

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

August 11, 2024 at 10 am

"I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven . . ."
[and I heard a voice:] *"Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them,
and they will be his people. God himself will be with them."* (Revelation 21:2-3)

PRELUDE

WELCOME

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HYMN #485: TO GOD BE THE GLORY

To God be the glory, great things He hath done!
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life gate that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!*

*O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory: great things He hath done.*

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. *[Refrain]*

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

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HYMN #478: PRAISE, MY SOUL, THE KING OF HEAVEN

Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven;
To His feet thy tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Evermore His praises sing:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise Him for His grace and favor
To His people in distress;
Praise Him still the same as ever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glorious in His faithfulness.

Fatherlike He tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame He knows;
In His hands He gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Widely yet His mercy flows.
Angels, help us to adore Him:
Ye behold Him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before Him,
Dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON (unison)

**Merciful God,
you made us in your image,
with a mind to know you,
a heart to love you,
and a will to serve you.**

**But our love is inconstant,
our obedience incomplete.
Day by day we ignore your calling;
we resist your Holy Spirit;
we fail to grow into Christ's likeness.**

**In your tender and infinite love, forgive us of our sins,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Hear now our individual confessions as we bring our lives to you . . .

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

THE READING AND PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

Sermon: *"What Happens Next: Life After Death"*

PART 1

Philippians 1:20-24

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.

2 Corinthians 5:1-10

For we know that when this earthly tent we live in is taken down (that is, when we die and leave this earthly body), we will have a house in heaven, an eternal body made for us by God himself and not by human hands. ² We grow weary in our present bodies, and we long to put on our heavenly bodies like new clothing. ³ For we will put on heavenly bodies; we will not be spirits without bodies. ⁴ While we live in these earthly bodies, we groan and

* *Please stand if you are able*

sigh, but it's not that we want to die and get rid of these bodies that clothe us. Rather, we want to put on our new bodies so that these dying bodies will be swallowed up by life.

⁵ God himself has prepared us for this, and as a guarantee he has given us his Holy Spirit.

⁶ So we are always confident, even though we know that as long as we live in these bodies we are not at home with the Lord. ⁷ For we live by believing and not by seeing. ⁸ Yes, we are fully confident, and we would rather be away from these earthly bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord. ⁹ So whether we are here in this body or away from this body, our goal is to please him. ¹⁰ For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body.

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I'LL FLY AWAY

Some glad morning when this life is over

I'll fly away,

To a home on God's celestial shore,

I'll fly away.

I'll fly away, oh, Glory,

I'll fly away.

When I die, Hallelujah, by and by,

I'll fly away.

Just a few more weary days and then

I'll fly away,

To a land where joy shall never end,

I'll fly away.

I'll fly away, oh, Glory,

I'll fly away.

When I die, Hallelujah, by and by,

I'll fly away.

Yeah, when I die, Hallelujah, by and by,

I'll fly away.

"I'll Fly Away" by Albert E. Brumley.

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PART 2

1 Corinthians 15:20-26

Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died.

²¹ So you see, just as death came into the world through a man, now the resurrection from the dead has begun through another man. ²² Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life. ²³ But there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised as the first of the harvest; then all who belong to Christ will be raised when he comes back.

²⁴ After that the end will come, when he will turn the Kingdom over to God the Father, having destroyed every ruler and authority and power. ²⁵ For Christ must reign until he humbles all his enemies beneath his feet. ²⁶ And the last enemy to be destroyed is death.

* *Please stand if you are able*

Revelation 21:1-5

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

³ I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them.

⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever." ⁵ And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!"

AFFIRMATION: *COME LORD JESUS* (responsive)

We long for that day
when our bodies are raised,
the Lord wipes away our tears,
and we dwell forever in the presence of God.
We will take our place in the new creation,
where there will be no more death
or mourning or crying or pain,
and the Lord will be our light. :

Come; Lord Jesus, come.

On that, day
we will see our Savior face to face,
sacrificed Lamb and triumphant King,
Just and gracious.
He will set all things right,
judge evil, and condemn the wicked.
We face that day without fear,
for the Judge is our Savior,
whose shed blood declares us righteous.
We live confidently,
anticipating his coming,
offering him our daily lives—

Our acts of kindness,
our loyalty, and our love—
knowing that he will weave
even our sins and sorrows
into his sovereign purpose.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

With the whole creation
we join the song:
**Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and wealth
and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory and praise!"**

He has made us a kingdom of priests,
to serve our God, and we will reign on earth.
God will be all in all,
righteousness and peace will flourish,
everything will be made new,
and every eye will see at last
that our world belongs to God.

Hallelujah! Come, Lord Jesus!

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 #280: AMAZING GRACE

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

BENEDICTION AND 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** Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
Potluck (after the service)
- Tuesday, Aug. 13** Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)
Worship at Channel Point (10:30)
Alzheimer’s Caregivers Support Group (1:00 pm)
Handbell Rehearsal (5:00 pm in the Sanctuary)
- Wednesday, Aug. 14** Quilting Group (10:30–2:30)
Lawn Concert with Angel Phoenix (6:30–8 :00)
- Thursday, Aug. 15** Deacons’ Meeting (6:00 pm)
- Sunday, Aug 18** Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)

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!

Helping Hands: Our deacons are here to help! If you’re stuck with a problem around your home feel free to give Brian Krohn a call to see if someone from the church can give you a hand; Brian’s number is 360-580-1683. You can also pick up a card with his number on it from the table in Fellowship Hall to put on your refrigerator (or wherever you’ll remember it when it’s needed).

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