

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

May 7, 2023 at 10 am

*"You will be my own special treasure from among all the peoples on earth. . . .
And you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation." (Exodus 19:5-6)*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION AND THE WORLD

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"COME LET US WORSHIP AND BOW DOWN"

Come let us worship and bow down
Let us kneel before the Lord
Our God our Maker
Come let us worship and bow down
Let us kneel before the Lord
Our God our Maker
For He is our God
And we are the people of His pasture
And the sheep of His hand
Just the sheep of His hand.

*"Come Let Us Worship And Bow Down" by Dave Doherty.
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CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)

The instructions of the LORD are perfect, reviving the soul.
The decrees of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

**The commandments of the LORD are right, bringing joy to the heart.
The commands of the LORD are clear, giving insight for living.**

Reverence for the LORD is pure, lasting forever.
The laws of the LORD are true; each one is fair.

**They are more desirable than gold, even the finest gold.
They are sweeter than honey, even honey dripping from the comb.**

They are a warning to your servant,
a great reward for those who obey them.

Come, let us worship the Lord.

May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts
be pleasing to you, O LORD, our rock and our redeemer.

Psalms 19:7-11, 14

“SPEAK, O LORD”

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

Sermon: *“I Will Be Your God, and You Will Be My People”*

Text Exodus 19:1-9, 20:1-19

Exactly two months after the Israelites left Egypt, they arrived in the wilderness of Sinai.

² After breaking camp at Rephidim, they came to the wilderness of Sinai and set up camp there at the base of Mount Sinai.

³ Then Moses climbed the mountain to appear before God. The LORD called to him from the mountain and said, “Give these instructions to the family of Jacob; announce it to the descendants of Israel: ⁴ ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians. You know how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. ⁵ Now if you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my own special treasure from among all the peoples on earth; for all the earth belongs to me. ⁶ And you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation.’ This is the message you must give to the people of Israel.”

⁷ So Moses returned from the mountain and called together the elders of the people and told them everything the LORD had commanded him. ⁸ And all the people responded

together, “We will do everything the LORD has commanded.” So Moses brought the people’s answer back to the LORD.

⁹ Then the LORD said to Moses, “I will come to you in a thick cloud, Moses, so the people themselves can hear me when I speak with you. Then they will always trust you.”

...

Then God gave the people all these instructions:

² “I am the LORD your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery.

³ “You must not have any other god but me.

⁴ “You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. ⁵ You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children; the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations of those who reject me. ⁶ But I lavish unfailing love for a thousand generations on those who love me and obey my commands.

⁷ “You must not misuse the name of the LORD your God. The LORD will not let you go unpunished if you misuse his name.

⁸ “Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹ You have six days each week for your ordinary work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the LORD your God. On that day no one in your household may do any work. This includes you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, your livestock, and any foreigners living among you. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart as holy.

¹² “Honor your father and mother. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³ “You must not murder.

¹⁴ “You must not commit adultery.

¹⁵ “You must not steal.

¹⁶ “You must not testify falsely against your neighbor.

¹⁷ “You must not covet your neighbor’s house. You must not covet your neighbor’s wife, male or female servant, ox or donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor.”

¹⁸ When the people heard the thunder and the loud blast of the ram’s horn, and when they saw the flashes of lightning and the smoke billowing from the mountain, they stood at a distance, trembling with fear.

¹⁹ And they said to Moses, “You speak to us, and we will listen. But don’t let God speak directly to us, or we will die!”

²⁰ “Don’t be afraid,” Moses answered them, “for God has come in this way to test you, and so that your fear of him will keep you from sinning!”

²¹ As the people stood in the distance, Moses approached the dark cloud where God was.

Leviticus 19:1-2

The LORD also said to Moses, ² “Give the following instructions to the entire community of Israel. You must be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy. . . .”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON (unison)

**Gracious God, your Laws are gracious and good.
They tell us what to do, and also what not to do.
We need your invitation to a life of obedience.
We also need your wise prohibitions,
keeping us from carrying out our darkest thoughts.
We know where we tend to dismiss, or disobey, your directions.
We confess that we are prone to ungodly ideas,
to the temptations of the evil one.
Forgive us of our sins.**

**Help us, we pray, to receive all that you have for us with willing hearts.
keep our minds pure and focused on Jesus.
May our hearts reflect the grace and love of God for all those around us.
Help us to consistently testify of your goodness.
We pray in Jesus' name.**

Amen.

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

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“BEHOLD THE LAMB” (verses 1-3)

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away
Slain for us and we remember
The promise made that all who come in faith
Find forgiveness at the cross
So we share in this Bread of Life
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of peace
Around the table of the King.

The body of our Saviour Jesus Christ
Torn for you eat and remember
The wounds that heal the death that brings us life
Paid the price to make us one
So we share in this Bread of Life
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of love
Around the table of the King.

The blood that cleanses every stain of sin
Shed for you drink and remember
He drained death's cup that all may enter in

* *Please stand if you are able*

To receive the life of God
So we share in this Bread of Life
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of grace
Around the table of the King.

*"Behold the Lamb," by Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, and Stuart Townend.
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CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

*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 Ghost, 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 thence 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.

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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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]*

* *Please stand if you are able*

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]*

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

CALENDAR

- TODAY, May 7** Youth Group (4:30 pm)
- Monday, May 8** Stewardship Meeting (1:00 pm)
- Thursday, May 11** Session (7:00 pm)
- Sunday, May 14** Mother's Day Breakfast (8:30 - 9:30)
- Tuesday, May 16** Worship at Channel Point (10:30)
Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group (1:00 pm)
- Thursday, May 18** Deacons' Meeting (6:00 pm)
- Saturday, May 20-21** Youth Overnight Retreat @ Camp Bethel (9:00)