



**Covenant Church
Presbyterian Church in America
Fayetteville, Arkansas**

**CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP
THE LORD'S DAY
September 17, 2023
10:30 a.m.**

Welcome & Announcements

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.

John & Marianna Smoot are hosting a hymn sing at their home Saturday, September 30th, at 6:00 pm. If you are coming you can text your favorite hymn(s) you want to sing to Pamela Andersen at 479-225-1950.

Kelvin Crombie, an expert in Messianic Jews in the Holocaust. Kelvin will be giving a weekend seminar on *God's Sovereignty in History and Geography* on November 3 - November 5 at Covenant Church. He is an expert researcher, apologist and evangelist and was the director of Christ Church guest house in Jerusalem for 20 years. Details of his seminars will follow.

The annual Wilkie Peterson Hayride will be on November 4th and will include Kelvin Crombie giving his testimony for us.

We have a Tuesday Noon men's Bible Study at the church and via Zoom. If you need to be added to the church email list, please fill out a yellow card.

Women's Bible Study is studying the Westminster Confession using the Study Guide by Joseph Pipa. Books are available at Amazon, Christian Books, Greenville Presbyterian Seminary.

Men are invited to an informal coffee fellowship at Rick's Bakery at 9:30am on Thursday.

Men's Bible study of the references to the Westminster Larger Catechism and manly men's breakfast meets on Friday at 6am at the church.

Eli Saldivar is leading a Spanish/English Bible Study on the Gospel of John at C&A Auto Repair in Springdale at 7am on Saturdays.

† Call to Worship

Psalm 35:27-28

Let those who delight in my righteousness shout for joy and be glad and say evermore, "Great is the LORD, who delights in the welfare of His servant!" Then my tongue shall tell of your righteousness and of your praise all the day long.

† 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

#291 (TH#164)

"O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

Confession of Sin

O Lord, our God, you are good to all, yet we have done evil. We confess the blindness of our minds, the stubbornness of our wills, the vanity of our thoughts, the coarseness of our affections, and the corruption of our whole being. We provoke one another more to folly and passion than to love and good works, and we burden ourselves with that care which you have encouraged us to cast upon you.

Forgive us our sins for Jesus's sake, and be at peace with us in Him who died to make peace, and ever lives to make intercession for us. Fortify us against every evil and furnish us with grace for every good. May the love of Christ be rooted in us so the love of the world may be rooted out. Answer us, we pray, for the sake of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

† Hymn of Assurance

#520 (TH #629)

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

† Confession of Faith

Canons of Dort

And, just as it has pleased God to begin this work of grace in us by the proclamation of the gospel, so He preserves, continues, and completes His work by the hearing and reading of the gospel, by meditation on it, by its exhortations, threats, and promises, and also by the use of the sacraments.

Pastoral Prayer

Scripture Reading

Ecclesiastes 2:18-23

Pew Bible page number 554

¹⁸ I hated all my toil in which I toil under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to the man who will come after me, ¹⁹ and who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. ²⁰ So I turned about and gave my heart up to despair over all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹ because sometimes a person who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave everything to be enjoyed by someone who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²² What has a man from all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun? ²³ For all his days are full of sorrow, and his work is a vexation. Even in the night his heart does not rest. This also is vanity.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Jay Bruce

“Thorns and Thistles: A Field Guide to Work”

Worship with Tithes & Offerings

† Doxology

#567 (TH #731)

“Doxology”

† Prayer of Dedication

† Hymn of Preparation

#277

“Before the Throne of God Above”

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

† Closing Hymn

#286 (TH #172)

“Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder”

† Benediction

SERMON OUTLINE
September 17, 2023
10:30 a.m.

Ecclesiastes 2:18-23
“Thorns and Thistles: A Field Guide to Work”

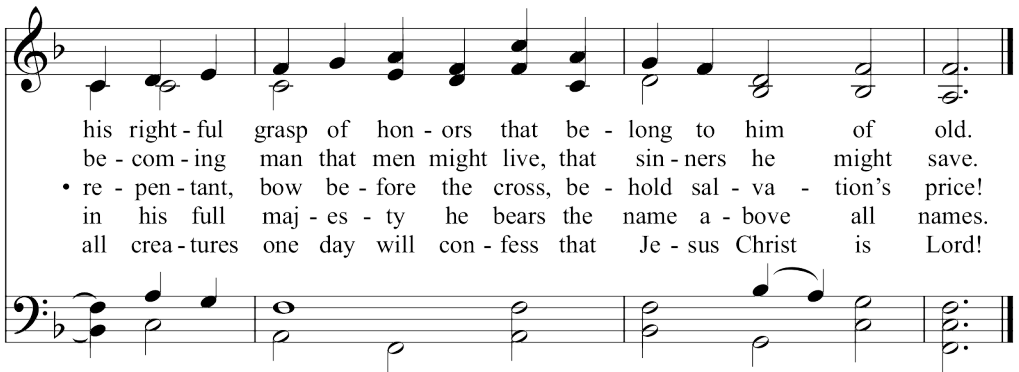
Introduction

I. Anger over Uncertainty (vv. 18–19)

II. Anguish over Unfairness (vv. 20–21)

III. Annoyance Day and Night (vv. 22–23)

Conclusion



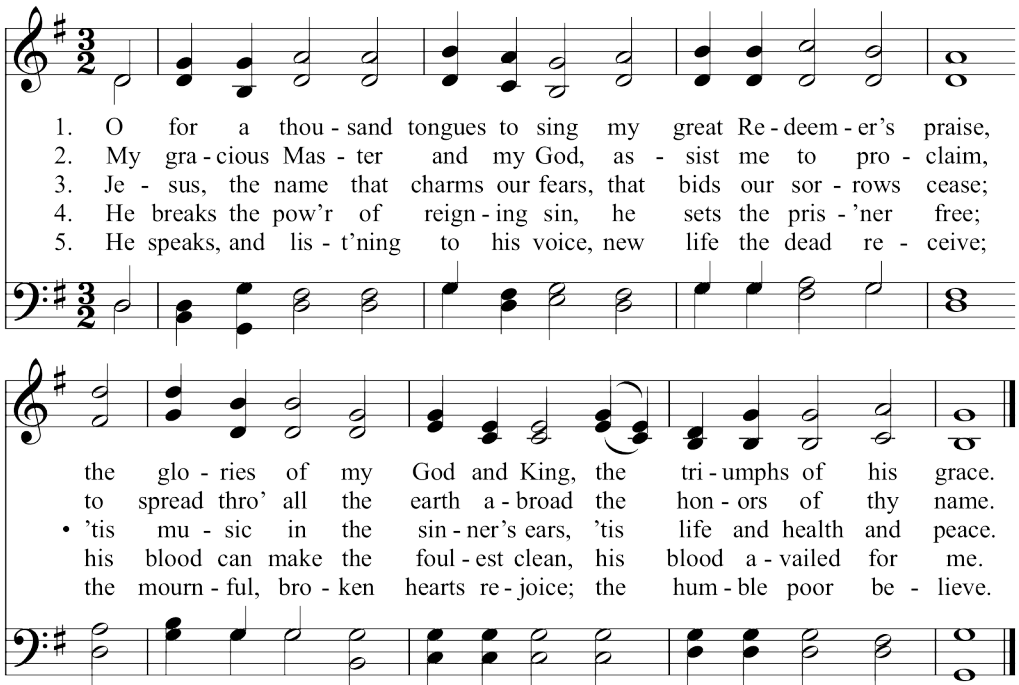
his right - ful grasp of hon - ors that be - long to him of old.
 be - com - ing man that men might live, that sin - ners he might save.
 • re - pen - tant, bow be - fore the cross, be - hold sal - va - tion's price!
 in his full maj - es - ty he bears the name a - bove all names.
 all crea - tures one day will con - fess that Je - sus Christ is Lord!

Based on Phil. 2:5–11
 Russell St. John, 2006
 © 2006 Russell St. John

CONSIDER WELL 14.14.13.14.
 Lou Ann Shafer, 2006
 © 2006 Lou Ann Shafer

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

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1. O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my great Re - deem - er's praise,
 2. My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,
 3. Je - sus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sor - rows cease;
 4. He breaks the pow'r of reign - ing sin, he sets the pris - 'ner free;
 5. He speaks, and lis - t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive;

the glo - ries of my God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace.
 to spread thro' all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy name.
 • 'tis mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
 his blood can make the foul - est clean, his blood a - vailed for me.
 the mourn - ful, bro - ken hearts re - joice; the hum - ble poor be - lieve.

6. Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb,
 your loosen'd tongues employ;
 ye blind, behold your Savior come;
 and leap, ye lame, for joy.

7. To God all glory, praise, and love
 be now and ever giv'n;
 by saints below and saints above,
 the church in earth and heav'n.

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.
 Alt. 1961

AZMON C.M.
 Carl G. Gläser, 1828
 Arr. by Lowell Mason, 1839

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

520



1. What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 2. Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
 3. Are we weak and heav - y - la - den, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged: take it to the Lord in prayer!
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer!



O what peace we of - ten for - feit, O what need - less pain we bear,
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful, who will all our sor - rows share?
 Do thy friends de - spise, for - sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer.
 Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— take it to the Lord in prayer!
 In his arms he'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a so - lace there.

Doxology

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

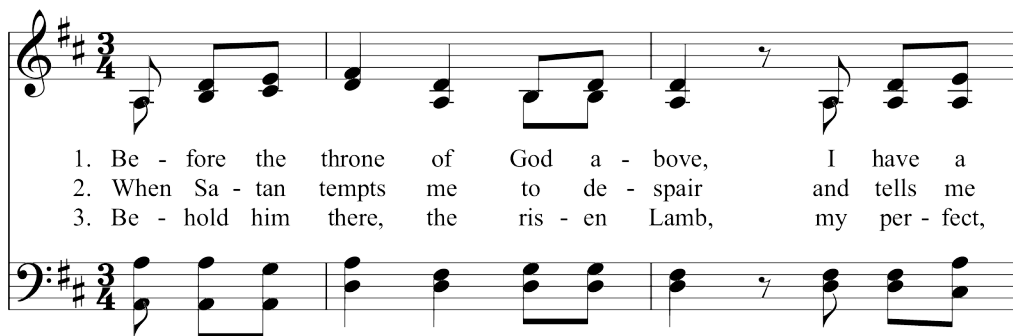
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host:

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

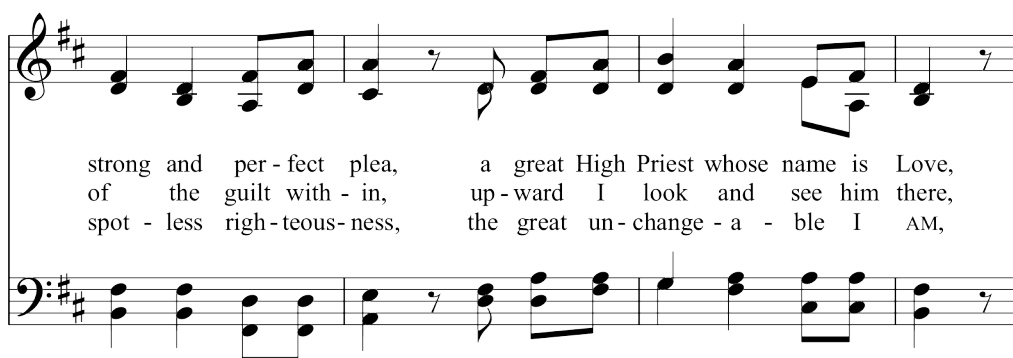
Thomas Ken, 1674

OLD HUNDREDTH L.M.
Louis Bourgeois, 1551

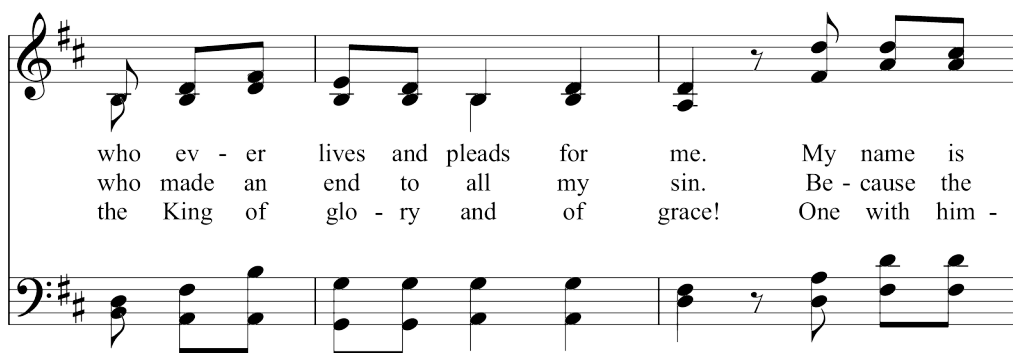
Before the Throne of God Above



1. Be - fore the throne of God a - bove, I have a
 2. When Sa - tan tempts me to de - spair and tells me
 3. Be - hold him there, the ris - en Lamb, my per - fect,



strong and per - fect plea, a great High Priest whose name is Love,
 of the guilt with - in, up - ward I look and see him there,
 spot - less right - teous - ness, the great un - change - a - ble I AM,



who ev - er lives and pleads for me. My name is
 who made an end to all my sin. Be - cause the
 the King of glo - ry and of grace! One with him -

grav - en on his hands, my name is writ - ten on his
 sin - less Sav - ior died, my sin - ful soul is count - ed
 self I can - not die. My soul is pur - chased by his

heart. I know that while in heav'n he stands, no tongue can
 free; for God, the just, is sat - is - fied to look on
 blood! My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ, my

bid me thence de - part, no tongue can bid me thence de - part.
 him and par - don me, to look on him and par - don me.
 Sa - vior and my God, with Christ, my Sav - ior and my God.

Charitie Bancroft, 1863; alt.

BEFORE THE THRONE 8.8.8.8.8.8.8.8.

Vikki Cook; arr. Ruth Coleman

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Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder



1. Let us love and sing and won - der, let us praise the Sav - ior's name!
2. Let us love the Lord who bought us, pit - ied us when en - e - mies,
3. Let us sing, though fierce temp - ta - tion threat - en hard to bear us down!
4. Let us won - der; grace and jus - tice join and point to mer - cy's store;
5. Let us praise, and join the cho - rus of the saints en - throned on high;



- He has hushed the law's loud thun - der, he has quenched Mount Si - nai's flame:
 called us by his grace and taught us, gave us ears and gave us eyes:
- For the Lord, our strong sal - va - tion, holds in view the con - qu'ror's crown:
 when thro' grace in Christ our trust is, jus - tice smiles and asks no more:
 here they trust - ed him be - fore us, now their prais - es fill the sky:



- he has washed us with his blood, he has brought us nigh to God.
 he has washed us with his blood, he pre - sents our souls to God.
- he who washed us with his blood soon will bring us home to God.
 he who washed us with his blood has se - cured our way to God.
 "You have washed us with your blood; you are wor - thy, Lamb of God!"

