

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

March 3, 2024 at 10 am

*“Don’t speak evil against one another, dear brothers and sisters.” (James 4:11)*  
*“Kind words are like honey—sweet to the soul and healthy for the body.” (Proverbs 16:24)*

## 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, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION AND THE WORLD

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

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Come, let us tell of the LORD’s greatness;

**Let us exalt his name together.**

Those who look to him for help will be radiant with joy;  
no shadow of shame will darken their faces.

**Taste and see that the LORD is good.  
Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!**

And so, let us take refuge in our all-powerful and protecting God  
as we worship our triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*Based on Psalm 34:3, 5, 8.*

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**HYMN #138: "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY"**

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Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;  
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,  
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide Thee,  
Though the eye of sinfulness Thy glory may not see,  
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee  
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All Thy works shall praise Thy Name, in earth, and sky, and sea;  
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**CHOIR: "JESUS WALKED THIS LONESOME VALLEY"**

**THE READING AND PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE**

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Sermon: *"Loving One Another: Speak Well To and Of One Another"*

**James 3:2-12**

If we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way.

<sup>3</sup> We can make a large horse go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth. <sup>4</sup> And a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong. <sup>5</sup> In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches.

But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. <sup>6</sup> And among all the parts of the body, the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself.

<sup>7</sup> People can tame all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and fish, <sup>8</sup> but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup> Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God. <sup>10</sup> And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right! <sup>11</sup> Does a spring of water bubble out with both fresh water and bitter water? <sup>12</sup> Does a fig tree produce olives, or a grapevine produce figs? No, and you can't draw fresh water from a salty spring.

## James 4:11

<sup>11</sup> Don't speak evil against one another, dear brothers and sisters. If you criticize and judge one another, then you are criticizing and judging God's law. But your job is to obey the law, not to judge whether it applies to you. <sup>12</sup> God alone, who gave the law, is the Judge. He alone has the power to save or to destroy. So what right do you have to judge your neighbor?

## James 5:9

<sup>9</sup> Don't grumble about one another, brothers and sisters . . . .

## Colossians 3:1-5, 8-10, 17

<sup>1</sup> Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. <sup>2</sup> Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. <sup>3</sup> For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

<sup>5</sup> So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. . . . Now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. <sup>9</sup> Don't lie to one another, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. <sup>10</sup> Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. . . .

<sup>17</sup> And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

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

## 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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## HYMN #370: "JUST AS I AM, WITHOUT ONE PLEA" (verses 1, 3-4)

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Just as I am, without one plea  
But that Thy blood was shed for me,  
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,  
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
Because Thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, Thy love unknown  
Has broken every barrier down;  
Now, to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

## CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

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*Our practice is to eat the bread individually as it is distributed,  
and to hold onto the cup until all have received it, and then partake of it in unison.*

### ***Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer***

***Passing the Peace: "May the peace of Christ be with you"***

### ***Communion***

#### ***The Apostles' Creed***

***I believe in God the Father*** Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

***I believe in Jesus Christ*** his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

***I believe in the Holy Spirit***; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

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### ***"BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD ABOVE"***

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Before the throne of God above  
I have a strong and perfect plea  
A great High Priest whose name is Love  
Who ever lives and pleads for me  
My name is graven on His hands  
My name is written on His heart  
I know that while in heav'n He stands  
No tongue can bid me thence depart  
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

Behold Him there the risen Lamb  
My perfect spotless righteousness  
The great unchangeable I Am  
The King of glory and of grace  
One with Himself I cannot die  
My soul is purchased with His blood  
My life is hid with Christ on high  
With Christ my Savior and my God  
With Christ my Savior and my God.

I bow before the cross of Christ  
And marvel at this love divine  
God's perfect Son was sacrificed  
To make me righteous in God's eyes  
This river's depths I cannot know  
But I can glory in its flood  
The Lord Most High has bowed down low  
And poured on me His glorious love  
And poured on me His glorious love.

\* *Please stand if you are able*

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

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WEBSITE: [ABERDEENPRES.ORG](http://ABERDEENPRES.ORG)

## CALENDAR

- TODAY** Choir Practice (9:00 in Parlor)  
Worship and Communion (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
- Tues, Mar 5** Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)  
Worship at Channel Point (10:30)  
Handbell Practice (5:00 pm in the Sanctuary)
- Wed, Mar 6** Quilting Group (10:30 – 2:30 pm)  
Lenten Study: *Eavesdropping on Peter*  
Coffee and Study (1:00 pm)  
Soup and Study (6:00 pm)
- Sunday, Mar 10** Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)  
Potluck (after the service)

The deacons have started a new ministry: **“Helping Hands.”** If you’re stuck with a problem around your home feel free to give Brian Krohn a call to see if someone from the church can give you a hand. Be sure to pick up a card with his number on it from the table in Fellowship Hall, and put it on your refrigerator (or wherever you’ll remember it when it’s needed).

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