

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

January 14, 2024 at 10 am

*"I will fulfill my vows to you, O God, and will offer a sacrifice of thanks for your help.
For you have rescued me from death; you have kept my feet from slipping.
So now I can walk in your presence, O God, in your life-giving light." (Psalms 56:12-13)*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

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"SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY"

A pilgrim was I, and a-wand'ring,
In the cold night of sin I did roam;
When Jesus the kind Shepherd found me,
And now I am on my way home.

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days, all the days of my life.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days, all the days of my life.*

He restoreth my soul when I'm weary,
He giveth me strength day by day;
He leads me beside the still waters,
He guards me each step of the way. *[Refrain]*

When I walk thro' the dark lonesome valley,
My Savior will walk with me there;
And safely His great hand will lead me,
To the mansions He's gone to prepare. *[Refrain]*

And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever,
And I will feast at the table spread for me.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days, all the days of my life;
All the days, all the days of my life.

*"Surely Goodness and Mercy" by Alfred B. Smith and John W. Peterson.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

**Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and extol him with music and song.**

* Please stand if you are able

For the LORD is the great God,
the great King above all gods.

**In his hand are the depths of the earth,
and the mountain peaks belong to him.**

**The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.**

Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;

**for he is our God
and we are the people of his pasture,
the flock under his care.**

Psalm 95:1-7.

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HYMN #466: "O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING"

O for a thousand tongues to sing
My dear Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of God's grace!

Jesus, the name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life, and health, and peace.

Christ breaks the power of reigning sin,
And sets the prisoner free;
Christ's blood can make the sinful clean,
Christ's blood availed for me.

My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honors of Thy name.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON (unison)

**Merciful God,
We confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you
with our whole heart and mind and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.
Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

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

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HYMN #280: "AMAZING GRACE"

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

THE READING AND PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

Sermon: *"Walking with God"*

1 John 1:5-2:6

This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all. ⁶ So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. ⁷ But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.

⁸ If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. ⁹ But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts.

* *Please stand if you are able*

¹ My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. ² He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world.

³ And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments. ⁴ If someone claims, “I know God,” but doesn’t obey God’s commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. ⁵ But those who obey God’s word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him. ⁶ Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did. [*Those who claim to live in relationship to Jesus ought, themselves, to walk in the same way as Jesus walked.*]

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

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF NEW DEACONS

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HYMN #339: “BE THOU MY VISION”

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art—
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Riches I heed not, nor man’s empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of 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** Sunday Worship (10:00 in the sanctuary)
Potluck (after the service)
- Tuesday, Jan 16** Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)
Worship at Channel Point (10:30)
Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group (1:00 pm)
- Thurs, Jan 18** Deacons' Meeting (6:00 pm)
- Sunday, Jan 21** Choir Practice (9:00 in Parlor)
Sunday Worship (10:00 in the sanctuary)
- Sunday, Jan 28** Annual Congregational Meeting (after service)