

## Worship Service for July 27, 2025

### Welcome and Announcements ~

Alvie McKinstry

**Tuesday** ~ There is a Job Bible Study meeting at Charlie's Coffeehouse at 12:30 pm.

~ The Uplift Cancer Support Group is going to meet at Linda Hulett's home at 2:30 pm.

**Thursday** ~ The Deacons are meeting at church at 3 pm.

### *~ Celebrations ~*

*Happy Birthday to Lisa Hess on Saturday!*

*Thank you to Lois Squires for the flowers  
In loving memory of her husband, Phil Squires  
and to Linda Hulett for flowers  
in loving memory of her husband, Butch Hulett.*

### Word of Preparation ~

Alvie McKinstry

**Prelude** ~ Please join in singing ***"Step by Step"***  
as we prepare our hearts for worship.

*O God You are my God, and I will ever praise You  
O God You are my God, and I will ever praise You  
I will seek You in the morning, and I will learn to walk in Your ways  
And step by step You'll lead me, and I will follow You all of my days  
(Repeat)  
And I will follow You all of my days. I will follow You all of my days  
And Step by Step You'll lead me, and I will follow You all of my days*

CCLI Song # 696994      David (Beaker) Strasser  
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Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing  
CCLI Song # 4026635

## Call to Worship ~ "Litany of Ministry" (#451 in the blue hymnal)

Please join in reading the bold lines.

O God, who sent Jesus into the world  
not to be ministered unto, but to minister,  
and to give his life to set others free,  
shape us for your ministry.

**Claim us, O God, for your service,  
and direct us toward your will.**

You have graced all members of Christ's body, one by one,  
with gifts of the Spirit to fulfill their vocation:  
to lead lives worthy of your calling,  
to be workers who have no reason to be ashamed,  
to shine as lights to your glory.

**You have granted each of us the manifestation of the Spirit  
for the common good.**

You give grace according to the measure of Christ's gift,  
and some are called to be apostles,  
some prophets,  
some evangelists,  
some pastors and teachers  
to equip the saints for the work of the ministry,  
for building up the body of Christ.

**Grant that together we may all come to the unity of the faith  
and of the knowledge of your Son, to the full stature of Christ.**

Through your grace, O God, may we lead a life  
worthy of the vocation to which you call us.

**Claim us, O God, for your service,  
and direct us toward your will.**

Adapted from New Testament texts by Colbert S. Cartwright  
Chalice Press, 1995

Song ~

**“He Reigns”**

*It's the song of the redeemed rising from the African plain  
It's the song of the forgiven drowning out the Amazon rain  
The song of Asian believers filled with God's holy fire  
It's every tribe, every tongue, every nation  
A love song born of a grateful choir*

**Chorus**

***It's all God's children singing ~ Glory, glory, hallelujah!***

***He reigns! He reigns!***

***It's all God's children singing ~ Glory, glory, hallelujah!***

***He reigns! (He reigns)***

*Let it rise above the four winds caught up in the heavenly sound  
Let praises echo from the towers of cathedrals  
To the faithful gathered underground  
Of all the songs sung from the dawn of creation  
Some were meant to persist  
Of all the bells rung from a thousand steeples  
None rings truer than this*

**Chorus**

**Bridge ~ And all the powers of darkness**

***Tremble at what they've just heard***

***'Cause all the powers of darkness can't drown out a single word***

**Chorus**

***It's all God's children singing ~ Glory, glory, hallelujah!***

***He reigns!***

CCLI Song # 4026635

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Peter Furler | Steve Taylor

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**Praying Together ~**

**Space for Requests**

**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**

Song ~ **“I Love to Tell the Story”**

**(#480 in the blue hymnal)**

*I love to tell the story of unseen things above  
Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love  
I love to tell the story because I know 'tis true  
It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do*

**Chorus**

***I love to tell the story, 'Twill be my theme in glory***

***To tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love***

*I love to tell the story; 'Tis pleasant to repeat  
What seems each time I tell it more wonderfully sweet  
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard  
The message of salvation from God's own holy Word*

**Chorus**

*I love to tell the story for those who know it best  
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest  
And when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song  
'Twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long*

**Chorus**

CCLI Song # 29413

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**Introducing the Sermon ~**

**Pastor Rebecca Sommons**

**Scripture Text ~ Acts 8:1-17, 24-40 (NET)**

<sup>1</sup> Now on that day a great persecution began  
against the church in Jerusalem,  
and all except the apostles were forced to scatter  
throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria.

<sup>2</sup> Some devout men buried Stephen  
and made loud lamentation over him.

<sup>3</sup> But Saul was trying to destroy the church;  
entering one house after another,  
he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison.

<sup>4</sup> Now those who had been forced to scatter  
went around proclaiming the good news of the word.

<sup>5</sup> Philip went down to the main city of Samaria  
and began proclaiming the Christ to them.

<sup>6</sup> The crowds were paying attention with one mind to what Philip said,  
as they heard and saw the miraculous signs he was performing.

<sup>7</sup> For unclean spirits, crying with loud shrieks,  
were coming out of many who were possessed,  
and many paralyzed and lame people were healed

<sup>8</sup> So there was great joy in that city.

<sup>9</sup> Now in that city was a man named Simon,  
had been practicing magic and amazing the people of Samaria,  
claiming to be someone great.

<sup>10</sup> All the people, from the least to the greatest, paid close attention to  
him, saying, "This man is the power of God that is called Great."

<sup>11</sup> And they paid close attention to him  
because he had amazed them for a long time with his magic.

<sup>12</sup> But when they believed Philip as he was proclaiming the good news  
about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ,  
they began to be baptized, both men and women. *(Continued)*

<sup>13</sup> Even Simon himself believed, and after he was baptized,  
he stayed close to Philip constantly,  
and when he saw the signs and great miracles that were occurring,  
he was amazed.

<sup>14</sup> Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard  
that Samaria had accepted the word of God,  
they sent Peter and John to them. <sup>15</sup> These two went down  
and prayed for them so that they would receive the Holy Spirit.

<sup>16</sup> (For the Spirit had not yet come upon any of them,  
but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

<sup>17</sup> Then Peter and John placed their hands on the Samaritans,  
and they received the Holy Spirit...

<sup>25</sup> So after Peter and John had solemnly testified  
and spoken the word of the Lord, they started back to Jerusalem,  
proclaiming the good news to many Samaritan villages as they went.

<sup>26</sup> Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip,  
"Get up and go south on the road that goes from Jerusalem to Gaza."  
(This is a desert road.)

<sup>27</sup> So he got up and went.

There he met an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace,  
queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasury.  
He had come to Jerusalem to worship, <sup>28</sup> and was returning home,  
sitting in his chariot, reading the prophet Isaiah.

<sup>29</sup> Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot."

<sup>30</sup> So Philip ran up to it and heard the man reading the prophet Isaiah.  
He asked him, "Do you understand what you're reading?"

<sup>31</sup> The man replied,  
"How in the world can I, unless someone guides me?"  
So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

*(Continued)*

<sup>32</sup> Now the passage of scripture the man was reading was this:

*“He was led like a sheep to slaughter,  
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent,  
so he did not open his mouth.*

<sup>33</sup> *In humiliation justice was taken from him.  
Who can describe his posterity?  
For his life was taken away from the earth.”*

<sup>34</sup> Then the eunuch said to Philip,  
“Please tell me, who is the prophet saying this about—  
himself or someone else?”

<sup>35</sup> So Philip started speaking, and beginning with this scripture  
proclaimed the good news about Jesus to him.

<sup>36</sup> Now as they were going along the road,  
they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “Look, there is water!  
What is to stop me from being baptized?”

<sup>38</sup> So he ordered the chariot to stop,  
and both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water,  
and Philip baptized him.

<sup>39</sup> Now when they came up out of the water,  
the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away,  
and the eunuch did not see him any more,  
but went on his way rejoicing.

<sup>40</sup> Philip, however, found himself at Azotus,  
and as he passed through the area,  
he proclaimed the good news to all the towns  
until he came to Caesarea

**Sermon ~ “The Gospel Beyond Borders” ~ Pastor Rebecca Sommons**  
Space for Notes

**Song ~ “Here I Am, Lord” (#452 in the blue hymnal)**

*I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry  
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save  
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?*

**Chorus**

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night  
I will go Lord if You lead me  
I will hold Your people in my heart*

*I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain  
I have wept for love of them. They turn away  
I will break there hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone  
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?*

**Chorus**

*I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame  
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save  
Finest bread I will provide, 'til their hearts be satisfied  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?*

**Chorus**

Words and Music ~ Daniel L. Schutte, 1981 | Chalice Hymnal

**Benediction ~ Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIRV)**

God is able to do far more than we could ever ask for or imagine.  
He does everything by his power that is working in us.  
Give him glory in the church and in Christ Jesus.  
Give him glory through all time and for ever and ever.  
Amen.