

#### **Sent To the Poor**

Whoever be the man that is presented to you as needing your assistance, you have no ground for declining to give it to him. Say he is a stranger. The Lord has given him a mark which ought to be familiar to you: for which reason he forbids you to despise your own flesh (Gal. 6:10). Say he is mean and of no consideration. The Lord points him out as one whom he has distinguished by the lustre of his own image (Isaiah 58:7). Say that you are bound to him by no ties of duty. The Lord has substituted him as it were into his own place, that in him you may recognize the many great obligations under which the Lord has laid you to himself. Say that he is unworthy of your least exertion on his account; but the image of God, by which he is recommended to you, is worthy of yourself and all your exertions. But if he not only merits no good, but has provoked you by injury and mischief, still this is no good reason why you should not embrace him in love, and visit him with offices of love. He has deserved very differently from me, you will say. But what has the Lord deserved? Whatever injury he has done you, when he enjoins you to forgive him, he certainly means that it should be imputed to himself. In this way only we attain to what is not to say difficult but altogether against nature, to love those that hate us, render good for evil, and blessing for cursing, remembering that we are not to reflect on the wickedness of men, but look to the image of God in them, an image which, covering and obliterating their faults, should by its beauty and dignity allure us to love and embrace them.

John Calvin

## ORDER OF WORSHIP | FEBRUARY 25, 2024

The playing of the chimes is a signal that the hour of our corporate worship has begun. During this time, we invite you to silently prepare your hearts to praise our Triune God to whom belongs all glory, power, and majesty.

(Please silence all phones and non-medical electronic devices.)

Hearing support is available. Please, ask an usher, audio technician, or Deacon Norm Marks.

Welcome

PASTOR BARBER

#### WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

Prelude — O God, your goodness (L. van Beethoven, lower voice parts by Alan Bullard; Christian Gellert, transl. Alan Bullard)

O God, your goodness reaches wide, as do the clouds above us.

You crown us with your perfect love, you guide us and protect us.

O Lord, our rock, our shield, our friend, unto our thoughts and words attend As now we pray before you, as now we pray before you. CHANCEL and GRACE AND PEACE Choirs

# \* GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

Call to Worship — Revelation 19:6b–7a (Pew Bible, p. 1325); Matthew 11:28–29 (NIV)

Pastor: Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.

People: Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory.

Pastor: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

People: Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;

Pastor: for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

All: Hallelujah! Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory.

\*Song — Come, Thou Almighty King (music opposite page)

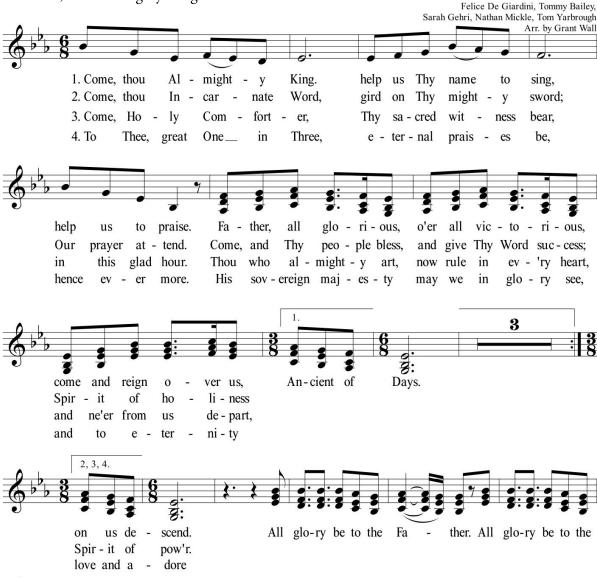
PASTOR BARBER



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# \* PRAYER OF INVOCATION (followed 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 the evil one. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

\* CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Institutes of the Christian Religion (III.7.6; adapt.)

Scripture teaches a most excellent truth when it tells us that we are to honor and love people, not based on what they deserve in themselves, but based on the image they bear. For those who are of the household of faith, the same rule is to be even more carefully observed, because that image is renewed and restored in them by the Spirit of Christ. Therefore, whoever is presented to you as needing your assistance, you have no reason to turn them down. Saying he or she is a stranger is not a valid reason. The Lord has given them a mark which ought to be familiar to you: His image, for which reason he forbids you to despise your own flesh.

## \*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heav'nly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

#### **GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH HIS WORD**

New Testament readings — Matthew 25:31–46 (Pew Bible, p. 1056)

<sup>31</sup> "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. [continues next page]

**PASTOR EVANS** 

ELDER DENNIS DIETRICH

❖ stand if able 5

<sup>34</sup> "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. <sup>35</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, <sup>36</sup> I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' <sup>37</sup> "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? <sup>39</sup> When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' <sup>40</sup> "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

<sup>41</sup> "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. <sup>42</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

<sup>44</sup> "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' <sup>45</sup> "He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

46 "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

Matthew 25:31–46 (ESV)

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

**PASTOR EVANS** 

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN (followed by Private Confession of Sin)

O Lord, we admit that our hearts are weighed down by our sin. We could never be righteous before you for we are born in sin and commit sins against you daily. Forgive us for the ways we have not loved you, not worshipped you, not followed your commands, and not professed your name. Do not hide your face from us, Lord. Have mercy upon us that we might not be left to our sin and face your just judgement. Let not our spirits faint within us, but through your righteousness lift us up that we might be freed from our sins, and that your name may be praised. May your grace and steadfast love teach us the way we should live as your servants.

#### Assurance of Pardon

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. Isaiah 55:6–7 (Pew Bible, p. 782)

#### WE LIVE OUT OUR MISSION and PASTORAL PRAYER

#### WE GIVE TO THE ONE WHO HAS GIVEN US EVERYTHING



Pou can also give online on our website, through the app Vanco Mobile, or mail a check to the office (if it is for the Deacons Fund, please note on the memo).

Offertory Response — The Last Words of David (2 Sam. 23:3, 4; R. Thompson)

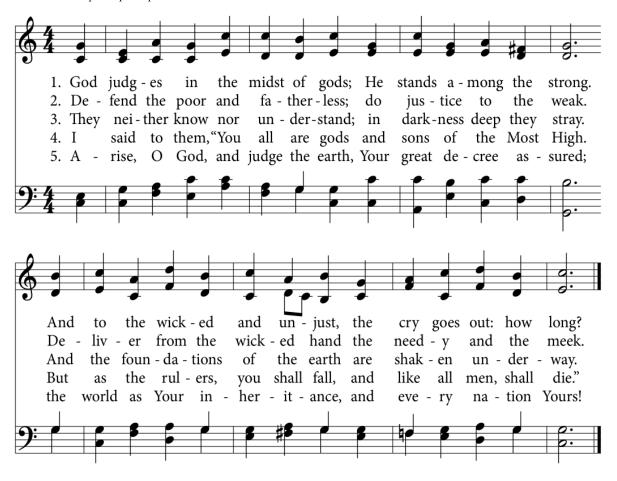
He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God.

And he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds; as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain. Alleluia, Amen.

CHANCEL and **GRACE AND PEACE** Choirs

## \* Psalm 82 — God Judges in the Midst of Gods

Children are welcome to remain in worship with us. Children 2 and 3 years old may go to Beginner Bible in room 100; children 4 years to 2nd grade may depart during the last verse to the Fellowship Hall for Junior Church. Parents please pick up children after the service.



Words: David P. Regier Music: William Croft, 1708

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ST. ANNE

CM

❖ stand if able 8

#### GOD EXHORTS THROUGH THE WORD AND WE SING

Sent To the Poor — Isaiah 58 (Pew Bible, p. 785)

"Cry aloud; do not hold back; lift up your voice like a trumpet; declare to my people their transgression, to the house of Jacob their sins.

- 2 Yet they seek me daily and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that did righteousness and did not forsake the judgment of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they delight to draw near to God.
- 3 'Why have we fasted, and you see it not? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?' Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure, and oppress all your workers.
- Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist. Fasting like yours this day will not make your voice to be heard on high.

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- 5 Is such the fast that I choose, a day for a person to humble himself? Is it to bow down his head like a reed, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Will you call this a fast, and a day acceptable to the LORD?
- "Is not this the fast that I choose: 6 to loose the bonds of wickedness. to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?
- 7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him,

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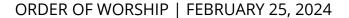
PASTOR BARBER

## ORDER OF WORSHIP | FEBRUARY 25, 2024

- and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?
- Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
- Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
  you shall cry, and he will say, 'Here I am.'

  If you take away the yoke from your midst,
  the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness,
- if you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday.
- And the LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.
- And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
  you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
  you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
  the restorer of streets to dwell in.
- "If you turn back your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on my holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the LORD honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, or seeking your own pleasure, or talking idly;
- then you shall take delight in the LORD, and I will make you ride on the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

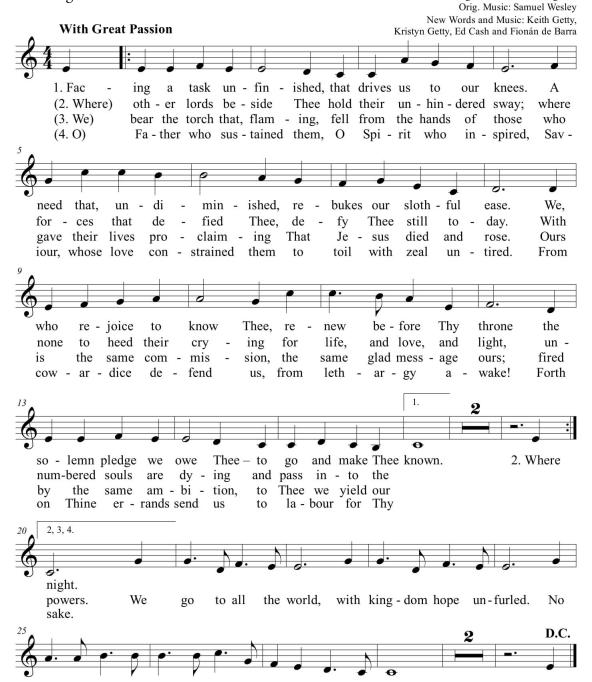
Isaiah 58 (ESV)



\*Song — Facing a Task Unfinished (music next page)

# \* GOD SENDS US OUT WITH HIS BLESSING

YOUNG ADULTS — Fellowship Over Food, 12:20–1:45pm GRACE & PEACE Choir Rehearsal — 4–5pm YOUTH GROUP — 5–7pm



oth - er name has power to save but Je-sus Christ The Lord.

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Orig. Words: Frank Houghton



OUR MISSION We exist to change lives through sharing Christ. We carry out this mission in three ways:

## **GATHER** — we gather Christians together to worship God through Jesus Christ

MORNING WORSHIP—10:45AM

# DISCIPLE — we make disciples and grow in our relationship with God and each other

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES—9:30AM. Spring Sunday School Quarter beings March 10. WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP—Wednesdays at 9:15-11:30AM and 6:30–8:00PM

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY—New Study begins February 29th. "Sojourners and Exiles" by Sinclair Ferguson. Meets on Thursdays from 8:00–9:00AM in Room B202 and online. Contact Pastor Post for more information.

**BIBLE CONFERENCE**—March 1-3: Speaker: Robert Cunningham on "Christ, Culture, and Politics". Please sign up by February 28th at the information counter or online on our website.

#### SEND — we are all Christ's ambassadors that are sent into the world locally and globally

MISSIONARIES—Katy Abasciano—CRU at University of New Hampshire (see our Missionary Highlight in this week's online EPiC Newsletter)

## Attendance and Financial Information for February 18, 2024

SS: 150 - AM: 306 - PM: 128

#### General Fund

Weekly Gifts Received	\$	9,251.31
Weekly Budgeted Requirements	\$	22,240.00
Year-to-Date Gifts Received	\$ :	129,324.78
Year-to-Date Requirements	\$	155,680.56
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$	131,111.86



# OUR MISSION IS TO CHANGE LIVES THROUGH SHARING CHRIST BY GATHERING, DISCIPLING AND SENDING

#### **CHURCH STAFF**

Rev. Chad Barber, Senior Pastor (chad@epcnewark.org)

Rev. Rick Gray, Pastor of International Ministry (rick@epcnewark.org)

Dr. Higo Rodrigues, Music Director (higo@epcnewark.org)

Micah Freer, Pastoral Intern (micah@epcnewark.org)

\* Rev. Don Post, Assistant Pastor (don@epcnewark.org)

Rev. Caleb Evans, Pastor of Youth and Families (caleb@epcnewark.org)

Deborah Freer, Children's Ministry Director (deb@epcnewark.org)

\* Dot Griffin, Administrative Staff (dot@epcnewark.org)

Rev. LeRoy Greer, Custodian

#### THE SESSION

Moderator - Rev. Chad Barber
Dwight Derby<sup>25</sup>
Dennis Dietrich<sup>26</sup>
Dennis Dietrich<sup>26</sup>

Clerk - Bill Zinkand<sup>26</sup>
David Rose<sup>26</sup>
David Rose<sup>26</sup>
Paul Veenema<sup>26</sup>
Brian Warshaw<sup>25</sup>
Guy Webster<sup>24</sup>

#### THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Chairman - Jared Guckenberger<sup>26</sup> • Vice Chairman - Eric Hayden<sup>25</sup> • Secretary - Ben Mallary<sup>26</sup>
Billy Anderson<sup>26</sup> • Scott Cherry<sup>26</sup> • Scott Collins<sup>26</sup> • Kevin Botbyl<sup>26</sup> • Max Edamala<sup>24</sup> • Don Gray<sup>25</sup>
Roger Jamieson<sup>26</sup> • Don Jones<sup>24</sup> • Norman Marks<sup>24</sup> • Dean Nairn<sup>24</sup> • David Visser<sup>26</sup>

#### **Missionaries and Benevolent Causes We Support**

#### Mission to the World

Africa - Jim and Karen • Belgium - Jud and Jan Lamos (18.26 Network) • Chile - Verne and Alina Marshall
Cuba - Richard and Robyn Crane • England - Rob and Jenny Ilderton • France - James and Jacki Gildard
French Speaking Haiti/Africa - Thomas and Lucy Wright • Japan - Andrew and Megan Nairn • New Zealand - Steve and Rita Williams
Panama - Scott and Meghan Dillon • Ukraine - David and Jill Martin; Dal and Beth Stanton • Serving in Sensitive Areas - Phil and Barb

#### Agencies of the PCA

Committee on Administration • Committee on Discipleship Ministries • Covenant College • Covenant Seminary Mission to the World • Mission to North America • Reformed University Fellowship • Ridge Haven

#### **Other Christian Organizations**

A Door of Hope • Cru - Katy Thomas (New Hampshire University) • Greater Europe Mission - Mark and Marti Mylin (France)
Harvest USA - Ellen Dykas • InterVarsity Christian Fellowship - Greg and Sandy Baker (UD) • Love, INC. (In the Name of Christ)
MNA - Brandon and Rebecca Farquhar (Church Planting in Norwalk, CT) • Navigators - TJ and KyongA Hayes
Pioneers - Scott and Jessica Weber • Reformed University Fellowship - Daryl Wattley (DSU)
Reformed University Fellowship International - Graham and Emily Guo (UD)
Serge (formerly World Harvest) - Josh and Kristi, Jason and Ai Keuh (Japan)
Third Millennium - Gary and Phyllis Waldecker • Wycliffe - John and Judy Williams (Mexico) • Young Life

#### www.epcnewark.org

308 Possum Park Road, Newark, DE 19711 Office: (302) 737-2300 Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.