

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

August 13, 2023 at 10 am

*“Return home, you wayward children,” says the LORD,
“for I am your master. I will bring you back to the land of Israel. (Jeremiah 3:14)*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

*

HYMN #288: *“I SING THE MIGHTY POWER OF GOD”*

I sing the mighty power of God
That made the mountains rise;
That spread the flowing seas abroad
And built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained
The sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at God’s command,
And all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord
That filled the earth with food;
God formed the creatures with a word
And then pronounced them good.
Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed,
Where’er I turn my eyes;
If I survey the ground I tread,
Or gaze upon the skies!

There’s not a plant or flower below
But makes Thy glories known;
And clouds arise, and tempests blow,
By order from Thy throne;
While all that borrows life from Thee
Is ever in Thy care,
And everywhere that we can be,
Thou, God, art present there.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty.

Just and true are your ways, King of the nations.

Who will not fear you, Lord, and bring glory to your name?
For you alone are holy.

**All nations will come and worship before you,
for your righteous acts have been revealed.**

* *Please stand if you are able*

“Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns.
Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory!

Revelation 15:3-4; 19:6-7

*

HYMN #467: “HOW GREAT THOU ART”

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!*

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; *[Refrain]*

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]*

*

“WHATE’ER MY GOD ORDAINS IS RIGHT”

Whate’er my God ordains is right
His holy will abideth
I will be still whate’er He does
And follow where He guideth
He is my God though dark my road
He holds me that I shall not fall
And so to Him I leave it all
And so to Him I leave it all.

Whate’er my God ordains is right
He never will deceive me
He leads me by the proper path
I know He will not leave me
I take content What He has sent
His hand can turn my griefs away
And patiently I wait His day
And patiently I wait His day.

Whate'er my God ordains is right
Though now this cup in drinking
May bitter seem to my faint heart
I take it all unshrinking
My God is true each morn anew
Sweet comfort yet shall fill my heart
And pain and sorrow shall depart
And pain and sorrow shall depart.

Whate'er my God ordains is right
Here shall my stand be taken
Though sorrow need or death be mine
Yet I am not forsaken
My Father's care is round me there
He holds me that I shall not fall
And so to Him I leave it all
And so to Him I leave it all.

"Whate'er My God Ordains Is Right"

by Catherine Winkworth, Keith Getty, Matthew Merker, and Samuel Rodigast.

Words: Public Domain; Music: © 2018 Getty Music Publishing/Matthew Merker Music; CCLI License # 1680430.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

*

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen. Amen.

THE READING AND PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

Sermon: *"Return to the Land, But . . ."*

Ezra 1:1-8

In the first year of King Cyrus of Persia, the LORD fulfilled the prophecy he had given through Jeremiah. He stirred the heart of Cyrus to put this proclamation in writing and to send it throughout his kingdom:

² "This is what King Cyrus of Persia says:

"The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth. He has appointed me to build him a Temple at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. ³ Any of you who are his people may go to Jerusalem in Judah to rebuild this Temple of the LORD, the God of Israel, who lives in Jerusalem. And may your God be with you! ⁴ Wherever this Jewish remnant is found, let their neighbors contribute toward their expenses by giving them silver and gold, supplies for the journey, and livestock, as well as a voluntary offering for the Temple of God in Jerusalem."

⁵ Then God stirred the hearts of the priests and Levites and the leaders of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin to go to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple of the LORD. ⁶ And all their

* *Please stand if you are able*

neighbors assisted by giving them articles of silver and gold, supplies for the journey, and livestock. They gave them many valuable gifts in addition to all the voluntary offerings.

⁷ King Cyrus himself brought out the articles that King Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the LORD's Temple in Jerusalem and had placed in the temple of his own gods. ⁸ Cyrus directed Mithredath, the treasurer of Persia, to count these items and present them to Sheshbazzar, the leader of the exiles returning to Judah.

Ezra 7:1-10

¹ Many years later, during the reign of King Artaxerxes of Persia, there was a man named Ezra. He was the son of Seraiah, son of Azariah, son of Hilkiah, ² son of Shallum, son of Zadok, son of Ahitub, ³ son of Amariah, son of Azariah, son of Meraioth, ⁴ son of Zerariah, son of Uzzi, son of Bukki, ⁵ son of Abishua, son of Phinehas, son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the high priest. ⁶ This Ezra was a scribe who was well versed in the Law of Moses, which the LORD, the God of Israel, had given to the people of Israel. He came up to Jerusalem from Babylon, and the king gave him everything he asked for, because the gracious hand of the LORD his God was on him. ⁷ Some of the people of Israel, as well as some of the priests, Levites, singers, gatekeepers, and Temple servants, traveled up to Jerusalem with him in the seventh year of King Artaxerxes' reign.

⁸ Ezra arrived in Jerusalem in August of that year. ⁹ He had arranged to leave Babylon on April 8, the first day of the new year, and he arrived at Jerusalem on August 4, for the gracious hand of his God was on him. ¹⁰ This was because Ezra had determined to study and obey the Law of the LORD and to teach those decrees and regulations to the people of Israel.

Nehemiah 1:1-11

These are the memoirs of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah.

In late autumn, in the month of Kislev, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes' reign, I was at the fortress of Susa. ² Hanani, one of my brothers, came to visit me with some other men who had just arrived from Judah. I asked them about the Jews who had returned there from captivity and about how things were going in Jerusalem.

³ They said to me, "Things are not going well for those who returned to the province of Judah. They are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem has been torn down, and the gates have been destroyed by fire."

⁴ When I heard this, I sat down and wept. In fact, for days I mourned, fasted, and prayed to the God of heaven. ⁵ Then I said,

"O LORD, God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps his covenant of unfailing love with those who love him and obey his commands, ⁶ listen to my prayer! Look down and see me praying night and day for your people Israel. I confess that we have sinned against you. Yes, even my own family and I have sinned! ⁷ We have sinned terribly by not obeying the commands, decrees, and regulations that you gave us through your servant Moses.

⁸ "Please remember what you told your servant Moses: 'If you are unfaithful to me, I will scatter you among the nations. ⁹ But if you return to me and obey my commands and live by them, then even if you are exiled to the ends of the earth, I will bring you back to the place I have chosen for my name to be honored.'

¹⁰ “The people you rescued by your great power and strong hand are your servants.
¹¹ O Lord, please hear my prayer! Listen to the prayers of those of us who delight in honoring you. Please grant me success today by making the king favorable to me. Put it into his heart to be kind to me.”

In those days I was the king’s cup-bearer.

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

*

HYMN #441: “I LOVE THY KINGDOM, LORD” (verses 1-4)

I love Thy kingdom, Lord,
The house of Thine abode,
The church our blessed Redeemer saved
With His own precious blood.

I love Thy church, O God;
Her walls before Thee stand,
Dear as the apple of Thine eye,
And graven on Thy hand.

For her my tears shall fall,
For her my prayers ascend;
To her my cares and toils be given,
Till toils and cares shall end.

Beyond my highest joy
I prize her heavenly ways,
Her sweet communion, solemn vows,
Her hymns of love and praise.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

420 N Broadway, Aberdeen, WA 98520

Pastor Chuck Guth (cell) 847.800.7119 email: chuck@aberdeenpres.org
(office) 360.532.1331

Church Office: 360.532.1330 email: office@aberdeenpres.org

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

WEBSITE: ABERDEENPRES.ORG

CALENDAR

- Tuesday, August 15** Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)
Worship at Channel Point (10:30)
Alzheimer’s Caregivers Support Group (1:00 pm)
- Thurs, August 17** Deacons’ Meeting (6:00 pm)