffner, 2012.

## Assurance of Pardon—Romans 5:10-11; Matthew 11:28

For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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—Fivefold Amen

A - men, a - men. A - men, a - men, a - men.

Text: Traditional; Music: Traditional African-American Spiritual, arr. Nelsie T. Johnson, 1988.

# 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:

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly is the Lord God Al - might - y,  
Heav'n and Earth are full of Thy glor - y, glor - y be un - to Thee,  
O Lord most high, O Lord most high, O Lord most high, A - men.

Text: Traditional, based on Isaiah 6:3, Revelation 4:8;

Music: Nathan George, 2013.



# 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—Fairest Lord Jesus

Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Ru - ler of all na - ture, Son of — God and Son of Man!  
*Fair are the mead - ous, fair — are the wood - lands, robed in the bloom - ing — garb of spring:*  
Fair is the sun - shine, fair — is the moon - light, and all the twink - ling, star - ry host:  
*Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior! Lord of the na - tions! Son of — God and Son of Man!*

Thee will I cher - ish, Thee will I hon - or, Thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.  
*Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er, who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.*  
Je - sus shines brigh - ter, Je - sus shines pur - er than all the an - gels heav'n can boast.  
*Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion, now and for - ev - er - more be Thine.*

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster 1677, tr. 1850, 1873; Music: CRUSADER'S HYMN (ST. ELIZABETH), Silesian Folk Song, Leipzig, 1842.

## Congregational Hymn—From Babel To Zion

Now to the ho - ly ci - ty the faith - ful gath - er home; —  
Now eye to eye be - hold - ing the way - marks on — the road, —  
Sing glo - ry to the Sav - ior, high o - ver all — the world; —  
No long - er Bab - el's bon - dage the bride of Christ can hold; —

To Zi - on's mount of glor - y with songs of joy they come. —  
All bound in love to - geth - er, they're com - ing home to God: —  
On Zi - on's heights for - ev - er His ban - ner is un - furled.  
God's chil - dren now are ho - ly, and free — from Bab - el's fold: —

Jer - u - sa - lem — the gold - en, Jer - u - sa - lem — the free, —  
One mind and mouth poss - ess - ing, they speak with one — ac - cord, —  
God's church can be — no long - er ob - scured from hu - man sight; —  
For it is fall - en, fall - en, and it shall rise — no more; —

With joy - ful hearts and voi - ces the ran - somed come to thee.  
And in the heights of Zi - on they shout — and praise the Lord.  
For see, on yon - der mount - ain, a ci - ty filled with light!  
We cling a - lone — to Je - sus, as did — the saints of yore.

Text: Thomas Nelson, 1907; Music: D. O. Teasley, 1907, arr. Henry C. Haffner, 2016.

# 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—As With Gladness, Men Of Old

As with glad - ness, men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold  
As with joy - ful steps they sped to that low - ly cra - dle bed  
As they off - ered gifts most rare at that cra - dle rude and bare;  
Ho - ly — Je - sus, ev - ery day keep us in the nar - row way;

As with joy they hailed its light lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright  
There to — bend the knee be - fore Him Whom Heaven and earth a - dore;  
So may we with hol - y joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,  
And, when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last

So, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led to Thee.  
So may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek Thy mer - cy seat.  
All our cost - liest treas - ures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'n - ly King.  
Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds Thy glo - ry hide.

Text: William C. Dix, 1860, Music: DIX, Konrad Kocher, 1838, arr. William H. Monk, 1861.

## 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 13:11-12; Hebrews 13:25

Salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Grace be with you all. *Amen.*

### Sung Response—O Splendor Of God's Glory Bright, Vs. 5

The musical score is written in 3/4 time and consists of two systems. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "All praise to God the Fa - ther be, all praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee, Whom with the Spir - it we a - dore for - ev - er and for - ev - er - more." The music features a simple, hymn-like melody with a steady bass accompaniment.

Text: Ambrose of Milan, 4<sup>th</sup> Century, tr. Robert Bridges, 1899;  
Music: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR, Michael Praetorius, 1609.

## Announcements

## Worship Notes:

Light has been a consistent motif found in Christmas celebrations throughout history. From the legend of St. Lucy's candle headdress which enlivens the winter solstice in Scandinavia, to the "star singer" processions of central Europe where children re-enact the visit of the Magi while singing hymns, these images point to Christ as "the true light" (John 1:9) and "a light for revelation to the gentiles" (Luke 2:32). On this Epiphany Sunday service (the feast which follows the traditional twelve days of Christmas), many of the scriptures and hymns reflect these themes as well. Isaiah 60 announces that our light has come and that nations will gather around to see it. We declare that God is the "Father of Light" (*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*), while the psalmist encourages us that "Light to the upright shall arise, though he in darkness be" (*Alleluia! How Blest The Man—Psalm 112*). We confess that Jesus is the "Light of the anxious heart" and the "Light of light, light's living spring," who shines brighter than "all the twinkling starry host" (*Light Of The Anxious Heart; O Splendor Of God's Glory Bright; Fairest Lord Jesus*). We are sent out with a blessing from Romans 13, reminding us that "the night is far gone; the day is at hand" and to "put on the armor of light." With the uncertainty that can sometimes accompany a new year, I pray that, as wise men hailed the guiding light of the star to Bethlehem, "so, most gracious Lord, may we ever more be led to Thee." —Henry C. Haffner

**Key Words:** Perfect, Weak, Priest, Life, Forever, Oath, Hope

**Keystone Verse:** Consequently, He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. (Hebrews 7:25)



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### Elders

Keith Cannon (636-7137)	Tom Goddard (218-3654)	Brandon Herrenbruck (339-5516)
Michael Mastroberti (973-879-1368)	Mike Miserocchi (594-3880)	Matt Morrison (482-5107)
Jason Parolini (497-3337)	Jonathan Thornton (703-801-1355)	

### Elders Emeritus

Phil Hutcheson Steve Nelson John Scherrer

### Deacons

Aaron Anderson (973-1797)	Brandon Blair (575-430-6436)	Kevin Cowherd (967-5099)
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Nae Soundara (519-3720)	Jim Soyster (585-5980)	Walt Yates (785-477-0990)

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