

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

January 15, 2023 at 10 am

*"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." (Psalm 119:105)*

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

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### ***"I WILL SING OF THE MERCIES OF THE LORD"***

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*I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,*

*I will sing. I will sing.*

*I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,*

*I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.*

With my mouth will I make known

Thy faithfulness, Thy faithfulness.

With my mouth will I make known,

Thy faithfulness to all generations.

*I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,*

*I will sing. I will sing.*

*I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,*

*I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.*

*"I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord" by James Henry Fillmore Sr.,*

*Words and Music: Public Domain.*

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

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

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Jesus said:

**"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.**

**Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,**

**for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.**

**For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."**

And he said:

**"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace.**

**In this world you will have trouble.**

**But take heart! I have overcome the world."**

And he said:

**"Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink."**

All who thirst, come to the water.

Come, all who are weary;

Come, all who are burdened and stressed;

Come all who yearn for forgiveness.

\* *Please stand if you are able*

**The Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ has washed over us,  
and our gracious and holy God beckons and blesses us.**

Drink deeply of his living waters.  
Glory to you, O Lord;  
we give you our thanks for your love and your care;  
we worship you for who you are.

*Based on Matthew 11:28-30, John 16:33, and John 7:37.*

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**HYMN #172: "MY SHEPHERD WILL SUPPLY MY NEED"**

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My Shepherd will supply my need;  
Jehovah is His Name:  
In pastures fresh He makes me feed,  
Beside the living stream.  
He brings my wandering spirit back  
When I forsake His ways,  
And leads me, for His mercy's sake,  
In paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death  
Thy presence is my stay;  
One word of Your supporting breath  
Drives all my fears away.  
Your hand, in sight of all my foes,  
Does still my table spread;  
My cup with blessings overflows,  
Your oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God  
Attend me all my days;  
O may Your house be my abode,  
And all my work be praise.  
There would I find a settled rest,  
While others go and come;  
No more a stranger, or a guest,  
But like a child at home.

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

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**Eternal God, out of whose absolute power and infinite intelligence  
the whole universe has come into being,  
we humbly confess that we have not loved you with our hearts, souls and minds,  
and we have not loved our neighbors as Christ loved us.  
We have all too often lived by our own selfish impulses  
rather than by the life of sacrificial love as revealed by Christ.  
We often give in order to receive.  
We love our friends and hate our enemies.  
We go the first mile but dare not travel the second.  
We forgive but dare not forget.**

**And so as we look within ourselves, we are confronted with the appalling fact that the history of our lives is the history of an eternal revolt against you.**

**But you, O God, have mercy upon us.  
Forgive us for what we could have been but failed to be.  
Give us the intelligence to know your will.  
Give us the courage to do your will.  
Give us the devotion to love your will.  
In the name and spirit of Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

*Martin Luther King Jr. (divine pronouns altered)*

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

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**HYMN #280: "AMAZING GRACE"**

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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**

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Sermon: *"The Bible: What It Is, Where It's From, and Why It's Important"*—Chuck Guth

**Psalms 119: 97-98, 101-103, 105, 112**

Oh, how I love your law!  
I meditate on it all day long.

Your commands are always with me  
and make me wiser than my enemies. . . .

I have kept my feet from every evil path  
so that I might obey your word.

\* *Please stand if you are able*

I have not departed from your laws,  
for you yourself have taught me.

How sweet are your words to my taste,  
sweeter than honey to my mouth! . . .

Your word is a lamp for my feet,  
a light on my path. . . .

My heart is set on keeping your decrees  
to the very end.

## **2 Timothy 3:14-17**

But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you. You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

## **1 Peter 1:16-21**

For we were not making up clever stories when we told you about the powerful coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We saw his majestic splendor with our own eyes when he received honor and glory from God the Father. The voice from the majestic glory of God said to him, “This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy.” We ourselves heard that voice from heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain.

Because of that experience, we have even greater confidence in the message proclaimed by the prophets. You must pay close attention to what they wrote, for their words are like a lamp shining in a dark place—until the Day dawns, and Christ the Morning Star shines in your hearts. Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet’s own understanding, or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God.

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

*The ceramic jars in the offering plates are designated for the Deacons’ Fund **and** the World Vision Fund. Our deacons provide care, support, and financial assistance to those in the congregation in need. The World Vision Fund supports a Sponsored Child through World Vision.*

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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.

### **CONFESSION OF FAITH: “THE SECOND HELVETIC CONFESSION (CHAPTER 1)”**

**We believe and confess the Scriptures of the holy prophets and apostles  
of both Testaments to be the true Word of God,  
and to have sufficient authority of themselves, not of men.**

\* *Please stand if you are able*

**For God himself spoke to the fathers, prophets, apostles,  
and still speaks to us through the Holy Scriptures.**

**And in this Holy Scripture,  
the universal Church of Christ has the most complete exposition  
of all that pertains to a saving faith,  
and also to the framing of a life acceptable to God. . . .**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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***"THY WORD"***

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*Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
And a light unto my path;  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
And a light unto my path.*

When I feel afraid  
And I think I've lost my way  
Still You're there right beside me  
Nothing will I fear  
As long as You are near  
Please be near me to the end. [REFRAIN]

I will not forget  
Your love for me and yet  
My heart forever is wandering  
Jesus be my guide  
And hold me to Your side  
I will love You to the end, [REFRAIN]

*"Thy Word" by Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith.*

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**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

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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**

- Tuesday, January 17**    Worship at Channel Point (10:30)
- Wed, January 18**    Alzheimer’s Caregivers Support Group (1:00 pm)
- Thurs, January 19**    Deacons’ Meeting (6:00 pm)
- Sunday, January 22**    Youth Group (4:30 pm)
- Sunday, January 29**    Congregational Meeting (after the 10:00 service)  
Sharing Table (before and after the service)