

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

July 9, 2023 at 10 am

*I have chosen this Temple and set it apart to be holy—a place where my name will be honored forever. I will always watch over it, for it is dear to my heart. . . . But if you or your descendants abandon me and disobey the decrees and commands I have given you, and if you serve and worship other gods, then I will uproot the people from this land that I have given them. I will reject this Temple that I have made holy to honor my name.*

(2 Chronicles 7:16, 19-20)

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

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### HYMN #138: "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY"

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Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;  
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,  
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide Thee,  
Though the eye of sinfulness Thy glory may not see,  
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee  
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All Thy works shall praise Thy Name, in earth, and sky, and sea;  
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

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

### CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

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Let us worship God, our light and our salvation.

**The Lord is the stronghold of our lives.**

We desire to live in God's house  
and to seek God in his holy temple.

**We have come with shouts of joy,  
to sing and to make music to the Lord.**

Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

**Teach us your ways and make straight our paths  
in this hour of worship and always.**

*Derived from Psalm 27 and John 4:23*

\* Please stand if you are able

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**"HE HAS MADE ME GLAD"**

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I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart;  
I will enter His courts with praise.

I will say this is the day that the Lord has made;  
I will rejoice for He has made me glad.

*He has made me glad, He has made me glad.*

*I will rejoice for He has made me glad;*

*He has made me glad, He has made me glad.*

*I will rejoice for He has made me glad.*

I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart;  
I will enter His courts with praise.

I will say this is the day that the Lord has made;  
I will rejoice for He has made me glad. *[Refrain]*

*"He Has Made Me Glad" by Leona Von Brethorst,*

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**PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

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

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**"REDEEMED, HOW I LOVE TO PROCLAIM IT"**

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Redeemed, how I love to proclaim it!  
Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;  
Redeemed thru His infinite mercy,  
His child and forever I am.

*Redeemed (redeemed), redeemed (redeemed),*

*Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;*

*Redeemed (redeemed), redeemed (redeemed),*

*His child and forever I am.*

Redeemed and so happy in Jesus,  
No language my rapture can tell;  
I know that the light of His presence  
With me doth continually dwell. *[Refrain]*

I think of my blessed Redeemer,  
I think of Him all the day long;  
I sing for I cannot be silent;  
His love is the theme of my song. *[Refrain]*

*"Redeemed, How I Love to Proclaim It" by Fanny J. Crosby;*

*Words and music in the Public Domain.*

## THE READING AND PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

Sermon: "A Place Set Apart to Be Holy"

### 2 Chronicles 6:12–7:4

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in front of the entire community of Israel, and he lifted his hands in prayer. . . . He prayed,

"O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in all of heaven and earth. You keep your covenant and show unfailing love to all who walk before you in wholehearted devotion. <sup>15</sup> You have kept your promise to your servant David, my father. You made that promise with your own mouth, and with your own hands you have fulfilled it today.

<sup>16</sup> "And now, O LORD, God of Israel, carry out the additional promise you made to your servant David, my father. For you said to him, 'If your descendants guard their behavior and faithfully follow my Law as you have done, one of them will always sit on the throne of Israel.' <sup>17</sup> Now, O LORD, God of Israel, fulfill this promise to your servant David.

<sup>18</sup> "But will God really live on earth among people? Why, even the highest heavens cannot contain you. How much less this Temple I have built! <sup>19</sup> Nevertheless, listen to my prayer and my plea, O LORD my God. Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is making to you. <sup>20</sup> May you watch over this Temple day and night, this place where you have said you would put your name. May you always hear the prayers I make toward this place. <sup>21</sup> May you hear the humble and earnest requests from me and your people Israel when we pray toward this place. Yes, hear us from heaven where you live, and when you hear, forgive.

<sup>22</sup> "If someone wrongs another person and is required to take an oath of innocence in front of your altar at this Temple, <sup>23</sup> then hear from heaven and judge between your servants—the accuser and the accused. Pay back the guilty as they deserve. Acquit the innocent because of their innocence.

<sup>24</sup> "If your people Israel are defeated by their enemies because they have sinned against you, and if they turn back and acknowledge your name and pray to you here in this Temple, <sup>25</sup> then hear from heaven and forgive the sin of your people Israel and return them to this land you gave to them and to their ancestors.

<sup>26</sup> "If the skies are shut up and there is no rain because your people have sinned against you, and if they pray toward this Temple and acknowledge your name and turn from their sins because you have punished them, <sup>27</sup> then hear from heaven and forgive the sins of your servants, your people Israel. Teach them to follow the right path, and send rain on your land that you have given to your people as their special possession.

<sup>28</sup> "If there is a famine in the land or a plague or crop disease or attacks of locusts or caterpillars, or if your people's enemies are in the land besieging their towns—whatever disaster or disease there is—<sup>29</sup> and if your people Israel pray about their troubles or sorrow, raising their hands toward this Temple, <sup>30</sup> then hear from heaven where you live, and forgive. Give your people what their actions deserve, for you alone know each human heart. <sup>31</sup> Then they will fear you and walk in your ways as long as they live in the land you gave to our ancestors.

<sup>32</sup> "In the future, foreigners who do not belong to your people Israel will hear of you. They will come from distant lands when they hear of your great name and your strong hand and your powerful arm. And when they pray toward this Temple, <sup>33</sup> then hear from heaven where you live, and grant what they ask of you. In this way, all the people of the

earth will come to know and fear you, just as your own people Israel do. They, too, will know that this Temple I have built honors your name.

<sup>34</sup> “If your people go out where you send them to fight their enemies, and if they pray to you by turning toward this city you have chosen and toward this Temple I have built to honor your name, <sup>35</sup> then hear their prayers from heaven and uphold their cause.

<sup>36</sup> “If they sin against you—and who has never sinned?—you might become angry with them and let their enemies conquer them and take them captive to a foreign land far away or near. <sup>37</sup> But in that land of exile, they might turn to you in repentance and pray, ‘We have sinned, done evil, and acted wickedly.’ <sup>38</sup> If they turn to you with their whole heart and soul in the land of their captivity and pray toward the land you gave to their ancestors—toward this city you have chosen, and toward this Temple I have built to honor your name—<sup>39</sup> then hear their prayers and their petitions from heaven where you live, and uphold their cause. Forgive your people who have sinned against you.

<sup>40</sup> “O my God, may your eyes be open and your ears attentive to all the prayers made to you in this place.

<sup>41</sup> “And now arise, O LORD God, and enter your resting place, along with the Ark, the symbol of your power. May your priests, O LORD God, be clothed with salvation; may your loyal servants rejoice in your goodness.

<sup>42</sup> O LORD God, do not reject the king you have anointed. Remember your unfailing love for your servant David.”

<sup>1</sup> When Solomon finished praying, fire flashed down from heaven and burned up the burnt offerings and sacrifices, and the glorious presence of the LORD filled the Temple.

<sup>2</sup> The priests could not enter the Temple of the LORD because the glorious presence of the LORD filled it. <sup>3</sup> When all the people of Israel saw the fire coming down and the glorious presence of the LORD filling the Temple, they fell face down on the ground and worshiped and praised the LORD, saying,

“He is good!  
His faithful love endures forever!”

<sup>4</sup> Then the king and all the people offered sacrifices to the LORD.

## **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**

\* *Please stand if you are able*

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**"SANCTUARY"**

Lord prepare me  
to be a sanctuary,  
Pure and holy,  
Tried and true;

With thanksgiving,  
I'll be a living  
sanctuary for You. (x 2)

*"Sanctuary" by John W. Thompson and Randy Scruggs;  
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**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN**

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

**WEBSITE: ABERDEENPRES.ORG**

**CALENDAR**

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|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Tuesday, July 11</b>     | Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)  |
| <b>Next Sunday, July 16</b> | Outdoor service (outside Broadway entrance)  |
| <b>Tuesday, July 18</b>     | Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)<br>Worship at Channel Point (10:30)<br>Alzheimer's Caregivers' Support Group (1:00)<br>All-church Potluck with the Basler family (5:00–7:00) |
| <b>Tuesday, August 1</b>    | National Night Out   |

\* Please stand if you are able