

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

July 30, 2023 at 10 am

*"O Zion, messenger of good news, shout from the mountaintops! ...
Tell the towns of Judah, 'Your God is coming!'" (Isaiah 40:9)*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

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"HOW MAJESTIC IS YOUR NAME"

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.
O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.
O Lord, we praise your name.
O Lord, we magnify your name:
Prince of Peace, mighty God;
O Lord God Almighty. [x2]

*"How Majestic Is Your Name" by Michael W. Smith.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

How beautiful on the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who brings good news,
the good news of peace and salvation,
the news that the God of Israel reigns!

**The watchmen shout and sing with joy,
for before their very eyes
they see the LORD returning to Jerusalem.**

Let the ruins of Jerusalem break into joyful song,
for the LORD has comforted his people.
He has redeemed Jerusalem.

**The LORD has demonstrated his holy power
before the eyes of all the nations.
All the ends of the earth will see
the victory of our God.**

Let's worship God together.

Isaiah 52:7-10.

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HYMN #2: "COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS"

Come, Thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's Strength and Consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON (unison)

O promised Christ:
We live in a broken world of war, violence, and hostility—
and, in spite of our desire to be different,
we, too, are sinful people.
Our pardon depends on your gift of the cross.

We are full of good intentions but weak at keeping promises;
our only hope of doing God's will
is through your coming, your presence, your giving of the Holy Spirit.

Lord Jesus, Word made flesh,
our world waits for your peace,
for your pardon,
and for your grace.
Stir our hearts, that we might be people of hope;
Our hope is in you; come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

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

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HYMN #9: "O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL"

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. *[Refrain]*

O come, Thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heavenly home
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. *[Refrain]*

O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace. *[Refrain]*

THE READING AND PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

Sermon: *"The Prophets: And Promises of Blessing"*

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

"Comfort, comfort my people," says your God.

² "Speak tenderly to Jerusalem.

Tell her that her sad days are gone and her sins are pardoned.
Yes, the LORD has punished her twice over for all her sins."

³ Listen! It's the voice of someone shouting,

"Clear the way through the wilderness for the LORD!
Make a straight highway through the wasteland for our God!

⁴ Fill in the valleys, and level the mountains and hills.

Straighten the curves, and smooth out the rough places.

⁵ Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed,

and all people will see it together.
The LORD has spoken!"

⁹ O Zion, messenger of good news, shout from the mountaintops!

Shout it louder, O Jerusalem. Shout, and do not be afraid.
Tell the towns of Judah, "Your God is coming!"

¹⁰ Yes, the Sovereign LORD is coming in power.

He will rule with a powerful arm.
See, he brings his reward with him as he comes.

¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd.

He will carry the lambs in his arms, holding them close to his heart.
He will gently lead the mother sheep with their young. . . .

Isaiah 53:2-6

My servant grew up in the LORD's presence like a tender green shoot,
like a root in dry ground.

There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance,
nothing to attract us to him.

- ³ He was despised and rejected—
a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief.
We turned our backs on him and looked the other way.
He was despised, and we did not care.
- ⁴ Yet it was our weaknesses he carried;
it was our sorrows that weighed him down.
And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God,
a punishment for his own sins!
- ⁵ But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins.
He was beaten so we could be whole.
He was whipped so we could be healed.
- ⁶ All of us, like sheep, have strayed away.
We have left God's paths to follow our own.
Yet the LORD laid on him the sins of us all. . . .

Isaiah 42:1-4

"Look at my servant, whom I strengthen.
He is my chosen one, who pleases me.
I have put my Spirit upon him.

He will bring justice to the nations.

² He will not shout or raise his voice in public.

³ He will not crush the weakest reed or put out a flickering candle.
He will bring justice to all who have been wronged.

⁴ He will not falter or lose heart until justice prevails throughout the earth.
Even distant lands beyond the sea will wait for his instruction."

Isaiah 65:17-19, 23-25

"Look! I am creating new heavens and a new earth,
and no one will even think about the old ones anymore.

¹⁸ Be glad; rejoice forever in my creation!
And look! I will create Jerusalem as a place of happiness.
Her people will be a source of joy.

¹⁹ I will rejoice over Jerusalem and delight in my people.
And the sound of weeping and crying will be heard in it no more.

For they are people blessed by the LORD,
and their children, too, will be blessed.

²⁴ I will answer them before they even call to me.
While they are still talking about their needs,
I will go ahead and answer their prayers!

²⁵ The wolf and the lamb will feed together.
The lion will eat hay like a cow.
But the snakes will eat dust.

In those days no one will be hurt or destroyed on my holy mountain.
I, the LORD, have spoken!"

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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HYMN #40: "JOY TO THE WORLD"

Joy to the world, the Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns:
Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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

WEBSITE: ABERDEENPRES.ORG

CALENDAR

- TODAY** Sharing Table (before and after the worship service)
- Tuesday, August 1** Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)
Worship at Channel Point (10:30)
National Night Out (6:00–7:30 pm)
- Thursday, August 3** Bike-and-Build Dinner (6:00–7:30 pm)