

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

September 3, 2023 at 10 am

*"Since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus . . ." (Hebrews 12:1-2)*

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

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### **HYMN #487: "WHEN MORNING GILDS THE SKIES"**

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When morning gilds the skies, My heart awaking cries:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Alike at work and prayer, To Jesus I repair:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Does sadness fill my mind? A solace here I find:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Or fades my earthly bliss? My comfort still is this:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Let earth's wide circle round In joyful notes resound:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Let air and sea and sky, From depth to height reply:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, while life is mine, My canticle divine:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Be this the eternal song, Through all the ages long:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!

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

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

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All glorious God, we give you thanks:  
**in your Son, Jesus Christ,**  
**you have given us every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms.**

You chose us, before the world was made,  
to be your holy people, without fault in your sight.

**You adopted us as your children in Christ.**

You have set us free by his blood;  
you have forgiven our sins.

**You have made known to us your secret purpose,**  
**to bring heaven and earth into unity in Christ.**

You have given us your Holy Spirit,  
the seal and pledge of our inheritance.

**All praise and glory be yours, O God,  
for the richness of your grace,  
for the splendor of your gifts,  
for the wonder of your love.**

*Based on Ephesians 1:3-18*

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***“HOLY, MIGHTY, WORTHY”***

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Holy, holy, holy.  
Seraph choirs extol Thee;  
Bending wings they humbly sing of Thy lofty majesty.  
Thou alone art holy;  
Who on earth is like Thee,  
Grant that we like Thee may be:  
holy, holy, holy.

Mighty, mighty, mighty.  
Sun and stars declare Thee;  
All creation joins to sing of Thy pow’r and deity.  
Thou alone art mighty;  
Naught was made without Thee,  
Grant that we Thy pow’r may see:  
Mighty, mighty, mighty.

Worthy, worthy, worthy.  
Saints in heav’n exalt Thee;  
Lamb once slain now raised to reign,  
Savior Judge and conq-ring King.  
Thou alone art worthy;  
All was made to please Thee;  
Grant that we in heav’n may sing:  
Worthy, worthy, worthy.

Glory, glory, glory.  
We Thy church adore Thee.  
Called by grace to bring Thee praise,  
Trophies of Thy pow’r to save.  
None shall share Thy glory;  
All shall bow before Thee;  
Father Son and Spirit One:  
Glory, glory, glory.

*“Holy, Mighty, Worthy” by Chris Anderson and Greg Habegger  
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**PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON (unison)**

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**Awesome and compassionate God,  
you have loved us with unfailing, self-giving mercy,  
but we have not always loved you in return.**

**You constantly call us, but too often we do not listen.**

**You ask us to love,  
but it's so easy to walk away from neighbors in need,  
wrapped in our own concerns.**

**We ignore or condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed.  
We are sinners in need of your forgiveness.**

**God of grace, as you come to us in mercy,  
we admit our sin,  
we repent in spirit and in truth,  
and now we gratefully request your forgiveness  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer. Amen.**

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

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***"SPEAK, O LORD"***

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Speak O Lord as we come to You  
To receive the food of Your holy word;  
Take Your truth plant it deep in us  
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness.  
That the light of Christ might be seen today  
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith;  
Speak O Lord and fulfill in us  
All Your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us Lord full obedience,  
Holy reverence true humility;  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes  
In the radiance of Your purity.  
Cause our faith to rise;  
Cause our eyes to see  
Your majestic love and authority;  
Words of power that can never fail,  
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak O Lord and renew our minds;  
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,  
That will echo down through eternity.  
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises;  
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.  
Speak O Lord till Your church is built,  
And the earth is filled with Your glory.

*"Speak, O Lord," by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend.  
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## THE READING AND PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

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Sermon: *"The World Was Not Worthy of Them"*

### Hebrews 11:36-12:2

Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup> They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— <sup>38</sup> the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.

<sup>39</sup> These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, <sup>40</sup> since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, <sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

## 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.

## CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

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*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*

#### *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.

\* *Please stand if you are able*

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**HYMN #85: "WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS"**

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What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss  
To bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul,  
To bear the heavy cross for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,  
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing;  
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am,  
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;  
While millions join the theme, I will sing!

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on.  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,  
And through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on.  
And through eternity I'll sing on.

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

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

**The office will be closed tomorrow (Labor Day)**

WEBSITE: ABERDEENPRES.ORG

We welcome **Rev. Luke Crook** to lead and preach at our service today. Luke has been a pastor in Northbrook, Illinois and in West Seattle. Chuck will be back from vacation this coming Sunday.

We continue to collect supplies for the Homeless Sanitary Care Bags we will be assembling in October, as well as food for the Aberdeen Food Bank. Here are lists of items we are particularly focusing on (a printed wallet card with these lists is on the table in Fellowship Hall):

### **Homeless Sanitary Bag Supplies**

*(travel sizes)*

Shampoo & Conditioner  
Bar Soap  
Toothpaste & Toothbrushes  
Disposable Razors  
Shaving Lotion  
Deodorant  
Hairbrushes & Combs  
Women's Sanitary Products

### **Aberdeen Food Bank**

*(anything, but these are priority items)*

Mac and Cheese  
Canned (Cream) Soup:  
e.g. chicken, mushroom  
Canned Tomatoes  
Canned Tuna  
Spaghetti/Pasta  
Peanut Butter  
Diapers (any size except #1)

## CALENDAR

**Tuesday, Sept 5** Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)  
**Next Sunday, Sept 10** Choir Practice (9:00 in Parlor)  
Potluck (after the service)