

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

May 21, 2023 at 10 am

*"The LORD's victory over Sisera will be at the hands of a woman." (Judges 4:9)*  
*May the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge,  
reward you fully for what you have done." (Ruth 2:12)*

## PRELUDE

### WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE

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#### HYMN #485: "TO GOD BE THE GLORY"

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To God be the glory, great things He hath done!  
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,  
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,  
And opened the life gate that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
Let the earth hear His voice!  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
Let the people rejoice!*

*O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,  
And give Him the glory: great things He hath done.*

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,  
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
But purer, and higher, and greater will be  
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. *[Refrain]*

### PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

#### CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

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My heart, O God, is steadfast;  
I will sing and make music with all my soul.

**Awake, harp and lyre!  
I will awaken the dawn.**

I will praise you, LORD, among the nations;  
I will sing of you among the peoples.

**For great is your love, higher than the heavens;  
your faithfulness reaches to the skies.**

**Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;  
let your glory be over all the earth.**

*Psalms 108:1-5*

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**"THE LOVE OF GOD"**

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The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell;  
It goes beyond the highest star, and reaches to the lowest hell;  
The guilty pair bowed down with care, God gave His Son to win;  
His erring child He reconciled, and pardoned from his sin.

*O love of God, how rich and pure!  
How measureless and strong!  
It shall forevermore endure—  
the saints and angels song.*

When years of time shall pass away and earthly thrones and kingdoms fall,  
When men, who here refuse to pray, on rocks and hills and mountains call,  
God's love so sure shall still endure, all measureless and strong;  
Redeeming grace to Adam's race—the saints and angels song. *[Refrain]*

Could we with ink the ocean fill and were the skies of parchment made,  
Were every stalk on earth a quill and every man a scribe by trade,  
To write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry;  
Nor could the scroll contain the whole, though stretched from sky to sky. *[Refrain]*

*"The Love of God" by Frederick Martin Lehman and Meir Ben Isaac Nehorai.  
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**"BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD ABOVE"**

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Before the throne of God above  
I have a strong and perfect plea  
A great High Priest whose name is Love  
Who ever lives and pleads for me  
My name is graven on His hands  
My name is written on His heart  
I know that while in heav'n He stands  
No tongue can bid me thence depart  
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

Behold Him there the risen Lamb  
My perfect spotless righteousness  
The great unchangeable I Am  
The King of glory and of grace  
One with Himself I cannot die  
My soul is purchased with His blood  
My life is hid with Christ on high  
With Christ my Saviour and my God  
With Christ my Saviour and my God.

I bow before the cross of Christ  
And marvel at this love divine  
God's perfect Son was sacrificed  
To make me righteous in God's eyes  
This river's depths I cannot know  
But I can glory in its flood  
The Lord Most High has bowed down low  
And poured on me His glorious love  
And poured on me His glorious love.

**CHOIR: "LORD, SPEAK TO ME"**

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## THE READING AND PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

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Sermon: *"Extraordinary Women"*

### **Judges 4:1–23; 5:31**

After Ehud's death, the Israelites again did evil in the LORD's sight. <sup>2</sup> So the LORD turned them over to King Jabin of Hazor, a Canaanite king. The commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-haggoyim. <sup>3</sup> Sisera, who had 900 iron chariots, ruthlessly oppressed the Israelites for twenty years. Then the people of Israel cried out to the LORD for help.

<sup>4</sup> Deborah, the wife of Lappidoth, was a prophet who was judging Israel at that time. <sup>5</sup> She would sit under the Palm of Deborah, between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites would go to her for judgment. <sup>6</sup> One day she sent for Barak son of Abinoam, who lived in Kedesh in the land of Naphtali. She said to him, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, commands you: Call out 10,000 warriors from the tribes of Naphtali and Zebulun at Mount Tabor. <sup>7</sup> And I will call out Sisera, commander of Jabin's army, along with his chariots and warriors, to the Kishon River. There I will give you victory over him."

<sup>8</sup> Barak told her, "I will go, but only if you go with me."

<sup>9</sup> "Very well," she replied, "I will go with you. But you will receive no honor in this venture, for the LORD's victory over Sisera will be at the hands of a woman." So Deborah went with Barak to Kedesh. <sup>10</sup> At Kedesh, Barak called together the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali, and 10,000 warriors went up with him. Deborah also went with him.

<sup>11</sup> Now Heber the Kenite, a descendant of Moses' brother-in-law Hobab, had moved away from the other members of his tribe and pitched his tent by the oak of Zaanannim near Kedesh.

<sup>12</sup> When Sisera was told that Barak son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor, <sup>13</sup> he called for all 900 of his iron chariots and all of his warriors, and they marched from Harosheth-haggoyim to the Kishon River.

<sup>14</sup> Then Deborah said to Barak, "Get ready! This is the day the LORD will give you victory over Sisera, for the LORD is marching ahead of you." So Barak led his 10,000 warriors down the slopes of Mount Tabor into battle. <sup>15</sup> When Barak attacked, the LORD threw Sisera and all his chariots and warriors into a panic. Sisera leaped down from his

chariot and escaped on foot. <sup>16</sup> Then Barak chased the chariots and the enemy army all the way to Harosheth-haggoyim, killing all of Sisera's warriors. Not a single one was left alive.

<sup>17</sup> Meanwhile, Sisera ran to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, because Heber's family was on friendly terms with King Jabin of Hazor. <sup>18</sup> Jael went out to meet Sisera and said to him, "Come into my tent, sir. Come in. Don't be afraid." So he went into her tent, and she covered him with a blanket.

<sup>19</sup> "Please give me some water," he said. "I'm thirsty." So she gave him some milk from a leather bag and covered him again.

<sup>20</sup> "Stand at the door of the tent," he told her. "If anybody comes and asks you if there is anyone here, say no."

<sup>21</sup> But when Sisera fell asleep from exhaustion, Jael quietly crept up to him with a hammer and tent peg in her hand. Then she drove the tent peg through his temple and into the ground, and so he died.

<sup>22</sup> When Barak came looking for Sisera, Jael went out to meet him. She said, "Come, and I will show you the man you are looking for." So he followed her into the tent and found Sisera lying there dead, with the tent peg through his temple.

<sup>23</sup> So on that day Israel saw God defeat Jabin, the Canaanite king. <sup>24</sup> And from that time on Israel became stronger and stronger against King Jabin until they finally destroyed him. . . .

Then there was peace in the land for forty years.

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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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### **HYMN #210: "O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST" (verses 1-3, 5)**

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O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home:

Before the hills in order stood,  
Or earth received its frame,  
From everlasting Thou art God,  
To endless years the same.

\* *Please stand if you are able*

A thousand ages in Thy sight  
Are like an evening gone;  
Short as the watch that ends the night  
Before the rising sun.

O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while life shall last,  
And our eternal home.

## 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](http://ABERDEENPRES.ORG)

## CALENDAR

- TODAY** Youth will be returning later today from  
an overnight retreat at Camp Bethel
- Tuesday, May 30** Worship at Channel Point (10:30)
- Sunday, June 4** Reception of Youth Confirmands and Graduation Sunday;  
Communion (10:00 worship service)