

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

July 21, 2024 at 10 am

*“Be exalted, O God, above the highest heavens!  
May your glory shine over all the earth.” (Psalm 57:5)*

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

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### **HYMN #487: WHEN MORNING GILDS THE SKIES**

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When morning gilds the skies, My heart awaking cries:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Alike at work and prayer, To Jesus I repair:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Does sadness fill my mind? A solace here I find:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Or fades my earthly bliss? My comfort still is this:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Let earth’s wide circle round In joyful notes resound:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Let air and sea and sky, From depth to height reply:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, while life is mine, My canticle divine:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Be this the eternal song, Through all the ages long:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

### **CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)**

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As we gather this day, each of us brings something to worship.

**We bring the burdens of the week.**

We bring prayers of hope, and prayers of anguish.

**We bring our voices, and our offerings, and our questions.**

We bring our minds and our hearts  
to be comforted and challenged and transformed  
by God’s call to obedience and service.

**We bring our faith, tattered or whole as it may be.**

We bring all this to each other and to God, whom we worship today.

**“Be exalted, O God, above the highest heavens!  
May your glory shine over all the earth.”**

\* *Please stand if you are able*

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**HYMN #473: FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH (verses 1-2, 4-5)**

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For the beauty of the earth,  
For the glory of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth  
Over and around us lies.

*Lord of all, to Thee we raise,  
This our hymn of grateful praise.*

For the wonder of each hour  
Of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,  
Sun and moon, and stars of light. *[Refrain]*

For the joy of human love,  
Brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth and friends above,  
For all gentle thoughts and mild. *[Refrain]*

For Thy Church, that evermore  
Lifteth holy hands above,  
Offering up on every shore  
Her pure sacrifice of love. *[Refrain]*

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

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**There are many times we think we love you well, O God.  
But upon hearing your call to love you with all our heart,  
and all our mind, and all our strength,  
we confess that our love for you is often a diluted love,  
made insipid and flat by lesser loyalties and a divided heart.**

**Our love seems pure only for brief moments;  
soon our affections are drawn away.  
How easily our devotion dies.**

**Forgive us, Lord. In grace rekindle our love for you.  
Help us to see anew Jesus' love for us.  
Transform our lives that we might be conformed to his image.**

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

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**BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD ABOVE**

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Before the throne of God above,  
I have a strong and perfect plea.  
A great High Priest whose name is Love,  
Who ever lives and pleads for me.  
My name is graven on His hands,  
My name is written on His heart.  
I know that while in heav'n He stands;  
No tongue can bid me thence depart,  
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

\* *Please stand if you are able*

Behold Him there the risen Lamb,  
My perfect spotless righteousness.  
The great unchangeable I Am,  
The King of glory and of grace.  
One with Himself I cannot die;  
My soul is purchased with His blood.  
My life is hid with Christ on high,  
With Christ my Savior and my God,  
With Christ my Savior and my God.

I bow before the cross of Christ,  
And marvel at this love divine.  
God's perfect Son was sacrificed  
To make me righteous in God's eyes.  
This river's depths I cannot know;  
But I can glory in its flood.  
The Lord Most High has bowed down low,  
And poured on me His glorious love,  
And poured on me His glorious love.

*"Before the Throne of God Above" by Charitie Lees Bancroft and Vikki Cook.  
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## THE READING AND PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

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Sermon: *"Where Did it Happen?"*

### **Ephesians 2:11-22**

Don't forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders. . . .<sup>13</sup> But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ.

<sup>14</sup> For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. <sup>15</sup> He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups. <sup>16</sup> Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death.

<sup>17</sup> He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and peace to the Jews who were near. <sup>18</sup> Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.

<sup>19</sup> So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. <sup>20</sup> Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. <sup>21</sup> We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. <sup>22</sup> Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.

## 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.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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### THE LOVE OF GOD

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The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell;  
It goes beyond the highest star, and reaches to the lowest hell;  
The guilty pair bowed down with care, God gave His Son to win;  
His erring child He reconciled, and pardoned from his sin.

*O love of God, how rich and pure!  
How measureless and strong!  
It shall forevermore endure—  
the saints and angels song.*

When years of time shall pass away and earthly thrones and kingdoms fall,  
When men, who here refuse to pray, on rocks and hills and mountains call,  
God's love so sure shall still endure, all measureless and strong;  
Redeeming grace to Adam's race—the saints and angels song. *[Refrain]*

Could we with ink the ocean fill and were the skies of parchment made,  
Were every stalk on earth a quill and every man a scribe by trade,  
To write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry;  
Nor could the scroll contain the whole, though stretched from sky to sky. *[Refrain]*

*"The Love of God" by Frederick Martin Lehman and Meir Ben Isaac Nehorai.  
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## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

\* *Please stand if you are able*

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

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

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### CALENDAR

<b>TODAY</b>	Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
<b>Tuesday, July 23</b>	Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)
<b>Wednesday, July 24</b>	Quilting Group (10:30 – 2:30) Lawn Concert: <i>The Other Thing</i> (6:30–8:00)
<b>Sunday, July 28</b>	Sunday Worship service with United Christian Church (10:00 in the sanctuary)
<b>LOOKING AHEAD</b>	National Night Out: BBQ (Tuesday, August 6, 6:00–7:30) Lawn Concert (Wednesday, August 10, 6:30–8:00)

**Chuck will be on vacation** from this Wednesday, July 24, through Tuesday, July 30.

**We all appreciate our coffee time after services** but they are dependent on our generous volunteers who sign up to help and then bring the goodies. There are no requirements or expectations of what to bring; some enjoy preparing a variety of treats, but a couple trays of cookies are wonderful, too. If you'd like to help, the sign-up sheet is on the table on the left as you leave the sanctuary. Thanks!

Our summer concert series (and the National Night Out BBQ) are great times to invite friends to enjoy some of what our church does. **We usually have fliers to promote our special events**—and we do for our lawn concerts. Why don't you pick up a couple and invite a friend to enjoy a great evening of music this Wednesday?

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