

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

May 14, 2023 at 10 am

*"Like an eagle that rouses her chicks and hovers over her young,"  
so God protects and carries God's children. (Deuteronomy 32:11-12)*

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

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### HYMN #469: "MORNING HAS BROKEN"

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Morning has broken Like the first morning,  
Blackbird has spoken Like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, Springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rains new fall, Sunlit from Heaven,  
Like the first dewfall On the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness Of the wet garden,  
Sprung in completeness Where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,  
Born of the one light, Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, Praise every morning,  
God's recreation Of the new day.

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

### CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

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We gather together to worship our loving, nurturing God,  
who, like a mother:

**knows us intimately,  
loves us unconditionally,  
teaches us the way we should go,  
and comforts us in times of need.**

Like a mother,  
God's care for us is unrelenting,  
God's love for us never ceases.

**This is our God.  
Let's worship together!**

*Based on themes from Psalm 139*

**HYMN #281: "GUIDE ME, O THOU GREAT JEHOVAH"**

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Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,  
 Pilgrim through this barren land;  
 I am weak, but Thou art mighty;  
 Hold me with Thy powerful hand;  
 Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
 Feed me till I want no more,  
 Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,  
 Whence the healing stream doth flow;  
 Let the fire and cloudy pillar  
 Lead me all my journey through;  
 Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,  
 Be Thou still my strength and shield,  
 Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
 Bid my anxious fears subside;  
 Death of death, and hell's destruction,  
 Land me safe on Canaan's side;  
 Songs of praises, songs of praises,  
 I will ever give to Thee,  
 I will ever give to Thee.

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

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**Merciful God,  
 you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you.**

**We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy.  
 we so often stray from your ways like lost sheep,  
 following the devices and desires of our own hearts.  
 Too often we have not loved you with a pure heart,  
 nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves.**

**We fail to do justice, to love kindness,  
 to walk humbly with you, our God.**

**Have mercy on us in your loving-kindness.**

**In your great compassion,  
 cleanse us from our sin.**

**Create in us a clean heart, O God,  
 and renew a right spirit within us.**

**Do not cast us from your presence,  
 or take your Holy Spirit from us.**

**Restore to us the joy of your salvation  
 and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit  
 through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

*(Based on Psalm 51:10-12)*

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

## CHOIR: "FOR WHERE LOVE IS"

### THE READING AND PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

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Sermon: "Grumping at God, and Moses' Farewell"

#### Numbers 13:1-3, 17-14:10

The LORD now said to Moses, <sup>2</sup> "Send out men to explore the land of Canaan, the land I am giving to the Israelites. Send one leader from each of the twelve ancestral tribes." <sup>3</sup> So Moses did as the LORD commanded him. He sent out twelve men, all tribal leaders of Israel, from their camp in the wilderness of Paran. . . .

<sup>17</sup> Moses gave the men these instructions as he sent them out to explore the land: "Go north through the Negev into the hill country. <sup>18</sup> See what the land is like, and find out whether the people living there are strong or weak, few or many. <sup>19</sup> See what kind of land they live in. Is it good or bad? Do their towns have walls, or are they unprotected like open camps? <sup>20</sup> Is the soil fertile or poor? Are there many trees? Do your best to bring back samples of the crops you see." (It happened to be the season for harvesting the first ripe grapes.)

<sup>21</sup> So they went up and explored the land from the wilderness of Zin as far as Rehob, near Lebo-hamath. <sup>22</sup> Going north, they passed through the Negev and arrived at Hebron, where Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmi—all descendants of Anak—lived. (The ancient town of Hebron was founded seven years before the Egyptian city of Zoan.) <sup>23</sup> When they came to the valley of Eshcol, they cut down a branch with a single cluster of grapes so large that it took two of them to carry it on a pole between them! They also brought back samples of the pomegranates and figs. <sup>24</sup> That place was called the valley of Eshcol (which means "cluster"), because of the cluster of grapes the Israelite men cut there.

<sup>25</sup> After exploring the land for forty days, the men returned <sup>26</sup> to Moses, Aaron, and the whole community of Israel at Kadesh in the wilderness of Paran. They reported to the whole community what they had seen and showed them the fruit they had taken from the land. <sup>27</sup> This was their report to Moses: "We entered the land you sent us to explore, and it is indeed a bountiful country—a land flowing with milk and honey. Here is the kind of fruit it produces. <sup>28</sup> But the people living there are powerful, and their towns are large and fortified. We even saw giants there, the descendants of Anak! <sup>29</sup> The Amalekites live in the Negev, and the Hittites, Jebusites, and Amorites live in the hill country. The Canaanites live along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea and along the Jordan Valley."

<sup>30</sup> But Caleb tried to quiet the people as they stood before Moses. "Let's go at once to take the land," he said. "We can certainly conquer it!"

<sup>31</sup> But the other men who had explored the land with him disagreed. "We can't go up against them! They are stronger than we are!" <sup>32</sup> So they spread this bad report about the land among the Israelites: "The land we traveled through and explored will devour anyone who goes to live there. All the people we saw were huge. <sup>33</sup> We even saw giants there, the descendants of Anak. Next to them we felt like grasshoppers, and that's what they thought, too!"

<sup>1</sup> Then the whole community began weeping aloud, and they cried all night. <sup>2</sup> Their voices rose in a great chorus of protest against Moses and Aaron. "If only we had died in Egypt, or even here in the wilderness!" they complained. <sup>3</sup> "Why is the LORD taking us to

this country only to have us die in battle? Our wives and our little ones will be carried off as plunder! Wouldn't it be better for us to return to Egypt?" <sup>4</sup> Then they plotted among themselves, "Let's choose a new leader and go back to Egypt!"

<sup>5</sup> Then Moses and Aaron fell face down on the ground before the whole community of Israel. <sup>6</sup> Two of the men who had explored the land, Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, tore their clothing. <sup>7</sup> They said to all the people of Israel, "The land we traveled through and explored is a wonderful land! <sup>8</sup> And if the LORD is pleased with us, he will bring us safely into that land and give it to us. It is a rich land flowing with milk and honey. <sup>9</sup> Do not rebel against the LORD, and don't be afraid of the people of the land. They are only helpless prey to us! They have no protection, but the LORD is with us! Don't be afraid of them!"

<sup>10</sup> But the whole community began to talk about stoning Joshua and Caleb.

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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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### **"BLESSED BE YOUR NAME"**

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Blessed be Your name  
In the land that is plentiful,  
Where Your streams of abundance flow,  
Blessed be Your name.

Blessed be Your name  
When I'm found in the desert place,  
Though I walk through the wilderness,  
Blessed be Your name.

*Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll Turn back to praise  
When the darkness closes in Lord, Still I will say:*

*Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
Blessed be Your name,  
Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
Blessed be Your glorious name.*

Blessed be Your name  
When the sun's shining down on me,  
When the world's all as it should be,  
Blessed be Your name.

\* *Please stand if you are able*

Blessed be Your name  
On the road marked with suffering,  
Though there's pain in the offering,  
Blessed be Your name.

*Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll Turn back to praise  
When the darkness closes in Lord, Still I will say:*

*Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
Blessed be Your name,  
Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
Blessed be Your glorious name.*

*You give and take away,  
You give and take away,  
My heart will choose to say:  
Lord blessed be Your name!*

*"Blessed Be Your Name" by Beth Redman and Matt Redman.  
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## **BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE**

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

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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, May 16**    Worship at Channel Point (10:30)  
                         Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group (1:00 pm)
- Thurs, May 18**    Deacons' Meeting (6:00 pm)
- Saturday and Sunday,**    Youth Group Overnight at Camp Bethel  
**May 20–21**