



Covenant Church
Presbyterian Church in America
Fayetteville, Arkansas

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP
THE LORD'S DAY

August 27, 2023
10:30 a.m.

Welcome & Announcements

Please join us next Sunday morning at 9 a.m. for our study of J. Gresham Machen's "Christianity and Liberalism." Next week, Phil Schenewerk will lead us through Chapter Seven: "The Church."

We have PDF chapters of the book available for free download on the church website.

Women's weekly Bible study beginning Thursday, September 7th at 9:30am. They will be studying "Westminster Confession Study Guide" by Joseph Pipa. Books are available in late August. Contact Judy Smith for more details. Childcare will be provided.

There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, September 24th convening at 10:30 AM concluding at the end of worship, for the purpose of electing new ruling elders. Phil Schenewerk and Nathan Jarvis have been approved by the session to stand for the office of ruling elder.

We as a church will pack shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child this coming November. In preparation for this event, please see the information in the back of the sanctuary for ideas on items to include. Contact Jan House for more information.

† Call to Worship

Psalms 66:1-4

Shout for joy to God, all the earth; ² sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise! ³ Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you. ⁴ All the earth worships you and sings praises to you; they sing praises to your name." *Selah*

† Invocation & Lord's Prayer

Unison

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 of Praise

#216 (TH#53)

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

Confession of Sin

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.

Do not cast us from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. We pray in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Proverbs 28:13

¹³ Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.

† Hymn of Assurance

#454 (TH #512)

"I Lay My Sins on Jesus"

† Confession of Faith

Heidelberg Catechism, Q27 & 28

Q. 27. What dost thou mean by the providence of God?

A. The Almighty and everywhere present power of God; whereby, as it were by His hand, He upholds and governs heaven, earth, and all creatures; so that herbs and grass, rain and drought, fruitful and barren years, meat and drink, health and sickness, riches and poverty, yea, and all things come, not by chance, but by His fatherly hand.

Q. 28. What advantage is it to us to know that God has created, and by His providence does still uphold all things?

A. That we may be patient in adversity; thankful in prosperity; and that in all things, which may hereafter befall us, we place our firm trust in our faithful God and Father, that nothing shall separate us from His love; since all creatures are so in His hand, that without His will they cannot so much as move.

Pastoral Prayer

Scripture Reading

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

Pew Bible page number 553

The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.

² Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

³ What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun? ⁴ A generation goes, and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever.

⁵ The sun rises, and the sun goes down, and hastens to the place where it rises. ⁶ The wind blows to the south and goes around to the north; around and around goes the wind, and on its circuits the wind returns. ⁷ All streams run to the sea, but the sea is not full; to the place where the streams flow, there they flow again. ⁸ All things are full of weariness; a man cannot utter it; the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing.

⁹ What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun. ¹⁰ Is there a thing of which it is said, "See, this is new"? It has been already in the ages before us. ¹¹ There is no remembrance of former things, nor will there be any remembrance of later things yet to be among those who come after.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Paul Sagan

"The Vanity of Life Without Christ"

Worship with Tithes & Offerings

† **Doxology**

“Doxology”

#567 (TH #731)

† Prayer of Dedication

† **Closing Hymn**

#471 (TH #546)
“The Sands of Time Are Sinking”

† Benediction

SERMON OUTLINE
August 27, 2023
10:30 a.m.

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11
“The Vanity of Life Without Christ”

Introduction (v. 1)

I. All is Vanity (v. 2)

II. Under the Sun (v. 3)

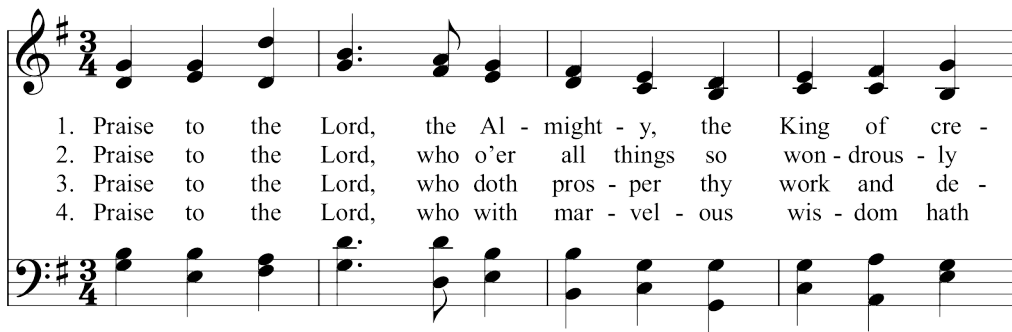
III. The Passing of Generations (v. 4)

IV. The Futility of Fallen Nature (v. 5-7)

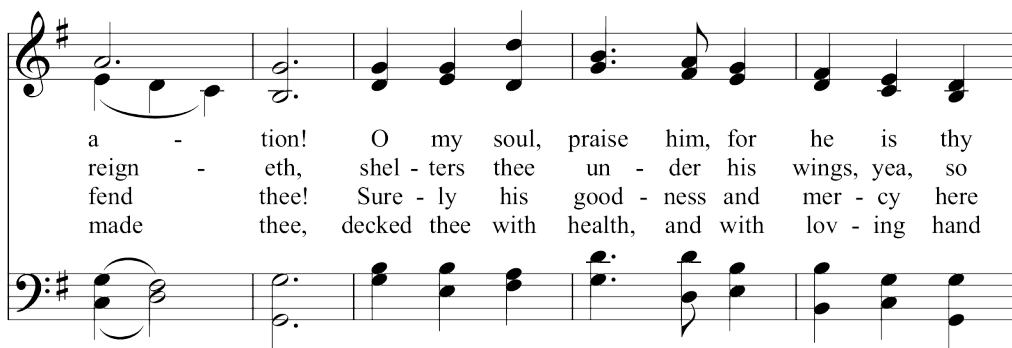
V. Nothing New Under the Sun (v. 8-11)

Conclusion

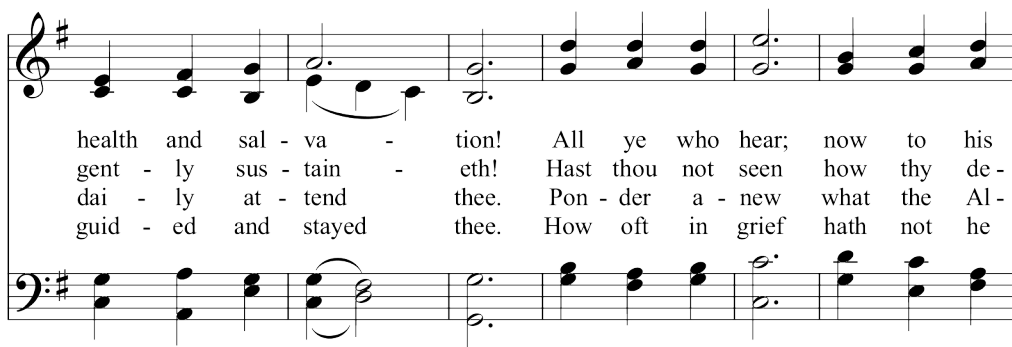
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty



1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
 2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won - drous - ly
 3. Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy work and de -
 4. Praise to the Lord, who with mar - vel - ous wis - dom hath



a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy
 reign - eth, shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so
 fend thee! Sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy here
 made thee, decked thee with health, and with lov - ing hand



health and sal - va - tion! All ye who hear; now to his
 gent - ly sus - tain - eth! Hast thou not seen how thy de -
 dai - ly at - tend thee. Pon - der a - new what the Al -
 guid - ed and stayed thee. How oft in grief hath not he



tem - ple draw near; join me in glad a - do - ra - tion.
 sires e'er have been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?
 might - y will do, if with his love he be - friend thee.
 brought thee re - lief, spread - ing his wings to o'er - shade thee!

5. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
 All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
 Let the amen sound from his people again;
 gladly fore'er we adore him.

Based on Psalm 103
 Joachim Neander, 1680
 Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; alt. 1990

LOBE DEN HERREN 14.14.4.7.8.
Ernewerten Gesangbuch, Stralsund, 1665
 Arr. in Johann Crüger, *Praxis Pietatis Melica*, 1668

My God, How Wonderful Thou Art

217

1. My God, how won - der - ful thou art, thy maj - es - ty how bright!
 2. Won - drous are thine e - ter - nal years, O ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3. O how I fear thee, liv - ing God, with deep - est, ten - d'rest fears,
 4. Yet I may love thee too, O Lord, al - might - y as thou art,
 5. No earth - ly fa - ther loves like thee, no moth - er half so mild

How beau - ti - ful thy mer - cy seat, in depths of burn - ing light!
 by ho - ly an - gels day and night un - ceas - ing - ly a - dored!
 • and wor - ship thee with trem - bling hope and pen - i - ten - tial tears!
 for thou hast stooped to ask of me the love of my poor heart.
 bears and for - bears, as thou hast done with me, thy sin - ful child.

6. How wonderful, how beautiful,
 the sight of thee will be,
 thine endless wisdom, boundless pow'r,
 and awesome purity!

7. Father of Jesus, Love divine,
 what rapture it will be,
 prostrate before thy throne to lie,
 and gaze and gaze on thee!

From Psalm 113
 Frederick W. Faber, 1848; alt. 1961, 1990

ST. ETHELDREDA C.M.
 Thomas Turton, 1780–1864

I Lay My Sins on Jesus

1. I lay my sins on Je - sus, the spot - less Lamb of God;
 2. I lay my wants on Je - sus; all full - ness dwells in him;
 3. I rest my soul on Je - sus, this wea - ry soul of mine;
 4. I long to be like Je - sus, meek, lov - ing, low - ly, mild;

he bears them all, and frees us from the ac - curs - ed load:
 he heals all my dis - eas - es, he doth my soul re - deem:
 his right hand me em - brac - es, I on his breast re - cline:
 I long to be like Je - sus, the Fa - ther's ho - ly child:

I bring my guilt to Je - sus, to wash my crim - son stains
 I lay my griefs on Je - sus, my bur - dens and my cares;
 I love the name of Je - sus, Im - man - uel, Christ, the Lord;
 I long to be with Je - sus a - mid the heav'n - ly throng,

white in his blood most pre - cious, 'til not a spot re - mains.
 he from them all re - leas - es, he all my sor - rows shares.
 like fra - grance on the breez - es his name a - broad is poured.
 to sing with saints his prais - es, to learn the an - gels' song.

Doxology

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all

crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host:

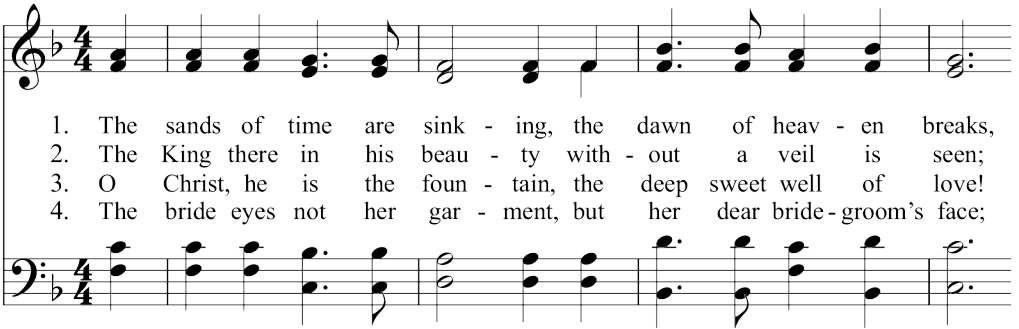
praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Thomas Ken, 1674

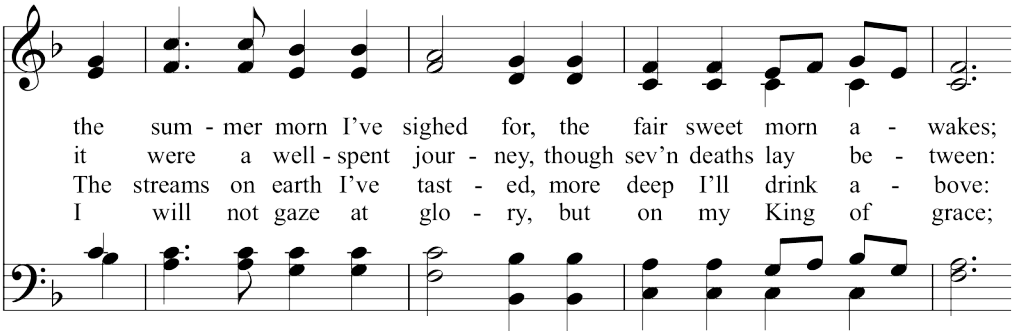
OLD HUNDREDTH L.M.
Louis Bourgeois, 1551

The Sands of Time Are Sinking

471



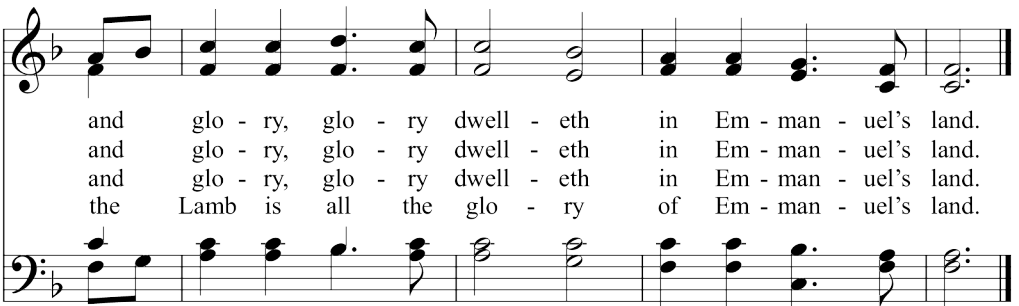
1. The sands of time are sink - ing, the dawn of heav - en breaks,
 2. The King there in his beau - ty with - out a veil is seen;
 3. O Christ, he is the foun - tain, the deep sweet well of love!
 4. The bride eyes not her gar - ment, but her dear bride - groom's face;



the sum - mer morn I've sighed for, the fair sweet morn a - wakes;
 it were a well - spent jour - ney, though sev'n deaths lay be - tween:
 The streams on earth I've tast - ed, more deep I'll drink a - bove:
 I will not gaze at glo - ry, but on my King of grace;



dark, dark hath been the mid - night, but day - spring is at hand,
 the Lamb with his fair ar - my doth on Mount Zi - on stand,
 there to an o - cean full - ness his mer - cy doth ex - pand,
 not at the crown he gift - eth, but on his pierc - ed hand:



and glo - ry, glo - ry dwell - eth in Em - man - uel's land.
 and glo - ry, glo - ry dwell - eth in Em - man - uel's land.
 and glo - ry, glo - ry dwell - eth in Em - man - uel's land.
 the Lamb is all the glo - ry of Em - man - uel's land.