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*Gospel Centered*  
CHRIST EXALTING

*The Lord's Day*

May 17, 2020

*Covenant's Mission Statement*  
Covenant seeks to glorify God by  
*Establishing* Disciples biblically,  
*Engaging* Culture redemptively,  
*Expanding* Christ's Church faithfully.

*Covenant's Values*  
Covenant is *biblical* by affirming the Bible as the  
authoritative Word of God,  
*connectional* by affiliating with the Presbyterian Church  
in America (PCA),  
*confessional* by adhering to the Westminster Standards,  
*missional* by seeking to spread the Gospel worldwide, and  
*relational* by encouraging families to build community.

*“The Rock, His work is perfect, for all His ways are justice.  
God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is He.”  
Deuteronomy 32:4*

Prelude

**During the prelude, prepare for worship by  
reflecting on Deuteronomy 32:4 printed above.**

Welcome

Call to Worship

Psalm 18:1-3a

*I love you, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is  
my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God,  
my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the  
horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call upon  
the LORD, who is worthy to be praised.*

Invocation

Hymn

*“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”*

Come, Thou fount of ev'ry blessing,  
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
Call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
Sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,  
Mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer;  
hither by Thy help I've come;  
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,  
Safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
Wand'ring from the fold of God:  
He, to rescue me from danger,  
Interposed His precious blood;

O to grace how great a debtor  
Daily I'm constrained to be;  
Let that grace now, like a fetter,  
Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it-  
Prone to leave the God I love:  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
Seal it for Thy courts above.

*“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”*

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!*

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**

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**

CCLI 209271

Corporate Profession of Faith

Responsive Reading of Psalm 46

*God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.*

***Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,***

*though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.*

***There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.***

*God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.*

***Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; He lifts his voice, the earth melts.***

*The LORD Almighty is with us;*

***The God of Jacob is our fortress.***

*Come and see the works of the LORD, the desolations He has brought on the earth.*

***He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth;  
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear, He burns  
the shields with fire.***

*“Be still, and know that I am God;*

***I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted  
in the earth!”***

*The LORD Almighty is with us;*

***the God of Jacob is our fortress.***

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Tom Fox, Deacon

Scripture Reading

Luke 15:11-24

Kevin Breniman, Ruling Elder

*And He said, There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me. And he divided his property between them.*

*Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living.*

*And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need.*

*So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.*

*But when he came to himself, he said, “How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger!*

*I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants. And he arose and came to his father.”*

*But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.*

*And the son said to him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.*

*But the father said to his servants, Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet.*

*And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate.*

*For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.  
And they began to celebrate.*

Hymn

*“Not What My Hands Have Done”*

Not what my hands have done can save my guilty soul;  
 Not what my toiling flesh has borne can make my spirit whole.

Not what I feel or do can give me peace with God;  
 Not all my prayers and sighs and tears can bear my awful load.

Thy work alone, O Christ, can ease this weight of sin;  
 Thy blood alone, O Lamb of God, can give me peace within.

Thy love to me, O God, not mine, O Lord, to Thee,  
 Can rid me of this dark unrest, and set my spirit free.

Thy grace alone, O God, to me can pardon speak;  
 Thy pow’r alone, O Son of God, can this sore bondage break.

No other work, save Thine, no other blood will do;  
 No strength, save that which is divine, can bear me safely through.

I bless the Christ of God; I rest on love divine;  
 And with unfalt’ring lip and heart, I call this Savior mine.

His cross dispels each doubt; I bury in His tomb  
 Each thought of unbelief and fear, each ling’ring shade of gloom.

I praise the God of grace; I trust His truth and might;  
 He calls me His, I call Him mine, my God, my joy, my light.

‘Tis He who saveth me, and freely pardon gives;  
 I love because he loveth me. I live because He lives.

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Corporate Confession of Sin

*God of love, it is Your will that we should love You with  
 heart, soul, mind, strength, and our neighbor as ourselves,  
 but we are not sufficient for these things.*

*We confess that our affections continually turn away from  
 You: from purity to lust, from freedom to slavery, from  
 compassion to indifference, from fullness to emptiness.*

*Have mercy on us. Order our lives by Your Holy Word,  
 and make your commandments the joy of our hearts. Con-  
 form us to the image of Your loving Son, Jesus, that we  
 may shine before the world to Your glory. Amen.*

Assurance of Pardon

Matthew 11:28-30

*“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”*

Hymn

*“Before the Throne of God Above”*

Before the throne of God above, I have a strong and perfect plea;  
a great high Priest whose Name is Love, Who ever lives and pleads for me.  
My name is graven on His hands, my name is written on His heart;  
I know that while in Heaven He stands, no tongue can bid me thence depart,  
no tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair, and tells me of the guilt within;  
upward I look and see Him there, Who made an end of all my sin.  
Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free;  
for God the just is satisfied, to look on Him and pardon me,  
to look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there the risen Lamb, my perfect spotless righteousness;  
the great unchangeable I AM, the King of glory and of grace,  
One with Himself I cannot die. My soul is purchased by His blood;  
my life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my Savior and my God,  
with Christ my Savior and my God!

written by Charitie L. Bancroft, 1863/tune by Vikki Cook, 1997  
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Sermon

*“A Song of Doom and Deliverance”*  
Deuteronomy 31:19-22; 24-30; 32:1-47

Pastor Reed

**Deuteronomy 31:19-22**

*“Now therefore write this song and teach it to the people of Israel. Put it in their mouths, that this song may be a witness for me against the people of Israel. For when I have brought them into the land flowing with milk and honey, which I swore to give to their fathers, and they have eaten and are full and grown fat, they will turn to other gods and serve them, and despise me and break my covenant. And when many evils and troubles have come upon them, this song shall confront them as a witness (for it will live unforgotten in the mouths of their offspring). For I know what they are inclined to do even today, before I have brought them into the land that I swore to give.” So Moses wrote this song the same day and taught it to the people of Israel.*

**Deuteronomy 32:1-4**

*Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak, and let the earth hear the words of my mouth. May my teaching drop as the rain, my speech distill as the dew, like gentle rain upon the tender grass, and like showers upon the herb. For I will proclaim the name of the Lord; ascribe greatness to our God! The Rock, His work is perfect, for all His ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is He.*

**Deuteronomy 32:5-14**

*They have dealt corruptly with him; they are no longer his children because they are blemished; they are a crooked and twisted generation. Do you thus repay the Lord, you foolish and senseless people? Is not he your father, who created you, who made you and established you? Remember the days of old; consider the years of many generations; ask your father, and he will show you, your elders, and they will tell you. When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance, when he divided mankind, he fixed the borders of the peoples according to the number of the sons of God. But the Lord's portion is his people, Jacob his allotted heritage. He found him in a desert land, and in the howling waste of the wilderness; he encircled him, he cared for him, he kept him as the apple of his eye. Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, that flutters over its young, spreading out its wings, catching them, bearing them on its pinions, the Lord alone guided him, no foreign god was with him. He made him ride on the high places of the land, and he ate the produce of the field, and he suckled him with honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock. Curds from the herd, and milk from the flock, with fat of lambs, rams of Bashan and goats, with the very finest of the wheat - and you drank foaming wine made from the blood of the grape.*

**Deuteronomy 32:15-18**

*“But Jeshurun grew fat, and kicked; you grew fat, stout, and sleek; then he forsook God who made him and scoffed at the Rock of his salvation. They stirred him to jealousy with strange gods; with abominations they provoked him to anger. They sacrificed to demons that were no gods, to gods they had never known, to new gods that had come recently, whom your fathers had never dreaded. You were unmindful of the Rock that bore you, and you forgot the God who gave you birth.*

**Deuteronomy 32:19-25**

*“The LORD saw it and spurned them, because of the provocation of his sons and his daughters. And he said, ‘I will hide my face from them; I will see what their end will be, for they are a perverse generation, children in whom is no faithfulness. They have made me jealous with what is no god; they have provoked me to anger with their idols. So I will make them jealous with those who are no people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation. For a fire is kindled by my anger, and it burns to the depths of Sheol, devours the earth and its increase, and sets on fire the foundations of the mountains. “And I will heap disasters upon them; I will spend my arrows on them; they shall be wasted with hunger, and devoured by plague and poisonous pestilence; I will send the teeth of beasts against them, with the venom of things that crawl in the dust. Outdoors the sword shall bereave, and indoors terror, for young man and woman alike, the nursing child with the man of gray hairs.*”

**Deuteronomy 32:26-35**

*I would have said, “I will cut them to pieces; I will wipe them from human memory,” had I not feared provocation by the enemy, lest their adversaries should misunderstand, lest they should say, “Our hand is triumphant, it was not the LORD who did all this. “For they are a nation void of counsel, and there is no understanding in them. If they were wise, they would understand this; they would discern their latter end! How could one have chased a thousand, and two have put ten thousand to flight, unless their Rock had sold them, and the LORD had given them up? For their rock is not as our Rock; our enemies are by themselves. For their vine comes from the vine of Sodom and from the fields of Gomorrah; their grapes are grapes of poison; their clusters are bitter; their wine is the poison of serpents and the cruel venom of asps. “Is not this laid up in store with me, sealed up in my treasuries? Vengeance is mine, and recompense, for the time when their foot shall slip; for the day of their calamity is at hand, and their doom comes swiftly.’”*

**Deuteronomy 32:36-43**

*For the Lord will vindicate his people and have compassion on his servants, when he sees that their power is gone and there is none remaining, bond or free. Then he will say, ‘Where are their gods, the rock in which they took refuge, who ate the fat of their sacrifices and drank the wine of their drink offering? Let them rise up and help you; let them be your protection! “See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god beside me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand. For I lift up my hand to heaven and swear, as I live forever, if I sharpen my flashing sword and my hand takes hold on judgment, I will take vengeance on my adversaries and will repay those who hate me. I will make my arrows drunk with blood, and my sword shall devour flesh - with the blood of the slain and the captives, from the long-haired heads of the enemy.’ “Rejoice with him, O heavens; bow down to him, all gods, for he avenges the blood of his children and takes vengeance on his adversaries. He repays those who hate him and cleanses his people's land.”*

**Deuteronomy 32:44-47**

*Moses came and recited all the words of this song in the hearing of the people, he and Joshua the son of Nun. And when Moses had finished speaking all these words to all Israel, he said to them, “Take to heart all the words by which I am warning you today, that you may command them to your children, that they may be careful to do all the words of this law. For it is no empty word for you, but your very life, and by this word you shall live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess.”*



Hymn

*“Amazing Grace!”*

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound-  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved!  
How precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!

Thro' many dangers, toils and snares,  
I have already come;  
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,  
His Word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be,  
as long as life endures.

And when this flesh and heart shall fail,  
and mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess within the veil,  
a life of joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we've first begun.

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Scriptural Benediction

Postlude

## Sermon Outline

I. Command for the Song (31:19-22).

II. Composition of the Song (32:1-43)

A. The First Stanza, Summons (32:1-4).

B. The Second Stanza, Charge (32:5-6).

C. The Third Stanza, Grounds (32:7-14).

D. The Fourth Stanza, Indictment (32:15-18).

E. The Fifth Stanza, Sentence (32:19-25).

F. The Sixth Stanza, God's Reputation (32:26-35).

VII. The Seventh Stanza, Deliverance (32:36-43).

III. Catechism with the Song (32:44-47).

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