

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

January 21, 2024 at 10 am

*This is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.*

(John 3:16-17)

*God gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So we are Christ's ambassadors;
God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!"*
(2 Corinthians 5:19-20)

PRELUDE

WELCOME

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HYMN #139: "COME THOU ALMIGHTY KING"

Come, Thou Almighty King,
Help us Thy name to sing, Help us to praise:
Father, all-glorious, O'er all victorious,
Come, and reign over us, Ancient of Days.

Come, Thou Incarnate Word,
Gird on Thy mighty sword, Our prayer attend:
Come, and Thy people bless, And give Thy word success;
Spirit of holiness, On us descend.

Come, Holy Comforter,
Thy sacred witness bear In this glad hour:
Thou who almighty art, Now rule in every heart,
And ne'er from us depart, Spirit of power.

To Thee, great One in Three,
The highest praises be, Hence evermore!
Thy sovereign majesty May we in glory see,
And to eternity Love and adore.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

We gather today to worship the One who created us,

The One who calls us,

The One who equips us,

The one who changes us into his likeness,

The One who loves us without end.

With joyful hearts, let us worship God.

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“OPEN THE EYES OF MY HEART, LORD”

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord;
Open the eyes of my heart.
I want to see You; I want to see You.

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord;
Open the eyes of my heart.
I want to see You; I want to see You.

To see You high and lifted up,
Shinin' in the light of Your glory.
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy:

Holy, holy, holy;
We cry holy, holy, holy.
You are holy, holy, holy,
I want to see you.

*“Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord,” by Paul Baloche
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HYMN #85: “WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS”

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the heavy cross for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am,
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
While millions join the theme, I will sing!

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
And through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on.
And through eternity I'll sing on.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

After corporate prayer we will have a few moments of silence for personal confession.

CHOIR: “GUIDE MY FEET”

* *Please stand if you are able*

THE READING AND PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

Sermon: *"The Story of God: Review and 'So What'"*

Genesis 12:1-3

The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you. ² I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. ³ I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you."

Matthew 5:13-16

"You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! ¹⁸ And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. ¹⁹ For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. ²⁰ So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" ²¹ For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

1 Peter 2:9, 12

You are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. . . . Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S LOVE WITH OUR OFFERINGS

*The metal basket in the offering plate is for gifts to support
our deacons' provision of care, support, and financial assistance to those in need.*

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DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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HYMN #422: "GOD WHOSE GIVING KNOWS NO ENDING"

God, whose giving knows no ending,
From Your rich and endless store,
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,
Costly cross, grave's shattered door:
Gifted by You, we turn to You,
Offering up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever,
Gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing
Toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
All at peace in health and freedom,
Races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor,
Lest we strive for self alone;
Born with talents, make us servants
Fit to answer at Your throne.

Treasure too You have entrusted,
Gain through powers Your grace conferred;
Ours to use for home and kindred,
And to spread the gospel Word.
Open wide our hands, in sharing,
As we heed Christ's ageless call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming,
Serving You by loving all.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

* *Please stand if you are able*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

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Office Hours: 10 am – 2 pm (Monday, Wednesday – Friday)

WEBSITE: ABERDEENPRES.ORG

CALENDAR

TODAY Choir Practice (9:00 in parlor)
Sunday Worship (10:00 in the sanctuary)
Youth Group (4:00 – 7:00)

Tuesday, Jan 23 Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)

Sunday, Jan 28 Sunday Worship (10:00 in the sanctuary)
Congregational Meeting (after the 10:00 service)

LOOKING AHEAD February 14: Ash Wednesday Service (6:00 supper, 6:30 service)
February 21: Coffee and Study (1:00)
Soup and Study (6:00)