

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

September 24, 2023 at 10 am

"The Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant on the lookout for choice pearls. ⁴⁶ When he discovered a pearl of great value, he sold everything he owned and bought it!" (Matthew 13:45–46)

PRELUDE

WELCOME

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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.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION AND THE WORLD

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Now is the time! Here comes God's kingdom!
Change your hearts and lives, and trust this good news!
Jesus comes with good news for the poor.

Now is the time! Here comes God's kingdom!

Jesus comes to release the prisoners.

Now is the time! Here comes God's kingdom!

Jesus comes to give sight to the blind.

* Please stand if you are able

Now is the time! Here comes God's kingdom!

Jesus comes to liberate the oppressed.

Now is the time! Here comes God's kingdom!

Jesus comes to bring the year of the Lord's favor.

**Now is the time! Here comes God's kingdom!
We open our hearts and lives to God's kingdom,
trusting the good news of Jesus Christ.
We will worship Christ our King,
who comes to transform us with grace and truth.**

Based on Mark 1:15 and Luke 4:18-19.

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"COME PEOPLE OF THE RISEN KING"

Come people of the Risen King,
Who delight to bring Him praise;
Come all, and tune your hearts to sing
To the Morning Star of grace.
From the shifting shadows of the earth,
We will lift our eyes to Him,
Where steady arms of mercy reach,
To gather children in.

*Rejoice, rejoice! Let ev'ry tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice;
O Church of Christ, rejoice!*

Come those whose joy is morning sun,
And those weeping through the night;
Come those who tell of battles won,
And those struggling in the fight.
For His perfect love will never change,
And His mercies never cease,
But follow us through all our days,
With the certain hope of peace. *[Refrain]*

Come young and old from ev'ry land,
Men and women of the faith;
Come those with full or empty hands,
Find the riches of His grace.
Over all the world, His people sing;
Shore to shore we hear them call
The truth that cries through ev'ry age:
Our God is all in all. *[Refrain]*

*"Come People of the Risen King" by Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, and Stuart Townend
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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON (unison)

**God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
we are your covenant people—
one church, drawn from all nations.
Our citizenship is in heaven.**

**Yet we confess, O Lord, that we sometimes
lose sight of your kingdom and its ways.
We confess that we sometimes
live more as citizens of our own land than as subjects of your kingdom.
By your truth you call all peoples to account.
Forgive us for losing our distinctiveness.**

**Focus us on the cross and on the salvation you give
through him who is the Lord and King and Judge of us all,
Jesus, the Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

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

CHOIR: "GLORIA"

THE READING AND PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

Sermon: *"A King and a Kingdom"*

Matthew 13:1-53

Jesus . . . sat beside the Sea of Galilee. ² A large crowd soon gathered around him, so he got into a boat. Then he sat there and taught as the people stood on the shore. ³ He told many stories in the form of parables, such as this one:

"Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seeds. ⁴ As he scattered them across his field, some seeds fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate them. ⁵ Other seeds fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seeds sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But the plants soon wilted under the hot sun, and since they didn't have deep roots, they died. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants. ⁸ Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted! ⁹ Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand." . . .

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.

* *Please stand if you are able*

HYMN #151: "CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS"

Crown Him with many crowns,
 The Lamb upon His throne;
 Hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns
 All music but its own!
 Awake, my soul, and sing
 Of Him who died for thee,
 And hail Him as thy matchless King
 Through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of love;
 Behold His hands and side,
 Rich wounds, yet visible above,
 In beauty glorified:
 No angel in the sky
 Can fully bear that sight,
 But downward bends his burning eye
 At mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of peace;
 Whose power a scepter sways
 From pole to pole, that wars may cease,
 Absorbed in prayer and praise:
 His reign shall know no end;
 And round His piercèd feet
 Fair flowers of paradise extend
 Their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown Him the Lord of years,
 The Potentate of time;
 Creator of the rolling spheres,
 Ineffably sublime.
 All hail, Redeemer, hail!
 For Thou has died for me;
 Thy praise shall never, never fail
 Throughout eternity.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

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

WEBSITE: ABERDEENPRES.ORG

CALENDAR

Sunday, Sept 24 Choir Practice (9:00 in Parlor)

Tuesday, Sept 26 Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)

Sunday, October 1 Choir Practice (9:00 in Parlor)
World Communion Sunday/Worship and Communion (10:00)
Youth Group (5:30 -8:30 pm)

Tuesday, October 3 Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)
Worship at Channel Point (10:30)

Wednesday, October 4 Coffee and Study (1:00 pm)
Soup and Study (6:00pm for a meal together; study at 6:30 pm)