

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth**  
**January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
**Worship Leader: Rev. John McIntyre**

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

(Psa 27:1, 4-6)

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

**When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.**

Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

**One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.**

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.

**And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD.**

**Prayer of Invocation**

Holy God, our heavenly Father, make your presence known to us today. We come to you as we are, called to be saints, holy ones, but so often less than our calling. Help us this hour to let go of those sins to which we cling. Help us to know that we and our security do not depend so much on our ability to hold on to our lives, but on your power to grant release of ourselves into your hands.

Lord God, make your presence known to us today. We come to you with our vision so often clouded by our sin. Clear away the mist, through Jesus, that we can catch a glimpse, now, of your abiding presence here. Help us to behold you as you are, not as we would like you to be. We pray for this grace from your hand in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.  
**Amen.**

**Hymn:**

**“O Father You Are Sovereign”**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZgMTC5aI9Kc>

O Father, you are sovereign  
 In all the worlds you made;  
 Your mighty word was spoken  
 And light and life obeyed.

Your voice commands the seasons  
 And bounds the ocean's shore,  
 Sets stars within their courses  
 And stills the tempest's roar.

O Father, you are sovereign  
 In human scheme and skill;  
 No powers of death or darkness  
 Can thwart your perfect will.  
 All chance and change transcending,  
 Supreme in time and space,  
 You hold your trusting children  
 Secure in your embrace.

O Father, you are sovereign,  
 The Lord of human pain,  
 Transmuting earthly sorrows  
 To gold of heavenly gain.  
 All evil overruling,  
 As none but Conqueror could,  
 Your love pursues its purpose  
 Our souls' eternal good.

O Father, you are sovereign!  
 We see you dimly now,  
 But soon before your triumph  
 Earth's every knee shall bow.  
 With this glad hope before us  
 Our faith springs up anew:  
 Our sovereign Lord and Saviour,  
 We trust and worship you!

### **Call to Confession**

(1 Jn 1:8, 10) *"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."* Let us then, like the wayward son in (Lk 15:18), arise and go to our father, and say to him, *"Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you."*

### **Prayer of Confession**

Almighty God, we acknowledge and confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; we have not loved you with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength; we have not loved our neighbour as ourselves.

Deepen within us our sorrow for the wrong we have done, and the good we have left undone.

Lord, you are full of compassion and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy; there is always forgiveness with you! Restore to us the joy of your salvation; bind up that which is broken, give light to our minds, strength to our wills, and rest to our souls. Speak to each of us, and let your word abide with us until it has wrought in us your holy will through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Hear the word of our Lord from (Isa 44:22 & Eph 1:7): *I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.* Let us rejoice in the fullness of God's forgiveness for we have peace with Him through our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **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 the Evil One.  
For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory,  
Forever and ever. Amen**

### **Responsive Reading**

### **Psa 29**

Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.**

The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over many waters.

**The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.**

The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

**He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.

**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth and strips the forests bare, and in his temple all cry, "Glory!"

**The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.**

May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!

**Hymn #11: "The Lord's My Shepherd"**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Msh0PAJfPU&t=57s>

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.  
He makes me down to lie  
in pastures green; he leadeth me  
the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again,  
and me to walk doth make  
within the paths of righteousness,  
e'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,  
yet will I fear none ill,  
for thou art with me and thy rod  
and staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnished  
in presence of my foes.  
My head thou dost with oil anoint,  
and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life  
shall surely follow me,  
and in God's house forevermore  
my dwelling place shall be.

**Scripture Reading:**

**Jn 16:16-33**

**16** "A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me."

**17** So some of his disciples said to one another, "What is this that he says to us, 'A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me'; and, 'because I am going to the Father'?"

**18** So they were saying, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We do not know what he is talking about."

**19** Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, "Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, 'A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me'?"

**20** Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy.

- 21** When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world.
- 22** So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.
- 23** In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you.
- 24** Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.”
- 25** "I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father.
- 26** In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf;
- 27** for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.
- 28** ¶ I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father."
- 29** His disciples said, "Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech!
- 30** Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God."
- 31** Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe?"
- 32** Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me.
- 33** I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

### **Prayer for Illumination**

O Lord our God, "What we know not, teach us. What we are not, make us. What we have not, give us." **Amen**

## **“The Way of the Wilderness”**

**Ex 15:22-27**

- 22** ¶ *Then Moses made Israel set out from the Red Sea, and they went into the wilderness of Shur. They went three days in the wilderness and found no water.*
- 23** *When they came to Marah, they could not drink the water of Marah because it was bitter; therefore it was named Marah.*
- 24** *And the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?"*

25 *And he cried to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a log, and he threw it into the water, and the water became sweet. There the LORD made for them a statute and a rule, and there he tested them,*

26 *saying, "If you will diligently listen to the voice of the LORD your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, your healer."*

27 *Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve springs of water and seventy palm trees, and they encamped there by the water.*

The passage just read takes place within a context of a recent great triumph and celebration. For the children of Israel, Egyptian bondage and slavery are now well behind them. They have been miraculously delivered unscathed through the parted waters of the Red Sea, while the pursuing Pharaoh with all the military power of Egypt, are inundated by the collapsing waters and are reduced to floating corpses washing up on the shores of the same Red Sea.

Upon the realization of their great deliverance to safety and the demise of their enemies, they break out into jubilant song and dance to celebrate liberation in the defeat of the Egyptian army.

Now they are about to set out for the land of promise. But notice the "way" that they went. *V. 22 Then Moses made Israel set out from the Red Sea, and they went into the wilderness of Shur.* You would think that following their victory and celebration, Moses would have led them straight to the Promised Land by the most direct route. But no, we find Israel marching out into the wilderness of Shur, a long march that moved through an empty wasteland. They probably wouldn't have chosen to go that way. But it was the way chosen for them by God. You see, God had marked out a path for them.

Ex. 13:17-18, we read that, *When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near... But God led the people around by the way of the wilderness toward the Red Sea.*

The way they were led wasn't the only way. They could have gone north-east from Egypt toward Canaan. It wasn't the shortest way. (From Egypt to Canaan was a 4-5 day journey by foot). It wasn't the easy way. But it was God's way. He led the people away from the most direct path and into the wilderness.

Moses and the people never would have chosen it. But at the very outset of the exodus, God chose to lead the people around by the way of the wilderness. And in this morning's text we again find them being led further into the wilderness.

He did this for very good reasons. God knew their weakness. He knew that hardship would make Egypt look good and tempt them to turn back. He knew they needed to have their faith in Him strengthened. God knew that His people needed to learn to trust Him for everything.

God still operates the same way. Why? Because we still need to learn to trust Him. Often our Lord restructures our plans, & leads us "by the way of the

wilderness.” You and I would never have chosen the same way. But God does. Pr. 16:9 *The mind of man plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps.* The Lord directs our steps, even into the wilderness.

And so, God led Israel into the wilderness. A wilderness where Moses was refined in the crucible of leadership. A wilderness where all the people were confronted by their own insufficiencies. But a wilderness where God showed His super sufficiency for them again and again. Although God moves us in directions that seem, illogical, less than desirable, difficult and even impossible from our own vantage point, he knows what is best!

We needn't despair when God closes off easier routes and leads us into the wilderness. Even though His ways seem impossible, unrealistic, and contrary to our ways, Scripture teaches that we can trust Him even when He takes us into the wilderness. And so we find Israel being led from the song and celebration of the Red Sea, out into the wilderness of Shur.

As they set out, singing soon turned to sighing. As they traveled along, the water began to run low. They probably began to drink sparingly from their cracking, leather water bottles. No doubt, parents started to worry. Children became cranky, asking again and again, “Are we near there yet.” The second day out brought no relief. As the hot sun beat down, cracked lips & thirsty throats pined to gorge on water. “Go easy.” “Don't drink too much.” On into day three anxiety and grumbling sets in, and hopes are fast fading, for the text tells us they *“found no water.”* What a sudden turnaround of events! From exuberance to exasperation. In only three days the wonders of the Red Sea faded into the wastes of the wilderness.

But all of a sudden word of water sweeps through the parched crowd: “There's water up ahead!” Despair turns to hope! Anxiety turns to faith! Despondency is transformed into optimism! As the joy of anticipation fills their hearts their strength is renewed. And so they hasten their steps to the promising pool of water. There's almost a race to get there. All in one motion it seems, jars are dipped into the water then tipped toward thirsty lips to be gulped down. And then to the shock of eager onlookers, the water is spewed from gagging mouths. “This water's no good! It's bitter!”

In one gulp, their faith, hope and optimism turned to the bile of bitterness. For (Vs. 23-25) tell us, *When they came to Marah, they could not drink the water of Marah because it was bitter; therefore it was named Marah. And the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?" And he cried to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a log, and he threw it into the water, and the water became sweet. There the LORD made for them a statute and a rule, and there he tested them,*

Think of their disappointment. God's leading of His people around by the way of the wilderness brought them to a pool of bitter water. A bitterness of water that dismayed and angered the people into a bitterness of soul. They had followed the

Lord, and they found bitterness in the way of His leading. And we find them in a state where they are fit to be tied.

Like us, they were quick to forget that an almighty sovereign God was in charge of their journey. As we so often do, they saw things backwards and upside down. They thought they were testing the Lord as they murmured against His leading. But the fact was, the Lord was testing them!

God led them by the way of the wilderness, not as a way of rapid and comfortable transportation, but as a way of a slow and challenging education. He would have them learn to trust Him and know Him. Israel had followed the path of salvation, victory and joy, through the sea. But now the Lord shows them the path of faith through the wilderness, a place of disappointment, disillusionment. And there (the text tells us), God tested them.

Maybe the person sitting where you are is presently going through a similar experience. You have known something of God's deliverance and the joy of redemption. You were anticipating green pastures and still waters. Yet you find yourself in some kind of wilderness wondering, "Where is God?" Your faith is perhaps being stretched. At times you may even think He has deserted you. How is a person to respond?

Well, let's look at the children of Israel. What would they do? What were their choices? They couldn't go on ahead. The canteens were dry! To go back to where they had come from would mean defeat and death. They certainly couldn't stay where they were. They were in an impossible predicament.

Following so great a deliverance and victory at the Red Sea, would they not respond with faith believing that he who had begun a good work in them would be faithful and keep them? Would you and I have responded that way? Do we respond that way in our wildernesses? Or do we respond as they did, in bitterness against God. For it was in bitterness that they cried out to Moses: "What shall we drink?" But Moses was in the same predicament and as helpless as they were.

So as the people cried out in bitterness, Moses cried out to the Lord. And in spite of their complaining and distrust, the Lord met their need. Their bitter complaint in the furnace of testing evidenced the weakness of their faith in God. And though they proved faithless, God proved himself utterly faithful. He caused the bitter water to be sweetened by means of a log (some translations call it a tree) thrown into it, thereby sustaining His people, confirming his faithfulness promise and producing faith within them.

In the wilderness of the bitter waters of Marah the Lord showed his people their helplessness as well as their dependence on Him. He showed them that He alone is their God, their source and supplier of life. The wilderness of Marah was the place God showed them that he was willing and able to maintain his people and provide for their needs. He further revealed himself as their "Healer" and in return he expected them to trust and obey him in return (v. 26).



They needed reminding that the Egyptian Pharaoh was no longer their master. The Lord had supernaturally delivered them from bondage and death. Now they are now under God's jurisdiction. They are to trust Him for everything instead of looking solely to earthly resources for remedy. They are now under the ownership and authority of a redeeming, healing God. They are to obey Him and trust Him. They are not masters of their own destiny. They are to listen to the voice of the Lord: Not their own distorted voice. They are to do what is right in His sight: Not their own sight. They are to pay attention to what He commands and do it: Not do as they wish.

And to engender trust and obedience in them, God graciously confirms His word and transforms bitter water into sweet water, manifesting Himself as divine Healer of all mortal ills.

There is significance in this episode that we must not miss. In Scripture, trees are often seen as the symbols of God's blessing. In this text, the log/tree and its effect prefigure another tree. The New Testament tells us Christ was crucified upon a tree. It was on the bitterly cruel tree that Christ provided healing for sin & became a blessing. (Gal 3:13) says, *Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us — for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"*

The bitter water made sweet also prefigures "Water" of another nature. In Jn. 4, Jesus offered the Samaritan woman "*Living Water.*" In Jn. 7, Jesus said, "*If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.*" In Jn. 19, we read that on the cross and already dead, the body of Jesus was pierced with the spear of a Roman soldier, and that there poured out from His side, blood and water. It is by his life's blood that we are provided atonement for and remission of our sins. The water he provides is life giving and purifies us for life here and on into eternity.

And to go on, water is the outward sign and seal of our Christian faith. We are baptized into Christ; His death, His resurrection, and the newness of His resurrected life. Baptism demonstrates our inseparable union with Him. It demonstrates to us and to the world that, at the cross, God settled things. At the cross, God met our need. The cross was bitter for our dear Lord as he took the sins of the world upon himself. There the bitterness of our sin was absolved and by his death our lives are made sweet and we receive life eternal.

But receiving Christ and being united with Him carries obligations with it. We need to realize that we are not our own, that we have been bought with a price and that we are now bound to trust and obey Him – even in the wilderness!

You may find yourself in the wilderness of affliction this morning. If you are a Christian, take courage, the one who saved you is faithful. Your Lord still goes before you. As your Saviour & Lord, he is the Good Shepherd, leading you in paths of righteousness that ultimately lead you to himself in deeper faith and on to eternal life.

As we think on these things, did you ever stop to consider that God might have led you around this way for a purpose? It could be that He has brought you into

this wilderness in order, to test your faith or to bring you further along in your trust and commitment to Him. He is taking you down this path, and you have a choice to make. You can grumble and become bitter by judging God and blaming him. Or you can turn to Him in faith by crying out to Him for healing in this situation.

Are you prepared to render the obedience of that faith to Him? He is worthy of your trust amid the present difficulties you may be experiencing.

Will you and I turn to the One who is our healer; casting all our cares upon Him for he cares for us? Will we listen for His voice and obey His command?

(Heb 3:7-8) instructs us with these words: *"Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness..."* It could be that God is speaking through the dilemma to which he has brought you. Don't become bitter. Take all that the cross means and throw it into the pool of bitterness? God can transform bitterness into a sweet tasting experience. God can and will meet your need, for your good and his glory.

The great thing about it is that once those bitter waters have been transformed and you experience the Lord's healing, He leads you on to better things. Marah afforded Israel the opportunity to discover God's resources. And having tasted that the Lord is good, they were ready to proceed. You see Israel didn't remain in camp at the place of bitterness, they moved on. (V.27) tells us, *"Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve springs of water and seventy palm trees, and they encamped there by the water."*

Compared to the bitterness of Marah, Elim was Heaven. Elim was a place of abundance and fruitfulness. It was a place of God's bounty and provision. It was a place of encouragement to the heart, and refreshment to the spirit after the trials of Marah.

This is the way God leads us. For those who are faithful, there is an eternal Elim on up ahead. Beyond every Marah there is an Elim. Beyond trial there is triumph. In (Rev. 22), We read of the river of the water of life coming from the throne of God and from the Lamb and on either side of the river is the tree of life, whose leaves are for the healing of the nations.

As we enter this New Year, the Bible tells us, "The Lord is your Healer." Will you follow his leading in his way though it be one of great challenge? Will you trust His word, obey His voice and move on to Elim? It's just up ahead. And to show us it is, God has transformed the bitterness of death into the sweet anticipation of the promise of eternal life to come. Jesus the *"Righteous Branch,"* (Jer 23:5) has become "Our Healer." Jesus has tasted the bitter waters of death for each of us. He has risen from the grave to sustain us now and throughout eternity. God has given us the victory over all that stands against us through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The coming of Jesus Christ into the world is God's gift to all who trust in him. We are, in a sense, always in the wilderness of this world, its sins, and our own. Yet amid the adversities that come our way, we who rest in Christ for salvation from all that stands against us, are called to remember the healing and

sweetening power that our Lord is to us. And we are called to remember with anticipation that there's an Elim up ahead.

So whatever this coming year, indeed the rest of our lives hold for us, let us resolve by God's enabling grace, not to be or become bitter when adversity stares us in the face. But let us be at peace knowing this:

*Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come  
Let this blest assurance control  
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate  
And has shed His own blood for my soul  
It is well with my soul*

**Hymn: "He Will Hold Me Fast"**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BP0dtwXWQ\\_M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BP0dtwXWQ_M)

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;  
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.  
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;  
For my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.

He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;  
For my Saviour loves me so, He will hold me fast.

Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast;  
Precious in his holy sight, He will hold me fast.  
He'll not let my soul be lost; His promises shall last;  
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast.

He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;  
For my Saviour loves me so, He will hold me fast.

For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;  
Justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast.  
Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast  
'Till our faith is turned to sight, When He comes at last!

He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;  
For my Saviour loves me so, He will hold me fast.

Ada B Habershon, Robert Harkness  
Rearranged by Matt Merker

### Offering

Presenting our tithes and offerings is an act of worship. I want to encourage you to write a cheque and drop it in the mail to the church using your envelope, if you have one. (St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, PO Box 161, 1 Drummond St W, Perth, ON K7H 3E3) **We also have**

**another option for you for giving and that is you can make an e-Transfer.** This note from our treasurer.

**E-transfers are now accepted. Please note the new email address for this purpose only. [standrewspertthoffering@gmail.com](mailto:standrewspertthoffering@gmail.com) Please include your Offering Envelope # in the message section of the INTERAC transfer page you fill in. If you wish any part of your donation to go to a specific fund (e.g., Presbyterian Sharing) please mention this in your message.**

### **Invitation to Offering**

The Lord loves a cheerful giver. Let us present our offerings to the Lord.

### **Offertory Prayer**

Lord God, our Creator, we joyfully present to you our tithes and offerings. We know you own the cattle on a thousand hills and that the earth is yours in all its fullness. We know that everything is at your disposal, and you are not dependent on us. Nevertheless, please receive this humble offering that we give with great delight. It is our desire to honor you out of our increase to show you reign in our hearts. **Amen.**

### **Pastoral Prayer**

Our gracious heavenly Father we again come to you counting it an unspeakable privilege to be invited into the inner sanctum of your holy presence and we come boldly within the righteousness of our Lord Jesus Christ, praising you for your love, mercy and grace toward us.

We thank you for the blessings you generously pour out upon us and give you thanks for your benevolence demonstrated in so many ways. For our measure of health and strength we give you thanks. For family, friends, & neighbours we give you thanks. For a peaceful community and an orderly country rich in abundance we give you thanks. For placing us within the scope of your saving gospel we give you thanks. For all the unperceived blessings you send out way we give you thanks, and pray that you will keep us ever mindful that every good and perfect gift comes to us from above at your bidding.

As we offer our thanks, we pray for the leaders within our nation at each level of jurisdiction asking that you would give them wisdom, discernment and fortitude carrying out their duties. We pray for all who serve in the medical profession as they minister their talents during this continuing pandemic. Protect them we pray and grant them strength and endurance amid their heavy responsibilities.

We pray for marriages and families as they seek to balance all the dynamics that are inherent within relationships. We remember those from this congregation who are residents in nursing homes, hospitals and those

who are finding it difficult to carry on as in former times. May they find their hope and peace in knowing you are present in their circumstances.

We pray for the Church in carrying out its witness to the saving goodness of Jesus Christ. May there be an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon your Church here and around the world. May you be pleased to send a shepherd to minister the truths of the gospel and your love to your flock here at St Andrew's.

May you continue working in all our hearts and minds, those things that are pleasing in your sight that you might be glorified and that our joy might be full...through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Closing Hymn #324

### "Great is Thy Faithfulness"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4ox4es1jo8>

1. "Great is Thy faithfulness, " O God my Father,  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not  
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:"

Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—  
"Great is Thy faithfulness, " Lord, unto me!

2. Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Refrain:"

Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—  
"Great is Thy faithfulness, " Lord, unto me!

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Refrain:"

Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—  
"Great is Thy faithfulness, " Lord, unto me!

### **Benediction**

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. **Amen.**