

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

December 31, 2023 at 10 am

*"Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people."  
(Revelation 21:3)*

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

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

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### *"HE HAS MADE ME GLAD"*

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I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart;  
I will enter His courts with praise.

I will say this is the day that the Lord has made;  
I will rejoice for He has made me glad.

*He has made me glad; He has made me glad.*

*I will rejoice for He has made me glad;*

*He has made me glad; He has made me glad.*

*I will rejoice for He has made me glad.*

I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart;  
I will enter His courts with praise.

I will say this is the day that the Lord has made;  
I will rejoice for He has made me glad. *[Refrain]*

*"He Has Made Me Glad" by Leona Von Brethorst,*

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

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Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,  
who was, and is, and is to come.

**You are worthy, our Lord and God,  
to receive glory and honor and power,  
for you created all things,  
and by your will they were created and have their being.**

You are worthy of our worship, Lamb of God,  
because you were slain,  
and with your blood you purchased for God  
persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.  
You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God,  
and they will reign on the earth.

**Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,  
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength  
and honor and glory and praise!**

\* *Please stand if you are able*

To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb  
be praise and honor and glory and power,  
for ever and ever!

*Revelation 4:8, 11; 5:9-10, 12, 13*

**“AGNUS DEI”**

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Alleluia, alleluia,  
For the Lord God Almighty reigns.  
Alleluia, alleluia,  
For the Lord God Almighty reigns;  
Alleluia.

*(You are) Holy, holy,  
Are You Lord God, Almighty.  
Worthy is the Lamb;  
Worthy is the Lamb.  
You are holy, holy,  
Are You Lord God, Almighty.  
Worthy is the Lamb;  
Worthy is the Lamb.*

Amen.

*“Agnus Dei” by Michael W. Smith.*

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

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**Holy God, you see us as we are, and know our inmost thoughts.  
We confess that we are unworthy of your gracious care.  
We forget that all life comes from you and that to you all life returns.  
We have not sought to do your will with our whole hearts.  
We have not lived as grateful children, nor loved as Christ loved us.  
Apart from you, we are nothing.  
Only your grace can sustain us.**

**Lord, in your mercy, forgive us, heal us, and make us whole.  
Set us free from our sin, and restore us to the joy of your salvation—now and forever.  
Amen.**

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

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**HYMN #467: “HOW GREAT THOU ART”**

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O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the works thy hand hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed;

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:  
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:  
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!*

\* *Please stand if you are able*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,  
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:  
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:  
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!*

But when I think that God, His Son not sparing,  
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in,  
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
He bled and died to take away my sin; *[Refrain]*

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration  
And there proclaim, "My God, how great Thou art!" *[Refrain]*

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### THE READING AND PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

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Sermon: "A New Heaven and a New Earth"

#### Revelation 21:1–22:5

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

<sup>3</sup> I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. <sup>4</sup> He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."

<sup>5</sup> And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!" And then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true." <sup>6</sup> And he also said, "It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End. To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of the water of life. <sup>7</sup> All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children. . . .

<sup>9</sup> Then one of the seven angels . . . took me in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and he showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God. <sup>11</sup> It shone with the glory of God and sparkled like a precious stone—like jasper as clear as crystal. <sup>12</sup> The city wall was broad and high, with twelve gates guarded by twelve angels. And the names of the twelve tribes of Israel were written on the gates. <sup>13</sup> There were three gates on each side—east, north, south, and west. <sup>14</sup> The wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were written the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

<sup>15</sup> The angel who talked to me held in his hand a gold measuring stick to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. <sup>16</sup> When he measured it, he found it was a square, as wide as it was long. In fact, its length and width and height were each 1,400 miles. <sup>17</sup> Then he measured the walls and found them to be 216 feet thick (according to the human standard used by the angel).

<sup>18</sup> The wall was made of jasper, and the city was pure gold, as clear as glass. <sup>19</sup> The wall of the city was built on foundation stones inlaid with twelve precious stones: the first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, <sup>20</sup> the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst.

<sup>21</sup> The twelve gates were made of pearls—each gate from a single pearl! And the main street was pure gold, as clear as glass.

<sup>22</sup> I saw no temple in the city, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. <sup>23</sup> And the city has no need of sun or moon, for the glory of God illuminates the city, and the Lamb is its light. <sup>24</sup> The nations will walk in its light, and the kings of the world will enter the city in all their glory. <sup>25</sup> Its gates will never be closed at the end of day because there is no night there. <sup>26</sup> And all the nations will bring their glory and honor into the city. <sup>27</sup> Nothing evil will be allowed to enter, nor anyone who practices shameful idolatry and dishonesty—but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.

<sup>1</sup> Then the angel showed me a river with the water of life, clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb. <sup>2</sup> It flowed down the center of the main street. On each side of the river grew a tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, with a fresh crop each month. The leaves were used for medicine to heal the nations.

<sup>3</sup> No longer will there be a curse upon anything. For the throne of God and of the Lamb will be there, and his servants will worship him. <sup>4</sup> And they will see his face, and his name will be written on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> And there will be no night there—no need for lamps or sun—for the Lord God will shine on them. And they will reign forever and ever.

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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 #446: “GLORIOUS THINGS OF THEE ARE SPOKEN” (verses 1-2)

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Glorious things of thee are spoken,  
Zion, city of our God;  
God, whose word cannot be broken,  
Formed thee for a blest abode.  
On the rock of ages founded,  
What can shake thy sure repose?  
With salvation’s walls surrounded,  
Thou may’st smile at all thy foes.

\* Please stand if you are able

See, the streams of living waters,  
Springing from eternal love,  
Well supply thy sons and daughters  
And all fear of want remove.  
Who can faint while such a river  
Ever flows their thirst to assuage?  
Grace, which like the Lord, the Giver,  
Never fails from age to age.

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

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Office Hours: 10 am – 2 pm (Monday, Wednesday – Friday)

Office will be Closed on Mon, Jan 1, 2024

WEBSITE: ABERDEENPRES.ORG

## CALENDAR

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|---------------------------|---|
| <b>TODAY, December 31</b> | Sunday Morning Worship (10:00 am)<br>Sharing Table (Before and after the service) |
| <b>Tuesday, Jan 2</b>     | Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)<br>Worship at Channel Point (10:30)                     |
| <b>Sunday, Jan 7</b>      | Choir Practice (9:00 in Parlor)<br>Communion (10:00 worship service)              |