

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

October 1, 2023 at 10 am

*"You are the salt of the earth. . . .
You are the light of the world No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket.
Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house.
In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see,
so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father." (Matthew 5:13-16)*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION AND THE WORLD

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Praise the LORD, all you who fear him!
Honor him, all you descendants of Jacob!

**We will proclaim your name to our brothers and sisters.
We will praise you, O God, among your assembled people.**

All who seek the LORD will praise him.
Their hearts will rejoice with everlasting joy.

**The whole earth will acknowledge the LORD and return to him.
All the families of the nations will bow down before him.
For royal power belongs to the LORD.
He rules all the nations.**

Based on Psalm 22:22-23, 26-28.

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HYMN #482: "PRAISE YE THE LORD"

Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
Praise Him in glad adoration!

Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires ever have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.
Let the Amen sound from His people again,
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON (unison)

God of Grace,
We grieve that the church which shares one Spirit,
one faith, one hope, and one calling,
has become a broken communion in a broken world.
The one body spans
all time, place, race, and language,
but in our fear
we have fled from and fought one another,
and in our pride
we have mistaken our part for the whole.
Yet we marvel that you gather the pieces to do your work,
that you bless us with joy,
with growth,
and with signs of unity.
Forgive our sins as we commit ourselves
to seeking and showing
the unity of the body of Christ.
In his name, Amen.

CHOIR: "JOY DOWN IN MY HEART"

THE READING AND PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

Sermon: *"Subjects of the King"*

Matthew 5:1-16

¹ One day as he saw the crowds gathering, Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down. His disciples gathered around him, ² and he began to teach them.

³ "God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him,
for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

⁴ God blesses those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

⁵ God blesses those who are humble,
for they will inherit the whole earth.

⁶ God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice,
for they will be satisfied.

⁷ God blesses those who are merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ God blesses those whose hearts are pure,
for they will see God.

⁹ God blesses those who work for peace,
for they will be called the children of God.

¹⁰ God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right,
for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

¹¹ “God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. ¹² Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Matthew 7:16–29

Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree can’t produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can’t produce good fruit. ¹⁹ So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions.

²¹ “Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. . . .

²⁴ “Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. ²⁵ Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock.

²⁶ But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn’t obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. ²⁷ When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.”

²⁸ When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, ²⁹ for he taught with real authority—quite unlike their teachers of religious law.

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“THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE”

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine;
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine;
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm gonna let it shine;
Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm gonna let it shine;
Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Don't let Satan blow it out! I'm gonna let it shine;
Don't let Satan blow it out! I'm gonna let it shine;
Don't let Satan blow it out! I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine;
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine;
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine;
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

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.

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Our practice is to eat the bread individually as it is distributed, and to hold onto the cup until all have received it, and 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.

And 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 shall 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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HYMN #507: "I COME WITH JOY TO MEET MY LORD" (verses 1-3, 5)

I come with joy to meet my Lord,
Forgiven, loved, and free,
In awe and wonder to recall
His life laid down for me,
His life laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near
To find, as all are fed,
The new community of love
In Christ's communion bread,
In Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,
Each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
And strangers now are friends,
And strangers now are friends.

* *Please stand if you are able*

Together met, together bound
We'll go our different ways,
And as His people in the world,
We'll live and speak His praise,
We'll live and speak His praise.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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

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CALENDAR

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| TODAY | Choir Practice (9:00)
Youth Group (5:30 pm) |
| Tuesday, Oct 3 | Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30) |
| Wed, Oct 4 | <i>Jesus (and the Gospels) in 3D</i>
Coffee and Study (1:00 pm)
Soup and Study (6:00 for a meal together; study at 6:30 pm) |
| Sunday, Oct 8 | Potluck (after the service) |
| Tuesday, Oct 10 | Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)
Worship at Channel Point (10:30) |
| Sunday, Oct 15 | Choir Practice |
| Tuesday, Oct 17 | Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group (1:00 pm) |
| Saturday, Oct 21 | Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for Homeless Supplies (5:00–7:00 pm) |