

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

July 2, 2023 at 10 am

*"As surely as the LORD lives, . . . any man who would do such a thing deserves to die!"*

*"I have sinned against the LORD." (2 Samuel 12:5, 13)*

*"Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love.*

*Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin." (Psalm 51:1, 2)*

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

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### **"GOD BLESS AMERICA"**

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God bless America, land that I love;  
Stand beside her, and guide her,  
Through the night with the light from above.

From the mountains, to the prairies,  
To the oceans, white with foam:  
God bless America, my home, sweet home.

From the mountains, to the prairies,  
To the oceans, white with foam:  
God bless America, my home, sweet home.  
God bless America, my home, sweet home.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION AND THE WORLD

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### **HYMN #564: "O BEAUTIFUL FOR SPACIOUS SKIES"**

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O beautiful for spacious skies,  
For amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountain majesties  
Above the fruited plain!  
America! America!  
God shed His grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood  
From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for pilgrim feet,  
Whose stern, impassioned stress  
A thoroughfare for freedom beat  
Across the wilderness!  
America! America!  
God mend thine every flaw,  
Confirm thy soul in self-control,  
Thy liberty in law!

O beautiful for heroes proved  
In liberating strife,  
Who more than self their country loved,  
And mercy more than life!  
America! America!  
May God thy gold refine  
Till all success be nobleness  
And every gain divine.

O beautiful for patriot dream  
That sees beyond the years  
Thine alabaster cities gleam,  
Undimmed by human tears!  
America! America!  
God shed His grace on thee  
And crown thy good with brotherhood  
From sea to shining sea!

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**CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)**

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The LORD frustrates the plans of the nations and thwarts all their schemes.  
But the LORD's plans stand firm forever;  
his intentions can never be shaken. . . .

**The LORD looks down from heaven and sees the whole human race.  
From his throne he observes all who live on the earth.  
He made their hearts, so he understands everything they do.**

The best-equipped army cannot save a king,  
nor is great strength enough to save a warrior.  
Don't count on your warhorse to give you victory—  
for all its strength, it cannot save you.

**But the LORD watches over those who fear him,  
those who rely on his unfailing love.  
He rescues them from death and keeps them alive in times of famine.**

We put our hope in the LORD. He is our help and our shield.  
In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name.

**Let your unfailing love surround us, LORD,  
for our hope is in you alone.**

*Psalm 33:10-22*

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**HYMN #466: "O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING"**

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O for a thousand tongues to sing  
My dear Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and King,  
The triumphs of God's grace!

Jesus, the name that charms our fears,  
That bids our sorrows cease;  
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'Tis life, and health, and peace.

Christ breaks the power of reigning sin,  
And sets the prisoner free;  
Christ's blood can make the sinful clean,  
Christ's blood availed for me.

My gracious Master and my God,  
Assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth abroad  
The honors of Thy name.

## THE READING AND PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

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Sermon: *"He Did WHAT? (The Bathsheba Affair)"*

### 2 Samuel 11:1-17, 26-27

In the spring of the year, when kings normally go out to war, David sent Joab and the Israelite army to fight the Ammonites. They destroyed the Ammonite army and laid siege to the city of Rabbah. However, David stayed behind in Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> Late one afternoon, after his midday rest, David got out of bed and was walking on the roof of the palace. As he looked out over the city, he noticed a woman of unusual beauty taking a bath. <sup>3</sup> He sent someone to find out who she was, and he was told, "She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite." <sup>4</sup> Then David sent messengers to get her; and when she came to the palace, he slept with her. She had just completed the purification rites after having her menstrual period. Then she returned home. <sup>5</sup> Later, when Bathsheba discovered that she was pregnant, she sent David a message, saying, "I'm pregnant."

<sup>6</sup> Then David sent word to Joab: "Send me Uriah the Hittite." So Joab sent him to David. <sup>7</sup> When Uriah arrived, David asked him how Joab and the army were getting along and how the war was progressing. <sup>8</sup> Then he told Uriah, "Go on home and relax." David even sent a gift to Uriah after he had left the palace. <sup>9</sup> But Uriah didn't go home. He slept that night at the palace entrance with the king's palace guard.

<sup>10</sup> When David heard that Uriah had not gone home, he summoned him and asked, "What's the matter? Why didn't you go home last night after being away for so long?"

<sup>11</sup> Uriah replied, "The Ark and the armies of Israel and Judah are living in tents, and Joab and my master's men are camping in the open fields. How could I go home to wine and dine and sleep with my wife? I swear that I would never do such a thing."

<sup>12</sup> "Well, stay here today," David told him, "and tomorrow you may return to the army." So Uriah stayed in Jerusalem that day and the next. <sup>13</sup> Then David invited him to dinner and got him drunk. But even then he couldn't get Uriah to go home to his wife. Again he slept at the palace entrance with the king's palace guard.

<sup>14</sup> So the next morning David wrote a letter to Joab and gave it to Uriah to deliver. <sup>15</sup> The letter instructed Joab, "Station Uriah on the front lines where the battle is fiercest. Then pull back so that he will be killed." <sup>16</sup> So Joab assigned Uriah to a spot close to the city

wall where he knew the enemy's strongest men were fighting. <sup>17</sup> And when the enemy soldiers came out of the city to fight, Uriah the Hittite was killed along with several other Israelite soldiers. . . .

<sup>26</sup> When Uriah's wife heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him.

<sup>27</sup> When the period of mourning was over, David sent for her and brought her to the palace, and she became one of his wives. Then she gave birth to a son. But the LORD was displeased with what David had done.

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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.

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## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON (unison)**

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**O God, like David we sin; with David we pray:**

**Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love;  
according to your great compassion  
blot out my transgressions.**

**Wash away all my iniquity  
and cleanse me from my sin.  
For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is always before me.**

**Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;  
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.**

**Hide your face from my sins  
and blot out all my iniquity.**

**Create in me a pure heart, O God,  
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

**Do not cast me from your presence  
or take your Holy Spirit from me.**

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

*Psalm 51:1-3, 7, 9-12*

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

## 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***

***Passing the Peace: "May the peace of Christ be with you"***

### ***Communion***

#### ***Affirmation of our Faith in the Triune God: "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.

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### ***"THE POWER OF THE CROSS"***

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Oh to see the dawn, of the darkest day,  
Christ on the road to Calvary;  
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten then,  
Nailed to a cross of wood.

*This the pow'r of the cross;  
Christ became sin for us,  
Took the blame, bore the wrath,  
We stand forgiven at the cross.*

Oh to see the pain, written on Your face,  
Bearing the awesome weight of sin;  
Ev'ry bitter thought, ev'ry evil deed,  
Crowning Your bloodstained brow. *[Refrain]*

Oh to see my name, written in the wounds,  
For through Your suff'ring I am free;  
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live,  
Won through Your selfless love.

*This the pow'r of the cross;  
Son of God, slain for us,  
What a love, what a cost,  
We stand forgiven at the cross.*

*"This the Power of the Cross," by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend.  
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## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

\* *Please stand if you are able*

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WEBSITE: ABERDEENPRES.ORG

**CALENDAR**

- TODAY, July 2** Communion (10:00 worship service)
- Tuesday, July 4** *Happy Independence Day!*  
Worship at Channel Point (10:30)
- Saturday, July 8** Memorial Service for Jeff Beard (1:00 pm)
- Tuesday, July 11** Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)
- Sunday, July 16** Outdoor service (outside Broadway entrance)
- Tuesday, July 18** All-church Potluck with the Basler family (5:00–7:00)