

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

October 23, 2022 at 10 am

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect . . ." (1 Peter 3:15)

PRELUDE

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HYMN #306: "FAIREST LORD JESUS"

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
O Thou of God to earth come down,
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy and crown.

Fair are the meadows, Fairer still the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, Fairer still the moonlight,
And all the twinkling starry host;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels heaven can boast.

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE

PARTNERS IN MISSION: FAMILY PROMISE

PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION, AND THE WORLD

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

How good and pleasant it is
when God's people live together in unity!

**It is like precious oil poured on the head,
running down on the beard,
running down on Aaron's beard,
down on the collar of his robe.**

It is as if the dew of Hermon
were falling on Mount Zion.
For there the LORD bestows his blessing,
even life forevermore.

**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*

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.

Psalms 133; 95:1-2, 6-7

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HYMN #345: "DEAR LORD AND FATHER OF MANKIND" (VERSES 1-2, 4)

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways;
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives Thy service find,
In deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,
Beside the Syrian sea,
The gracious calling of the Lord,
Let us, like them, without a word,
Rise up and follow Thee.

Drop Thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of Thy peace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON (unison or silently)

Good and Great God,
in your omnipotent power you created us,
in your sovereignty you gave us free wills,
in your mercy you regard us in spite of our sin,
in your grace you provide a solution for our sin,
in your love you offer fellowship with yourself.

Forgive us of our sin,
and cleanse us that we might be holy "just as you are holy."
Give us hearts and minds open to you,
committed to you,
and sanctified for you.

Help us to love you, and serve you,
in every aspect of our lives,
In all that we think, say and do. *AMEN.*

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

“SEEK YE FIRST”

Seek ye first the kingdom of God,
And His righteousness;
And all these things
Shall be added unto you:
Allelu, alleluia.

Man shall not live by bread alone,
But by ev'ry word
That proceeds
From the mouth of God:
Allelu, alleluia.

Ask and it shall be given unto you;
Seek and ye shall find;
Knock and the door
Shall be opened unto you:
Allelu, alleluia.

“Seek Ye First,” by Karen Lafferty.

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THE READING AND PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

Sermon: *“Gentle and Respectful”*—Chuck Guth

1 Peter 3:13–23

Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.” But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. For it is better, if it is God’s will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits—to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

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.

CHOIR: "GUIDE MY FEET"

CONFESSION OF FAITH: "THE BELHAR CONFESSION"

We believe:

**that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation
in and through Jesus Christ;**
**that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world,
that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker,
that the church is witness both by word and by deed
to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells;**
**that God's life-giving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death,
and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity,
that God's life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live
in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world.**

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"THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS BY OUR LOVE"

We are one in the Spirit, We are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit, We are one in the Lord.
And we pray that all unity
May one day be restored

*And they'll know we are Christians
By our love by our love
Yes they'll know we are Christians
By our love.*

We will walk with each other, We will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other, We will walk hand in hand.
And together we'll spread the news
That God is in our land. [REFRAIN]

We will work with each other, We will work side by side;
We will work with each other, We will work side by side.
And we'll guard each man's dignity
And save each man's pride. [REFRAIN]

All praise to the Father From whom all things come;
And all praise to Christ Jesus His only Son;
And all praise to the Spirit
Who makes us one. [REFRAIN]

"They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love," by Peter Scholtes;
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* Please stand if you are able

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