

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO

September 20, 2020  
The First Sunday of Stewardship Season  
“Pandemic Stewardship”

GATHERING

**PRESERVICE MUSIC SET**

*“Brethren, We Have Met to Worship”*  
*“O Worship the King, All Glorious Above”*  
*“Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee”*  
*“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”*  
*“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”*  
*“We Gather Here in Jesus’ Name”*  
*“You Are My Strength When I Am Weak”*  
*“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CHIMES**

**PRELUDE**

*“Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”* (Haydn)

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Psalm 91, Selected Verses

You who live in the shelter of the Most High,  
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,  
will say to the Lord, ‘My refuge and my fortress;  
my God, in whom I trust.’

**For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler  
and from the deadly pestilence;  
he will cover you with his pinions,  
and under his wings you will find refuge;  
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.**

You will not fear the terror of the night,  
or the arrow that flies by day,  
or the pestilence that stalks in darkness,  
or the destruction that wastes at noonday.

**For he will command his angels concerning you  
to guard you in all your ways.**

**On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.**

**\*OPENING HYMN #41**    *“O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!”*  
(vss. 1, 4, 5) (Kraus)

**\*PRAYER OF ADORATION**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Mighty God, Holy One of Israel, today we confess that even after being steeped in the Scriptures, we are still fearful and uncertain that you will always be there for us. We are overwhelmed at this time by the despair which bears down upon us daily: dark apprehension about the pandemic, economic collapse, strife in our cities, rampant wildfires, hurricanes, and other calamities. Like your exiled people, we wonder if you have abandoned us.**

**Forgive us, we pray, compassionate God. Pour over us and into us the courage we cannot find in ourselves. Remind us again of the consistent, constant, enduring testimony of Scripture which recounts your faithfulness and persistence on behalf of your people against all the dark powers of the world. We are weak of will and weak of heart. Save us, Lord of our lives! Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!  
**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

**THE WORD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES**

Isaiah 35:1-10

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS**

Romans 8:18-30

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**SOLO**

*“Hallelujah”* (Cohen)

Bob Entrop

**\*READING FROM THE GOSPELS**

Luke 17:11-19

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God!**

## SERMON

“Shelter and Response”

### \*HYMN #625

“O Lord My God” (vss. 1, 2, 3) (Swedish Folk Melody)

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From *The Confession of 1967*

**God’s sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of human minds. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness, but God reveals his love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful people. The power of God’s love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of his love.**

## PASTORAL PRAYER

### MEDITATION ON THE STEWARDSHIP OF TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE

Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
‘Be strong, do not fear!  
Here is your God.  
He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.  
He will come and save you.’  
Isaiah 35:3-4

## MUSICAL OFFERING

“Morning Has Broken” (Broughton)

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

**Saving God, we are reminded again today of your trustworthiness, your faithfulness, your vigilance and strength, in redeeming your people from exile, in redeeming and claiming us even when the whole creation groans in pain, in healing us in body, mind, and soul. Scripture proclaims with conviction that you never forget or abandon us.**

**In response we acknowledge our responsibility as stewards of your precious resources: time, abilities, and treasure. All these riches are yours; you trust us with their oversight and care. Today we dedicate ourselves again to faithful stewardship as disciples of the living Christ, our hope and salvation. Amen.**

## OUR LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,  
holy is your name;  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## SENDING

**\*CLOSING HYMN #729**      *"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"*  
(African American Spiritual)

**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

**\*POSTLUDE**      *"Great Is the Lord"*

\*Please stand if you are able where asterisks are printed.

Words in **bold print** are spoken by the congregation.