

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

May 12, 2024 at 10 am

"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." (Philippians 1:21)

PRELUDE

WELCOME

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"IN THE GARDEN"

I come to the garden alone,
While the dew is still on the roses;
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear,
The Son of God discloses.

*And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.*

He speaks, and the sound of His voice
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing;
And the melody that He gave to me
Within my heart is ringing. *[Refrain]*

I'd stay in the garden with Him
Tho' the night around me be falling;
But He bids me go; thro' the voice of woe,
His voice to me is calling. *[Refrain]*

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ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.
You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.

**You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.**

Before a word is on my tongue
you, Lord, know it completely.

**You hem me in behind and before,
and you lay your hand upon me.**

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.

* Please stand if you are able

**For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.**

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

**My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.**

Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written in your book
before one of them came to be.

**How precious to me are your thoughts, God!
How vast is the sum of them!**

**Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand—
when I awake, I am still with you.**

This is what our God is like;
Let us worship our loving and nurturing God.

Adapted from Psalm 139:1-6,13-18

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HYMN #361: "HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION"

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said,
To you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
For I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake."

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON (unison)

**Awesome and compassionate God,
you have loved us with unfailing, self-giving mercy,
but we have not always loved you in return.**

You constantly call us, but too often we do not listen.

**You ask us to love,
but it's so easy to walk away from neighbors in need,
wrapped in our own concerns.**

**We so easily ignore or condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed.
We are sinners in need of your forgiveness.**

**God of grace, as you come to us in mercy,
we admit our sin,
we repent in spirit and in truth,
and now we gratefully request your forgiveness
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer.**

Hear us now as we bring our personal confessions to you

MEN'S ENSEMBLE: "FILL MY CUP, LORD"

THE READING AND PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

Sermon: *"Joyful Living: A Certain Hope"*

Philippians 1:20-30

For I fully expect and hope that I will never be ashamed, but that I will continue to be bold for Christ, as I have been in the past. And I trust that my life will bring honor to Christ, whether I live or die. ²¹ For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better. ²² But if I live, I can do more fruitful work for Christ. So I really don't know which is better. ²³ I'm torn between two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me. ²⁴ But for your sakes, it is better that I continue to live.

²⁵ Knowing this, I am convinced that I will remain alive so I can continue to help all of you grow and experience the joy of your faith. ²⁶ And when I come to you again, you will have even more reason to take pride in Christ Jesus because of what he is doing through me.

²⁷ Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing together with one spirit and one purpose, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News. ²⁸ Don't be intimidated in any way by your enemies. This will be a sign to them that they are going to be destroyed, but that you are going to be saved, even by God himself. ²⁹ For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for him. ³⁰ We are in this struggle together. You have seen my struggle in the past, and you know that I am still in the midst of it.

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 #356: "COME THOU FOUNT"

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of God's unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer,
Hither by Thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

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)

WEBSITE: ABERDEENPRES.ORG

CALENDAR

- TODAY** Mother's Day Breakfast (8:30 – 9:30)
Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
- Tuesday, May 14** Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)
Handbell Rehearsal (5:00 pm in the Sanctuary)
- Wednesday, May 15** Quilting Group (10:30 – 2:30)
- Thursday, May 16** Deacons' Meeting (6:00 pm)
- Sunday, May 19** Choir Practice (9:00 in Parlor)
Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
Youth Group (12:00 noon at church)
Hiking Group (2:00 pm at church)

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