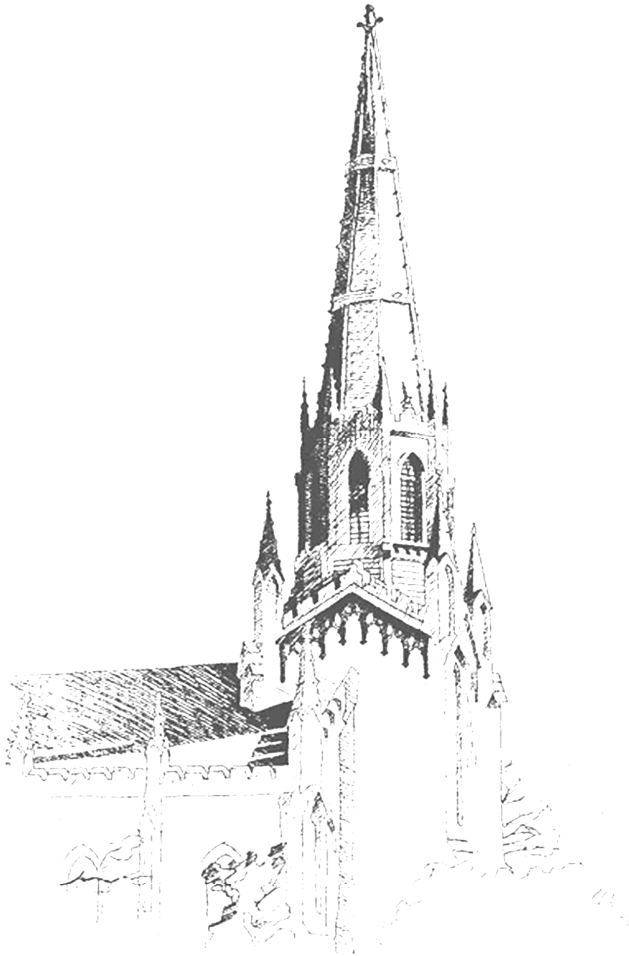


ESTABLISHED 1795

# First Presbyterian Church



*Lord's Day, January 4, 2026*

6:00 P.M.

1324 Marion Street, Columbia, SC

# EVENING WORSHIP

6:00 P.M.

*In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will.*

EPHESIANS 1:11, ESV

(+ Congregation, please stand if able.)

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE** *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*

Arranged by Lloyd Larson

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus! His the scepter, His the throne.  
Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.  
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood:  
“Jesus out of every nation has redeemed us by His blood.”

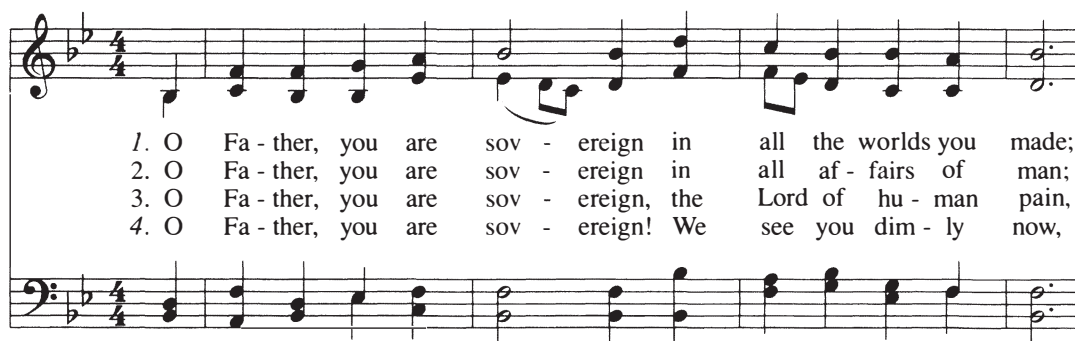
Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now.  
Alleluia! He is near us; faith believes, nor questions how.  
Tho’ the clouds from sight received Him when the forty days were o’er.  
Shall our hearts forget His promise: “I am with you ever-more?”

Alleluia! Bread of heaven, You on earth our food and stay!  
Alleluia! Here the sinful flee to You from day to day.  
Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth’s Redeemer, plead for me,  
Where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.

Ann Forrest Bowers and Victoria Boyce, sopranos  
Dr. Ann Wilson, piano

## CALL TO WORSHIP

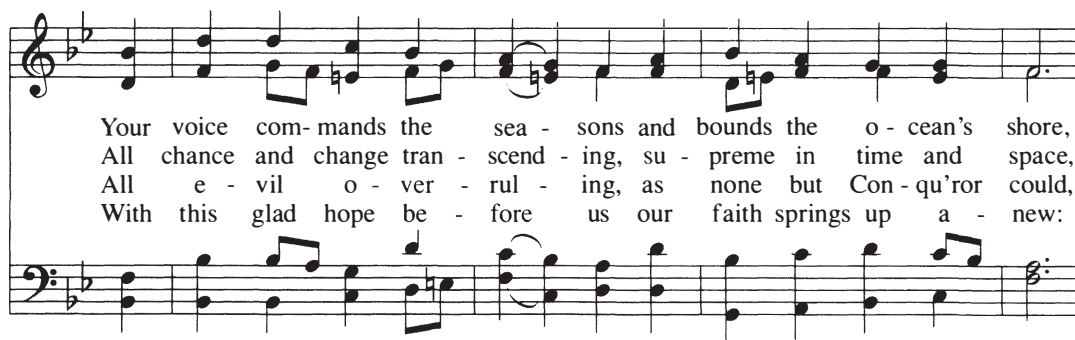
Dr. David Lauten



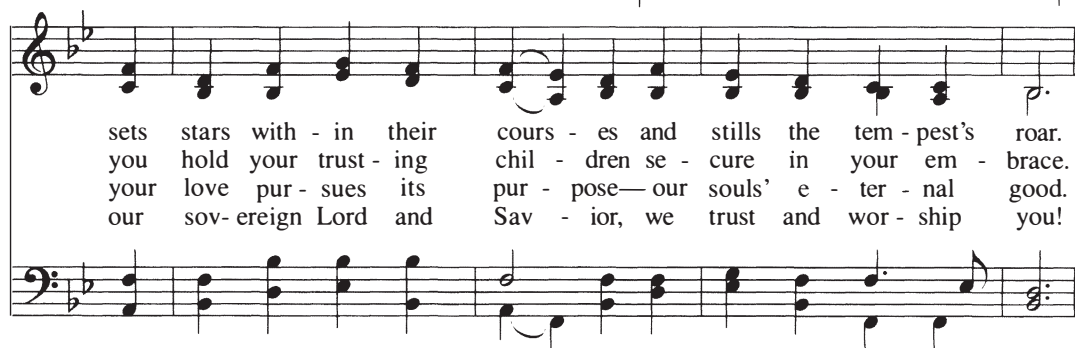
1. O Fa - ther, you are sov - ereign in all the worlds you made;  
 2. O Fa - ther, you are sov - ereign in all af - fairs of man;  
 3. O Fa - ther, you are sov - ereign, the Lord of hu - man pain,  
 4. O Fa - ther, you are sov - ereign! We see you dim - ly now,



your might - y word was spo - ken and light and life o - beyed.  
 no pow'rs of death or dark - ness can thwart your per - fect plan.  
 trans - mut - ing earth - ly sor - rows to gold of heav'n - ly gain.  
 but soon be - fore your tri - umph earth's ev - ery knee shall bow.



Your voice com - mands the sea - sons and bounds the o - cean's shore,  
 All chance and change tran - scend - ing, su - preme in time and space,  
 All e - vil o - ver - rul - ing, as none but Con - qu'ror could,  
 With this glad hope be - fore us our faith springs up a - new:



sets stars with - in their cours - es and stills the tem - pest's roar.  
 you hold your trust - ing chil - dren se - cure in your em - brace.  
 your love pur - sues its pur - pose—our souls' e - ter - nal good.  
 our sov - ereign Lord and Sav - ior, we trust and wor - ship you!

# PRAYER OF INVOCATION

+ **HYMN 592** *Jesus Bids Us Shine (Stanzas 1-2)*

JESUS BIDS US SHINE

1. Je - sus bids us shine with a pure, clear light,  
 2. Je - sus bids us shine, first of all for him;  
 3. Je - sus bids us shine, then, for all a - round;

like a lit - tle can - dle burn - ing in the night.  
 well he sees and knows it, if our light grows dim.  
 man - y kinds of dark - ness in the world are found:

In this world of dark - ness so let us shine—  
 He looks down from heav - en to see us shine—  
 sin and want and sor - row; so we must shine—

you in your small cor - ner, and I in mine.  
 you in your small cor - ner, and I in mine.  
 you in your small cor - ner, and I in mine.

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

Dr. Neil C. Stewart

+ **HYMN 592** *Jesus Bids Us Shine (Stanza 3)*

JESUS BIDS US SHINE

## EVENING PRAYER

Elder Ree Hart

## PRESENTATION OF EVENING OFFERINGS

**OFFERTORY** *Love Never Fails*

J.A.C. Redford

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels,  
But have not love,  
I am only a resounding gong and a clanging cymbal.

If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge,  
And if I have a faith that can move mountains,  
But have not love,  
I am nothing.

If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames,  
But have not love,  
I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind,  
Love leaves envy far behind.  
Never boastful, proud or rude,  
Love rejoices with the truth.

Slow to anger, stores no wrongs,  
Love will never seek its own.  
Love does not delight in sin.  
It bears all things, believes all things,  
Love hopes all things, endures all things.  
Love never fails. Love never fails.  
Love never fails.

Prophecies someday will cease.  
As for tongues, they will be stilled.  
Knowledge, it will pass away,  
Yet love remains, it hopes all things,  
Believes all things, endures all things.  
Love never fails. Love never fails.  
Love, love never fails.

(1 Corinthians 13:1–8, NIV)

Campbell Cathcart, cello

+ **DOXOLOGY**

TALLIS' CANON

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.

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Proverbs 16:1–9, 19:21, 21:5, 27:1  
(Pew Bible page 539; Children's Bible page 692)

**SERMON “Plans are Nothing, Planning is Everything”**

Dr. Neil C. Stewart

**PRAYER FOR BLESSING ON THE WORD OF GOD**

**INTRODUCTION TO COVENANT RENEWAL WITH THE LORD**

**PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THANKSGIVING**

**CORPORATE RESPONSE**

Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name!  
Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits.

Psalm 103:1–2

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**CORPORATE RESPONSE**

The LORD is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
He will not always chide,  
nor will he keep his anger forever.  
He does not deal with us according to our sins,  
nor repay us according to our iniquities.  
For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;  
as far as the east is from the west,  
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

Psalm 103:8–12

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

### **THE COVENANT**

I am no longer my own, but yours.

Put me to what you will,

Place me with whom you will.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering;

Let me be employed for you or laid aside for you,

Exalted for you or brought low for you.

Let me be full, let me be empty;

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things

To your pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:

You are mine and I am yours. May it be so!

And may the covenant which I have made

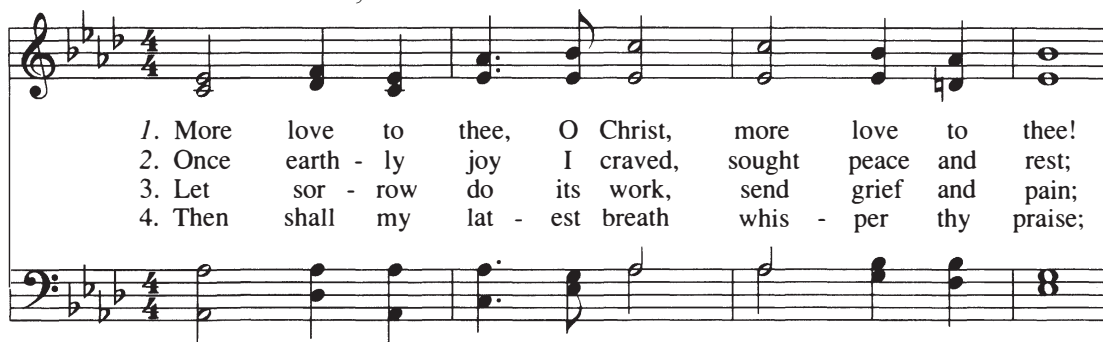
Here on earth be confirmed in heaven.

Amen.

### **PRAYER**

+ **HYMN 649** *More Love to Thee, O Christ*

MORE LOVE TO THEE



1. More love to thee, O Christ, more love to thee!  
 2. Once earth - ly joy I craved, sought peace and rest;  
 3. Let sor - row do its work, send grief and pain;  
 4. Then shall my lat - est breath whis - per thy praise;

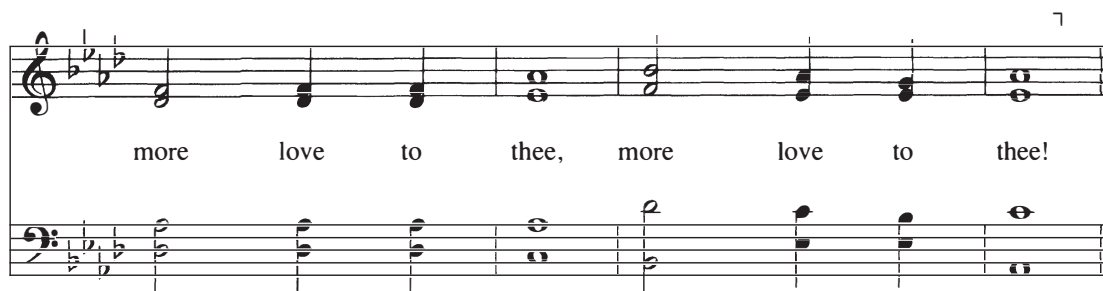


Hear thou the prayer I make on bend - ed knee;  
 now thee a - lone I seek; give what is best:  
 sweet are thy mes - sen - gers, sweet their re - frain,  
 this be the part - ing cry my heart shall raise,

REFRAIN



this is my ear - nest plea,  
 this all my prayer shall be, more love, O Christ, to thee,  
 when they can sing with me,  
 this still its prayer shall be,



more love to thee, more love to thee!



+ **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

*May the Peace (Benediction)*

Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

May the peace of God our heav'nly Father,  
And the grace of Christ the risen Son,  
And the fellowship of God the Spirit  
Keep our hearts and minds within his love.

*And to him be praise for his glorious reign,  
From the depths of earth to the heights of heav'n;  
We declare the name of the Lamb once slain,  
Christ eternal, the King of kings.*

CCLI NO. 393170

**POSTLUDE** *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*

Friedrich Zachau

Mr. Thomas Russell, organist

# SERMON NOTES

“Plans are Nothing, Planning is Everything”

Proverbs 16:1–9, 19:21, 21:5, 27:1 | Dr. Neil C. Stewart



## WORSHIP AT FIRST

Thank you for turning off cell phones during the worship service.

The Family Life Center is equipped with a hearing assistance system. Please ask a deacon for a receiver.

Nurseries for children to the age of four are provided in the Education Building. A quiet room with a live video feed of the service is available in the Education Building, Room 113. There, mothers may attend to the needs of their children.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

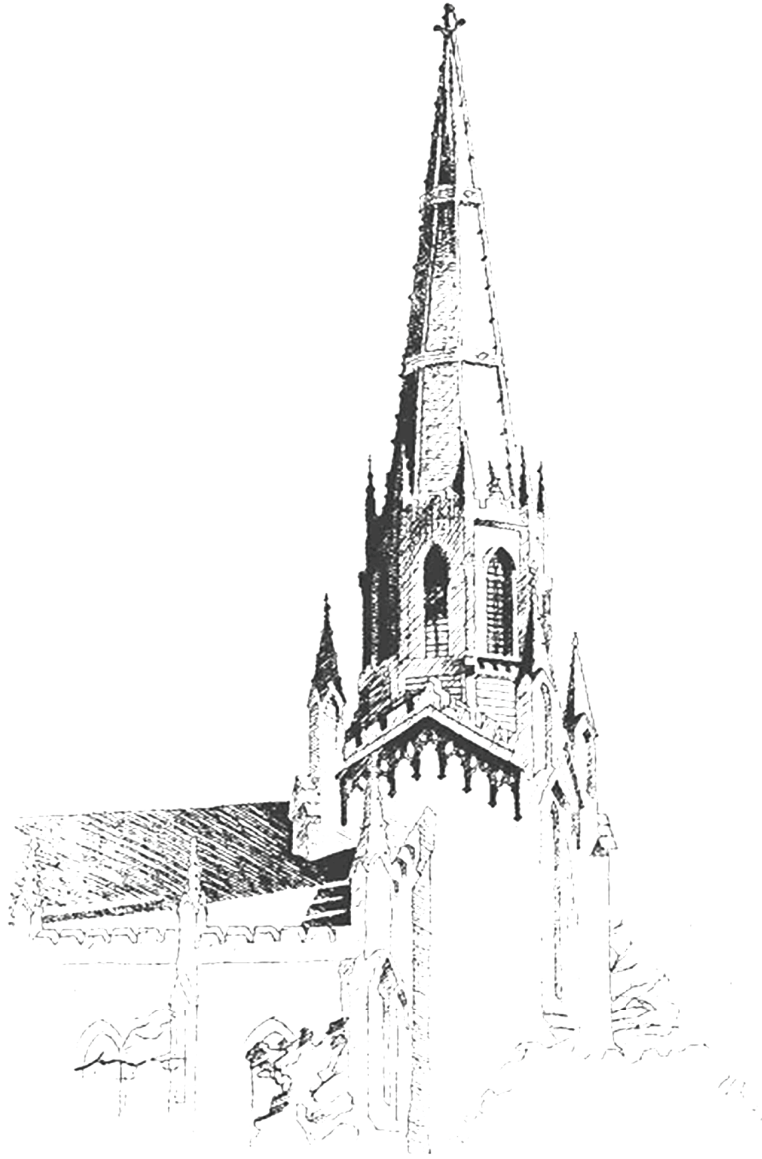
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ESTABLISHED 1795

# First Presbyterian Church



**LORD'S DAY, JANUARY 4, 2026**  
**6:00 P.M.**

1324 Marion Street, Columbia, SC

# EVENING WORSHIP

6:00 P.M.

*In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will.*

EPHESIANS 1:11, ESV

(+ Congregation, please stand if able.)

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

*Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*

Arranged by Lloyd Larson

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus! His the scepter, His the throne.

Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.

Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood:  
“Jesus out of every nation has redeemed us by His blood.”

Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now.

Alleluia! He is near us; faith believes, nor questions how.

Tho’ the clouds from sight received Him when the forty days  
were o’er.

Shall our hearts forget His promise: “I am with you ever-more?”

Alleluia! Bread of heaven, You on earth our food and stay!

Alleluia! Here the sinful flee to You from day to day.

Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth’s Redeemer, plead for me,  
Where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.

Ann Forrest Bowers and Victoria Boyce, sopranos

Dr. Ann Wilson, piano

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. David Lauten

+ **HYMN 75** *O Father, You Are Sovereign*

ST. THEODULPH

O Father, you are sovereign  
In all the worlds you made;  
Your mighty word was spoken  
And light and life obeyed.  
Your voice commands the seasons  
And bounds the ocean's shore,  
Sets stars within their courses  
And stills the tempest's roar.

O Father, you are sovereign  
In all affairs of man;  
No pow'rs of death or darkness  
Can thwart Your perfect plan.  
All chance and change transcending,  
Supreme in time and space,  
You hold your trusting children  
Secure in your embrace.

O Father, you are sovereign  
The Lord of human pain,  
Transmuting earthly sorrows  
To gold of heav'nly gain.  
All evil over-ruling,  
As none but Conqu'ror could,  
Your love pursues its purpose —  
Our souls' eternal good.

O Father, you are sovereign!  
We see you dimly now,  
But soon before your triumph  
Earth's every knee shall bow.  
With this glad hope before us  
Our faith springs up anew:  
Our sovereign Lord and Savior,  
We trust and worship you!

# PRAYER OF INVOCATION

## + HYMN 592

*Jesus Bids Us Shine (Stanzas 1–2)*

JESUS BIDS US SHINE

Jesus bids us shine  
With a pure, clear light,  
Like a little candle  
Burning in the night.  
In this world of darkness  
So let us shine—  
You in your small corner,  
And I in mine.

Jesus bids us shine,  
First of all for him;  
Well he sees and knows it,  
If our light grows dim.  
He looks down from heaven  
To see us shine—  
You in your small corner,  
And I in mine.

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

Dr. Neil C. Stewart

## + HYMN 592

*Jesus Bids Us Shine (Stanza 3)*

JESUS BIDS US SHINE

Jesus bids us shine,  
Then, for all around;  
Many kinds of darkness  
In the world are found;  
Sin and want and sorrow;  
So we must shine—  
You in your small corner,  
And I in mine.



## PRESENTATION OF EVENING OFFERINGS

### OFFERTORY *Love Never Fails*

J.A.C. Redford

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels,  
But have not love,  
I am only a resounding gong and a clanging cymbal.

If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and  
All knowledge,  
And if I have a faith that can move mountains,  
But have not love, I am nothing.

If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to  
the flames,  
But have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind,  
Love leaves envy far behind.  
Never boastful, proud or rude,  
Love rejoices with the truth.

Slow to anger, stores no wrongs,  
Love will never seek its own.  
Love does not delight in sin.  
It bears all things, believes all things,  
Love hopes all things, endures all things.  
Love never fails. Love never fails.  
Love never fails.

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As for tongues, they will be stilled.  
Knowledge, it will pass away,  
Yet love remains, it hopes all things,  
Believes all things, endures all things.  
Love never fails. Love never fails.  
Love, love never fails.

(1 Corinthians 13:1–8, NIV)

Campbell Cathcart, cello

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.

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

### **SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Proverbs 16:1–9, 19:21, 21:5, 27:1  
(Pew Bible page 539, Children's Bible page 692)

- <sup>1</sup> The plans of the heart belong to man,  
but the answer of the tongue is from the Lord.
- <sup>2</sup> All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes,  
but the Lord weighs the spirit.[a]
- <sup>3</sup> Commit your work to the Lord,  
and your plans will be established.
- <sup>4</sup> The Lord has made everything for its purpose,  
even the wicked for the day of trouble.
- <sup>5</sup> Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the Lord;  
be assured, he will not go unpunished.
- <sup>6</sup> By steadfast love and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for,  
and by the fear of the Lord one turns away from evil.
- <sup>7</sup> When a man's ways please the Lord,  
he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.
- <sup>8</sup> Better is a little with righteousness  
than great revenues with injustice.
- <sup>9</sup> The heart of man plans his way,  
but the Lord establishes his steps.
- <sup>21</sup> Many are the plans in the mind of a man,  
but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.
- <sup>5</sup> The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance,  
but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty.

<sup>1</sup> Do not boast about tomorrow,  
for you do not know what a day may bring.

## **SERMON**

Dr. Neil C. Stewart

**“Plans are Nothing, Planning is Everything”**

## **PRAYER FOR BLESSING ON THE WORD OF GOD**

## **INTRODUCTION TO COVENANT RENEWAL WITH THE LORD**

## **PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THANKSGIVING**

## **CORPORATE RESPONSE**

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name!  
Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits.

Psalm 103:1–2

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

## **CORPORATE RESPONSE**

The Lord is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
He will not always chide,  
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For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
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so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

Psalm 103:8–12

# ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

## THE COVENANT

I am no longer my own, but yours.  
Put me to what you will,  
Place me with whom you will.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering;  
Let me be employed for you or laid aside for you,  
Exalted for you or brought low for you.  
Let me be full, let me be empty;  
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.  
I freely and heartily yield all things  
To your pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:  
You are mine and I am yours. May it be so!

And may the covenant which I have made  
Here on earth be confirmed in heaven.  
Amen.

## PRAYER

### + HYMN 649

*More Love to Thee, O Christ*

MORE LOVE TO THEE

More love to thee, O Christ,  
More love to thee!  
Hear thou the prayer I make  
On bended knee;  
This is my earnest plea,

*More love, O Christ, to thee,  
More love to thee,  
More love to thee!*

Once earthly joy I craved,  
sought peace and rest;  
now thee alone I seek;  
give what is best:  
this all my prayer shall be.

Let sorrow do its work,  
send grief and pain;  
sweet are thy messengers,  
sweet their refrain,  
when they can sing with me.

Then shall my latest breath  
whisper thy praise;  
this be the parting cry  
my heart shall raise,  
this still its prayer shall be.

## **+ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

*May the Peace (Benediction)*      Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

May the peace of God our heav'nly Father,  
And the grace of Christ the risen Son,  
And the fellowship of God the Spirit  
Keep our hearts and minds within his love.  
*And to him be praise for his glorious reign,  
From the depths of earth to the heights of heav'n;  
We declare the name of the Lamb once slain,  
Christ eternal, the King of kings.*

CCLI NO. 393170

**POSTLUDE**    *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*    Friedrich Zachau

Mr. Thomas Russell, organist

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