

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

April 23, 2023 at 10 am

*"Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh.  
You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt." (Exodus 3:10)*

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

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### **HYMN #476: "O WORSHIP THE KING" (verses 1-2, 4-5)**

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O worship the King, all glorious above!  
O gratefully sing God's power and God's love;  
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,  
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

O tell of God's might, O sing of God's grace,  
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space,  
His chariots of heaven the deep thunderclouds form,  
And bright is God's path on the wings of the storm.

Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?  
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;  
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,  
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,  
In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail;  
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,  
Our maker, defender, redeemer, and friend.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)**

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In Christ, the God of heaven has made his home on earth.

**Christ dwells among us and is one with us.**

Highest of all creation, he lives among the least.

**He journeys with the rejected and welcomes the weary.**

Come now, all who thirst,  
and drink the water of life.

**Come now, all who hunger,  
and be filled with good things.**

Come now, all who seek,  
and be warmed by the fire of love.

**CHOIR: "SHALL WE GATHER AT THE RIVER"**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON (unison)**

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O God, with the psalmist we pray:

Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love;  
according to your great compassion  
blot out my transgressions.

Wash away all my iniquity  
and cleanse me from my sin.  
For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is always before me.

Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;  
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

Hide your face from my sins  
and blot out all my iniquity.  
Create in me a pure heart, O God,  
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me from your presence  
or take your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

*Psalm 51:1-3, 7, 9-12*

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

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**"WONDERFUL, MERCIFUL SAVIOR"**

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Wonderful merciful Savior,  
Precious Redeemer and Friend,  
Who would have thought that a Lamb  
Could rescue the souls of men;  
Oh, You rescue the souls of men.

*You are the One that we praise;  
You are the One we adore;  
You give the healing and grace  
Our hearts always hunger for,  
Oh, our hearts always hunger for.*

Counselor, Comforter, Keeper,  
Spirit we long to embrace,  
You offer hope when our hearts  
Have hopelessly lost the way;  
Oh, we hopelessly lost the way. *[Refrain]*

Almighty, infinite, Father,  
Faithfully loving Your own;  
Here in our weakness You find us,  
Falling before Your throne;  
Oh, we're falling before Your throne. *[Refrain]*

*"Wonderful Merciful Savior" by Dawn Rodgers and Eric Wyse,  
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## THE READING AND PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

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Sermon: *From 'Prince of Egypt' to Servant of God*

### Exodus 3:1-17

One day Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian. He led the flock far into the wilderness and came to Sinai, the mountain of God.<sup>2</sup> There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a blazing fire from the middle of a bush. Moses stared in amazement. Though the bush was engulfed in flames, it didn't burn up.<sup>3</sup> "This is amazing," Moses said to himself. "Why isn't that bush burning up? I must go see it."

<sup>4</sup> When the LORD saw Moses coming to take a closer look, God called to him from the middle of the bush, "Moses! Moses!"

"Here I am!" Moses replied.

<sup>5</sup> "Do not come any closer," the LORD warned. "Take off your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground."<sup>6</sup> I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." When Moses heard this, he covered his face because he was afraid to look at God.

<sup>7</sup> Then the LORD told him, "I have certainly seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their cries of distress because of their harsh slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering."<sup>8</sup> So I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and lead them out of Egypt into their own fertile and spacious land. It is a land flowing with milk and honey—the land where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites now live.<sup>9</sup> Look! The cry of the people of Israel has reached me, and I have seen how harshly the Egyptians abuse them.<sup>10</sup> Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt."

<sup>11</sup> But Moses protested to God, "Who am I to appear before Pharaoh? Who am I to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt?"

<sup>12</sup> God answered, "I will be with you. And this is your sign that I am the one who has sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God at this very mountain."

<sup>13</sup> But Moses protested, "If I go to the people of Israel and tell them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' they will ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what should I tell them?"

<sup>14</sup> God replied to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. Say this to the people of Israel: I AM has sent me to you."<sup>15</sup> God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel: Yahweh, the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you."

This is my eternal name,  
my name to remember for all generations.

<sup>16</sup> “Now go and call together all the elders of Israel. Tell them, ‘Yahweh, the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—has appeared to me. He told me, “I have been watching closely, and I see how the Egyptians are treating you. <sup>17</sup> I have promised to rescue you from your oppression in Egypt. I will lead you to a land flowing with milk and honey—the land where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites now live.””

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### **WE RESPOND TO GOD’S LOVE WITH OUR OFFERINGS**

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*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**

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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 #525: “HERE I AM, LORD”**

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I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in deepest sin  
My hand will save.

I who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord.*

*Is it I, Lord?*

*I have heard You calling in the night.*

*I will go, Lord,*

*If You lead me,*

*I will hold Your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain  
I have borne My people’s pain.  
I have wept for love of them, they turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
Give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak My word to them.  
Whom shall I send? *[Refrain]*

I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them,  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
Till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send? *[Refrain]*

## **BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE**

### **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN**

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Office Hours: 10 am – 2 pm (Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri)

Caretaker Hours: 9:00 – 1:00 (Mon, Tues, Wed; plus additional intermittent hours)

Tuesday Crew Facility Maintenance: 9 am – 1 pm (Tues)

**WEBSITE: ABERDEENPRES.ORG**

## **CALENDAR**

**SUNDAY, April 30** Sharing Table (before and after the service)