

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

November 26, 2023 at 10 am

*"Since you excel in so many ways—in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love for us—I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving."
(2 Corinthians 8:7)*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

*

"10,000 REASONS (BLESS THE LORD)"

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul,
Worship His holy name;
Sing like never before, O my soul,
I'll worship Your holy name.*

The sun comes up it's a new day dawning;
It's time to sing Your song again.
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me,
Let me be singing when the evening comes. *[Refrain]*

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger;
Your name is great and Your heart is kind.
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing;
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find. *[Refrain]*

And on that day when my strength is failing,
The end draws near and my time has come;
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending,
Ten thousand years and then forevermore.

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul
Worship His holy name;
Sing like never before, O my soul,
I'll worship Your holy name.*

*Worship Your holy name,
Lord, I'll worship Your holy name.*

*"10,000 Reasons (Bless The Lord)" by Jonas Myrin and Matt Redman.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Praise be to you, LORD,
the God of our father Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting.

* *Please stand if you are able*

**Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power
and the glory and the majesty and the splendor,
for everything in heaven and earth is yours.**

Yours, LORD, is the kingdom;
you are exalted as head over all.

**Wealth and honor come from you;
you are the ruler of all things.**

In your hands are strength and power
to exalt and give strength to all.

**Now, our God, we give you thanks,
and praise your glorious name.**

Let's worship the Lord!

1 Chronicles 29:10-13

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HYMN #142: "ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS' NAME"

All hail the power of Jesus' Name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all!
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all!

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race,
Ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him who saves you by His grace,
And crown Him Lord of all!
Hail Him who saves you by His grace,
And crown Him Lord of all!

Let every kindred, every tribe,
On this terrestrial ball,
To Him all majesty ascribe,
And crown Him Lord of all!
To Him all majesty ascribe,
And crown Him Lord of all!

O that with yonder sacred throng
We at His feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song,
And crown Him Lord of all!
We'll join the everlasting song,
And crown Him Lord of all!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON (unison)

**Righteous God,
you have elevated Jesus to the place of highest honor
and given him the name above all other names;
You have crowned him as Lord of all.**

**But we confess that we sometimes do not bow to his kingship,
we are often slow to acknowledge his rule.
We too easily give allegiance to the powers of this world
and fail to be governed by your justice and love.**

In your mercy, forgive us.

**Raise us to acclaim him as ruler of all,
that we may be loyal ambassadors,
obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Based on Philippians 2:9-11

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

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HYMN #155: "REJOICE, THE LORD IS KING"

Rejoice, the Lord is King!
Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing,
And triumph evermore:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

God's kingdom cannot fail,
Christ rules o'er earth and heaven;
The keys of death and hell
Are to our Jesus given:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope!
For Christ the Judge shall come
To glorify the saints
For their eternal home:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

THE READING AND PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

Sermon: *"Excelling in the Grace of Giving"*

2 Corinthians 8:1-9:15

Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. ² They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity.

* *Please stand if you are able*

³ For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will. ⁴ They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem. ⁵ They even did more than we had hoped, for their first action was to give themselves to the Lord and to us, just as God wanted them to do.

⁶ So we have urged Titus, who encouraged your giving in the first place, to return to you and encourage you to finish this ministry of giving. ⁷ Since you excel in so many ways—in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us—I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving.

⁸ I am not commanding you to do this. But I am testing how genuine your love is by comparing it with the eagerness of the other churches.

⁹ You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich.

¹⁰ Here is my advice: It would be good for you to finish what you started a year ago. Last year you were the first who wanted to give, and you were the first to begin doing it. ¹¹ Now you should finish what you started. Let the eagerness you showed in the beginning be matched now by your giving. Give in proportion to what you have. ¹² Whatever you give is acceptable if you give it eagerly. And give according to what you have, not what you don't have. ¹³ Of course, I don't mean your giving should make life easy for others and hard for yourselves. I only mean that there should be some equality. ¹⁴ Right now you have plenty and can help those who are in need. Later, they will have plenty and can share with you when you need it. In this way, things will be equal. ¹⁵ As the Scriptures say,

“Those who gathered a lot had nothing left over,
and those who gathered only a little had enough.”

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 #428: "WE GIVE THEE BUT THINE OWN"

We give Thee but Thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

* *Please stand if you are able*

May we Thy bounties thus
As stewards true receive,
And gladly, as Thou blessest us,
To Thee our firstfruits give.

To comfort and to bless,
To find a balm for woe,
To tend the lonely in distress,
Is angels' work below.

The captive to release,
To God the lost to bring,
To teach the way of life and peace—
It is a Christ-like thing.

And we believe Thy Word,
Though dim our faith may be;
Whate'er for Thine we do, O Lord,
We do it unto Thee.

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Election of Officers for 2024–26 and the 2024 Nominating Committee

POSTLUDE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

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

WEBSITE: ABERDEENPRES.ORG

CALENDAR

- TODAY** Congregational Meeting (after the 10:00 service)
- Tuesday, Nov 28** Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)
- Saturday, Dec 2** Greening of the Church
- Sunday, Dec 3** Choir Practice (9:00 in Parlor)
First Sunday of Advent, Communion (10:00 worship service)
Celebration of former pastor Bert Rutan's 100th Birthday
- Friday, Dec 8** Christmas Open House (6:30 pm)