

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

March 10, 2024 at 10 am

*"You have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. . . .
use your freedom to serve one another in love." (Galatians 5:13)*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

*

"BEHOLD WHAT MANNER OF LOVE"

Behold what manner of love
The Father has given unto us;
Behold what manner of love
The Father has given unto us:

That we should be called
The children of God;
That we should be called
The children of God.

(Sing through twice)

"Behold What Manner of Love" by Patricia Van Tine.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

As we gather this day, each of us brings something to worship.

We bring the burdens of the week.

We bring prayers of hope, and prayers of anguish.

We bring our voices, and our offerings, and our questions.

We bring our minds and our hearts
to be comforted and challenged and transformed
by God's call to obedience and service.

We bring our faith, tattered or whole as it may be.

We bring all this to each other and to God, whom we worship today.

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HYMN #476: "O WORSHIP THE KING"

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.

* *Please stand if you are able*

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.

The earth with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, Thy power hath founded of old;
Hath stablished it fast by a changeless decree,
And round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.

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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON (unison)

**God of compassion and mercy,
you sent us your Son as the savior of the world,
and told us to love one another as much as you loved us.
Yet, we struggle to love each other.**

**We have a hard time loving those who are not like us,
who disagree with us,
or who ask us to face the truths about ourselves.**

**You told us to love one another,
because love is from God.
And we love to love as long as it's in the abstract.
But it's hard, and we so often fail,
when love calls for genuine action.**

**Forgive us, God,
and show us how to love the way you command us to love.
Release us from our judgment and our fear.
Open our hearts so that we might receive your perfect love for us,
and offer it to each other, and the world.**

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

*

"THE LOVE OF GOD"

The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell;
It goes beyond the highest star, and reaches to the lowest hell;
The guilty pair bowed down with care, God gave His Son to win;
His erring child He reconciled, and pardoned from his sin.

*O love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure—
the saints and angels song.*

When years of time shall pass away and earthly thrones and kingdoms fall,
When men, who here refuse to pray, on rocks and hills and mountains call,
God's love so sure shall still endure, all measureless and strong;
Redeeming grace to Adam's race—the saints and angels song. *[Refrain]*

Could we with ink the ocean fill and were the skies of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill and every man a scribe by trade,
To write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the whole, though stretched from sky to sky. *[Refrain]*

*"The Love of God" by Frederick Martin Lehman and Meir Ben Isaac Nehorai.
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THE READING AND PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

Sermon: *"Loving One Another: Bearing Burdens and Serving One Another"*

Galatians 5:13

You have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.

Philippians 2:3-11

Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

⁵ You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

⁶ Though he was God,
he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to.

⁷ Instead, he gave up his divine privileges;
he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being.

When he appeared in human form,
⁸ he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor
and gave him the name above all other names,

¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Galatians 6:2-3, 9-10

Share one another's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ. ³ If you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself. You are not that important. . . .

⁹ So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. ¹⁰ Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.

The New Living Translation uses "each other" instead of "one another"; they have been changed to "one another" in the above reading.

"THIS IS MY COMMANDMENT"

This is my commandment, that you love one another
that your joy may be full.

This is my commandment, that you love one another
that your joy may be full,
that your joy may be full,
that your joy may be full.

This is my commandment, that you love one another
that your joy may be full.

This is my commandment, that you serve one another
that your joy may be full.

This is my commandment, that you serve one another
that your joy may be full,
that your joy may be full,
that your joy may be full.

This is my commandment, that you serve one another
that your joy may be full.

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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"THE SERVANT SONG"

Brother let me be your servant;
Let me be as Christ to you.
Pray that I might have the grace to
Let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey;
We are brothers on the road.
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load.

* *Please stand if you are able*

I will hold the Christ-light for you,
In the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
Speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;
When you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow,
Till we've seen this journey through.

Brother sister let me serve you;
Let me be as Christ to you.
Pray that I may have the grace to
Let you be my servant too.

"The Servant Song," by Richard Gillard.

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

420 N Broadway, Aberdeen, WA 98520

Pastor Chuck Guth: 847.800.7119 (cell) email: chuck@aberdeenpres.org

Church Office: 360.532.1330 email: office@aberdeenpres.org

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)
 Potluck (after the service)
- Tuesday, Mar 12** Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)
 Handbell Practice (5:00 in the Sanctuary)
- Wednesday, Mar 13** Quilting Group (10:30 – 2:30)
 Lenten Study: *Eavesdropping on Peter*
 Coffee and Study (1:00 pm)
 Soup and Study (6:00 pm)
- Sunday, Mar 17** Choir Practice (9:00 in Parlor)
 Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
 New Member “class” (after the service)
- Looking Ahead . . .** Easter Cantata: “*You Are the Christ!*” (Sunday, March 24)
 Maundy Thursday Worship and Communion (Thursday, March 28)
 Easter Celebration of the Resurrection (Sunday, March 31)
 Sharing Table (Sunday, April 7)

The deacons are providing resources for those with cancer; they’re available on a shelf in the library to be borrowed for personal use, or to share.

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