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## Order of Worship

January 12, 2025

### Reflection

Today is a new opportunity to repent of log-jammed eyes rather than act as chair of a speck removal company.

- David Cassidy

### Prelude

*As worship begins, please silence your electronic devices.*

### Call to Worship

*Psalm 118*

Leader: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good and his love endures forever.

**All: Let those who fear the LORD say “His love endures forever.”**

Leader: The Lord is our strength and our song; he has become our salvation.

**All: I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.**

Leader: The LORD is God, and he has made his light shine upon us.

**All: You are our God, and we will give you thanks: you are our God, and we will exalt you.**

Song

*The God of Abraham Praise*

The God of Abraham praise,  
who reigns enthroned above;  
Ancient of Everlasting Days,  
and God of Love;  
Jehovah, great I AM!  
by earth and heaven confessed;  
I bow and bless the sacred name  
forever blest.

The great I AM has sworn;  
I on this oath depend.  
I shall, on eagle's wings upborne,  
to heaven ascend.  
I shall behold God's face;  
I shall God's power adore,  
and sing the wonders of God's grace  
forevermore.

The heavenly land I see,  
with peace and plenty blest;  
a land of sacred liberty,  
and endless rest.  
There milk and honey flow,  
and oil and wine abound,  
and trees of life forever grow  
with mercy crowned.

The God who reigns on high  
the great archangels sing,  
and “Holy, holy, holy!” cry  
“Almighty King!  
Who was, and is, the same,  
and evermore shall be:  
Jehovah, Lord, the great I AM,  
we worship thee!”

Who was, and is to come,  
and evermore shall be:  
Jehovah, Lord, the great I AM,  
we worship thee!”

### Prayer of Adoration

Gracious Father, your ever new mercies have made us yours and will keep us yours. Your Word has given us life and will sustain us in the journey. Your Spirit has united us to your Son, making his story ours. O Father above us, Son of God with us, and Spirit in us, inhabit the praises of your people this morning! Amen.

### Affirmation of Faith *The Heidelberg Catechism, Q. 34*

Minister: Why do we call Jesus “our Lord”?

**All: Because— not with gold or silver, but with His precious blood— He has set us free from sin and from the tyranny of the devil, and has bought us, body and soul, to be His very own.**

Gloria Patri

*Meineke*

Glory be to the Father,  
And to the Son,  
And to the Holy Ghost!  
As it was in the beginning,  
Is now and ever shall be:  
World without end,  
Amen, Amen!

Prayer of Confession

**Lord, let your judgment pass over us; let your mercy be our shelter. We confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbor. We neglect to meditate on your word and are guided instead by other voices. We do not listen for your wisdom, and so we act foolishly. May your forgiveness and restoration cover and heal our empty ways of life. Amen.**

Private Confession

Song

*Ancient of Days*

Though the nations rage  
Kingdoms rise and fall  
There is still one King  
Reigning over all  
So I will not fear  
For this truth remains  
That my God is the Ancient of Days

Chorus:  
None above Him none before Him  
All of time in His hands  
For His throne it shall remain and ever stand  
All the power all the glory  
I will trust in His name  
For my God is the Ancient of days

Though the dread of night  
Overwhelms my soul  
He is here with me  
I am not alone  
O His love is sure  
And He knows my name  
For my God is the Ancient of Days (Chorus)

Though I may not see  
What the future brings  
I will watch and wait  
For the Savior king  
Then my joy complete  
Standing face to face  
In the presence of the Ancient of Days (Chorus)

Words of Pardon and Comfort

*Isaiah 55:6-7*

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Song

*Just as I am*

Just as I am, without one plea,  
But that Thy blood was shed for me,  
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, and waiting not  
To rid my soul of one dark blot,  
To Thee Whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about  
With many a conflict, many a doubt,  
Fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;  
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
Yea, all I need in Thee to find,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am Thou wilt receive,  
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
Because Thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

*(Children through Kindergarten are dismissed for  
Children's Church; they will return for Communion.)*

### Prayer of Intercession

*Concluded by 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.**

High Desert Highlights    *See 'Church Life' on page 15*

### Prayer of Dedication

#### Offertory

*If you have a financial gift, you may place it in the offering plate, located on the information table. Donations can also be given electronically; see [highdesertpca.com](http://highdesertpca.com) for more information.*

Scripture

*Acts 15:1-21*

Sermon

*Rev. Dan Rose*

*“The First Presbytery Meeting, Part One”  
You Will Be My Witnesses: The Book of Acts*

Song

*Jesus, The Lord, My Savior Is*

Jesus, the Lord, my Savior is,  
My Shepherd, and my God;  
My light, my strength, my joy, my bliss;  
And I His grace record.

2Whate'er I need in Jesus dwells,  
And there it dwells for me;  
'Tis Christ my earthen vessel fills  
With treasures rich and free.

Chorus:

Mercy and truth and righteousness,  
And peace, most richly meet  
In Jesus Christ, the King of grace,  
In Whom I stand complete.

As through the wilderness I roam,  
His mercies I'll proclaim;  
And when I safely reach my home,  
I'll still adore His name.



“Worthy the Lamb,” shall be my song,  
“For He for me was slain;”  
And me with all the heavenly throng  
Shall join, and say, “Amen.” (Repeat chorus)

Jesus, the Lord, my Savior is,  
My Shepherd, and my God;  
My light, my strength, my joy, my bliss;  
And I His grace record.

### Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

*This is a time for all people to seek the Lord. For Christians, the Lord’s Supper (also called Communion or The Eucharist, which means ‘thanksgiving’) is a time to meet with their Savior by faith, to be strengthened and renewed by Him as they eat the bread and drink the elements. All baptized Christians who trust in Christ alone as their Savior and Lord, belong to a church that embraces the gospel, are at peace with their fellow neighbor, and seek strength and grace to live more faithfully to Christ, are invited to participate.*

*If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer (see Prayers on page 14) and to consider more deeply your relationship to Jesus Christ. We also ask that children who have not yet publicly professed their faith in Christ refrain from partaking until doing so. Both wine (red) and grape juice (white) are offered. Gluten-free bread is also available.*

## Words of Institution

### Memorial Acclamation

Minister: Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

**All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!**

Minister: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

**All: Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Minister: The gifts of God for the people of God.

### Song

#### *In the Shadow of the Glorious Cross*

In the shadow of the glorious cross  
Compelled by grace to cast my lot  
I'll discard the loss and bare your name  
Forsaking all for your own fame

Your hymn of grace sung over me  
Abounding forth in glorious streams  
My thirst is quenched by you my Lord  
Sustained am I redeemed restored  
Sustained am I redeemed restored

Chorus:

Hallelujah, hallelujah

When death's dark shadow's at my feet  
When I am plagued by unbelief  
You place my hands into Your side  
By precious blood identified  
By precious blood identified

These crowns I've clenched with fist'd hands  
I cast them down before the throne  
Of Christ my God the worthy Lamb  
Christ crucified the Great I Am (3x) (Chorus)

Song

*Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

Beneath the cross of Jesus  
I fain would take my stand,  
The shadow of a mighty rock  
Within a weary land;  
A home within the wilderness,  
A rest upon the way,  
From the burning of the noontide heat,  
And the burden of the day.

Upon that cross of Jesus  
Mine eye at times can see  
The very dying form of One  
Who suffered there for me;  
And from my stricken heart with tears  
Two wonders I confess:  
The wonders of redeeming love  
And my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, thy shadow  
For my abiding place;  
I ask no other sunshine than  
The sunshine of his face;  
Content to let the world go by,  
To know no gain nor loss,  
My sinful self my only shame,  
My glory all the cross.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Lord, you have put gladness in our hearts; you have satisfied our hunger with good things. In giving all, you have not withheld from us your own dear Son. How can we withhold anything from you, our Lord and our God? Renew us day by day with the gift of your Spirit, that we may give ourselves completely to your service and walk with joy in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Song

*Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder*

Let us love and sing and wonder  
Let us praise the Savior's name  
He has hushed the law's loud thunder  
He has quenched Mount Sinai's flame  
He has washed us with His blood  
He has washed us with His blood  
He has washed us with His blood  
He has brought us nigh to God

Let us love the Lord Who bought us  
Pitied us when enemies  
Called us by His grace and taught us  
Gave us ears and gave us eyes  
He has washed us with His blood  
He has washed us with His blood  
He has washed us with His blood  
He presents our souls to God

Let us sing though fierce temptation  
Threatens hard to bear us down  
For the Lord, our strong salvation,  
Holds in view the conqueror's crown  
He, Who washed us with His blood,  
He, Who washed us with His blood,  
He, Who washed us with His blood,  
Soon will bring us home to God

Let us wonder grace and justice  
Join and point to mercy's store  
When through grace in Christ our trust is  
Justice smiles and asks no more  
He, Who washed us with His blood,  
He, Who washed us with His blood,  
He, Who washed us with His blood,  
Has secured our way to God

Let us praise and join the chorus  
Of the saints enthroned on high  
Here they trusted Him before us  
Now their praises fill the sky  
Thou hast washed us with Thy blood  
Thou hast washed us with Thy blood  
Thou hast washed us with Thy blood  
Thou art worthy Lamb of God

Benediction

Postlude

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## **Prayers**

*Prayer for Those Searching for Truth:* Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

*Prayer of Belief:* Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

*Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin:* Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the Pioneer and Perfecter of my faith. Amen.

*Prayer of Commitment:* Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.