

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

# Palms Presbyterian Church

Sunday, January 16, 2022 • 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

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## WE COME TOGETHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

### Prelude

*Andante*  
*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

Felix Mendelssohn  
arr. Hal Hopson

### Welcome & Announcements

### Introit

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*  
The Chancel Choir

Kathleen Thomerson

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus. God set the stars to give light to the World.  
The star of my life is Jesus. In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

### Call to Worship (Responsive)

We see light, hope, and joy;

**We bring heart, soul, mind, and body;**

We share blessings and fears;

**We bring faith and doubt.**

With all that we are and all that we have,

**let us worship God.**

## GOD'S GRACE

\* Hymn (#401)

*Here in This Place - Gather Us In*

### Call to Confession

#### Prayer of Confession (Unison)

O God, we confess that we have not always lived for you. You have invited us into new life, yet we have closed our eyes and ears and hearts against that invitation. You have shown us the way to love, yet we have chosen too often the path of uncaring. You have called us to the ministry of reconciliation, yet often we find ourselves tempted to turn away from others. You have challenged us to generosity, but many times we would rather keep to ourselves. Enter our lives, God, once again. Release us from the bonds of self-centeredness. Remove the scales from our eyes. Create in us a renewed openness to your love, that we may share Your love with others.

**(A moment for silent confession.)** Amen.

\* Stand if able

**Kyrie (#579)** *Lord, Have Mercy*

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

- \* **Response (#582)** *Glory, to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*  
Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

- \* **Affirmation of Faith** (Unison) From a Brief Statement of Faith  
We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments. we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

**Time for Children**

**Invitation to Offering**

**Offertory** *Day by Day* K. Lee Scott

Day by day, dear Lord, of thee three things I pray: to see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, follow thee more nearly, day by day. Thanks be to thee, Lord Jesus, for all the benefits which thou hast won for us; for all the pains and insults which thou hast borne for us, O merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother. Day by day. Amen.

- \* **Doxology (#606)** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*  
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

- \* **Prayer of Dedication & Illumination**

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

### First Reading

Micah 6:6-8

### Anthem

*Be Thou My Vision*

arr. Alice Parker

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; Nought 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.  
Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
Thou my great Father, I thy true son; Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.  
Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise. Thou mine inheritance, now and always;  
Thou and thou only, first in my heart, High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.  
High King of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall. Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

### Second Reading

Acts 9:1-19a

### Sermon

"New Vision"

Bill Wildey

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### Choral Response

*O Lord, Hear My Prayer*

Jacques Berthier

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, answer me.  
O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

### Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

### \*Hymn (#649)

*Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

### \*Charge & Benediction

### Postlude

*Toccata in E minor*

Johann Pachelbel

*The flowers on the chancel are given in loving memory of Janice Wiesner by her husband Jim Wiesner and their family*

## Micah 6:6-8

"With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

## Acts 9:1-19a

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

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## Let us know you're here!

Please take a brief moment to let us know that you have joined us for worship today. Pull out your phone and visit [palmchurch.org](https://palmchurch.org) and click "Worship Attendance." This simple form will help keep our church family connected

## *Palms Presbyterian Church*

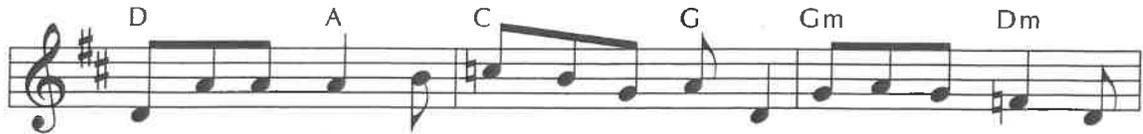
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## Here in This Place

401

## Gather Us In



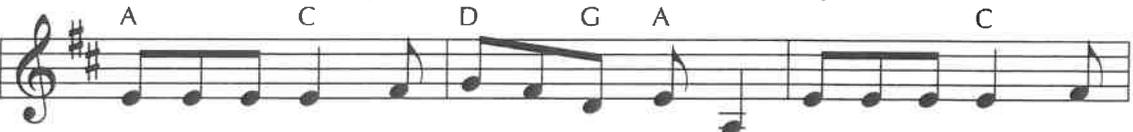
1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness  
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who  
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the  
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,  
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,  
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.  
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.  
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the  
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the  
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the  
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;  
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion  
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.  
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.  
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.  
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

The "you/your" mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God's witnesses and for God's purposes.

## 649 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I  
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his  
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 grace my fears re - lieved. How pre - cious did that  
 have al - read - y come. 'Tis grace has brought me  
 word my hope se - cures. He will my shield and  
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found, was blind, but now I see.  
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

## CHOCTAW

*Shilombish hoiitopa ma!  
 Ishmminti pulla cha  
 hatak ilbusha pia ha  
 is pi yukupalashke.*

## CREEK

*Po ya fek cha he thlat ah tet  
 ah non ah cha pa kas  
 cha fee kee o funnan la kus  
 um e ha ta la yus.*

## NAVAHO

*Nizhónígo joo bá diits' a'  
 yisdáshítinígí,  
 lah yóóiiyá, k'ad  
 shénáhoosdzin,  
 doo eesh'íy da nít'ée.*

As was his custom, the author wrote this hymn to accompany his sermon on 1 Chronicles 17:16-17, preached on January 1, 1773; he called it "Faith's Review and Expectation." Much of its current popularity comes from this now-familiar tune, an association that began in 1835.