

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

September 10, 2023 at 10 am

*"In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . .
The Word became human and made his home among us." (John 1:1, 18)*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

*

"OPEN THE EYES OF MY HEART, LORD"

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord;
Open the eyes of my heart.
I want to see You; I want to see You.

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord;
Open the eyes of my heart.
I want to see You; I want to see You.

To see You high and lifted up,
Shinin' in the light of Your glory.
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy:

Holy, holy, holy;
We cry holy, holy, holy.
You are holy, holy, holy,
I want to see you.

*"Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord," by Paul Baloche
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ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

**Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and extol him with music and song.**

For the LORD is the great God,
the great King above all gods.

**Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;**

**for he is our God
and we are the people of his pasture,
the flock under his care.**

Psalm 95: 1-3, 6-7

* Please stand if you are able

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HYMN #339: "BE THOU MY VISION"

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art—
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON (unison)

**Loving God,
We confess today that too often:
you aren't our vision,
You aren't our best thought,
We give too much attention to the things of this world,
YOU are not first in our hearts.
Forgive us of our sins,
our failure to allow *you* to be our wisdom, our true word,
to be the center of our lives.
Strengthen us, empower us, through your Holy Spirit
that you *might* be our vision—wholly and completely—
O Ruler of All. Amen.**

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

**CHOIR:
"I TRUST IN THE LORD"**

THE READING AND PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

Sermon: *"The Living Word"*

John 1:1-18

¹ In the beginning the Word already existed.

The Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

² He existed in the beginning with God.

³ God created everything through him,
and nothing was created except through him.

⁴ The Word gave life to everything that was created,
and his life brought light to everyone.

* *Please stand if you are able*

⁵ The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never extinguish it.

⁶ God sent a man, John the Baptist, ⁷ to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. ⁸ John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light. ⁹ The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. ¹¹ He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. ¹² But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. ¹³ They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.

¹⁴ So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

¹⁵ John testified about him when he shouted to the crowds, "This is the one I was talking about when I said, 'Someone is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me.'"

¹⁶ From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses, but God's unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. But the unique One, who is himself God, is near to the Father's heart. He has revealed God to us.

BEHOLD WHAT MANNER OF LOVE

Behold what manner of love
The Father has given unto us;
Behold what manner of love
The Father has given unto us:

That we should be called
The children of God;
That we should be called
The children of God.

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 #341: "BLESSED ASSURANCE"

* *Please stand if you are able*

Blessed assurance: Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.*

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels, descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *[Refrain]*

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with His goodness, lost in His love. *[Refrain]*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

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

WEBSITE: ABERDEENPRES.ORG

CALENDAR

- TODAY, Sept 10** Potluck (after the service)!
- Tuesday, Sept 12** Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)
- Thurs, Sept 14** Session (7:00 pm)