

Prelude— Variations on *If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee*J. C. Kittle

***Preparation for Worship**—Dear Refuge of My Weary Soularr. S. R. Love
Chancel Choir; Michelle Mills, violin

Dear refuge of my weary soul, on you, when sorrows rise,
On you, when waves of trouble roll, my fainting hope relies.
To you I tell each rising grief, for you alone can heal;
Your Word can bring a sweet relief for ev'ry pain I feel.

Have you not bid me seek your face, and shall I seek in vain?
And can the ear of sov'reign grace be deaf when I complain?
No, still the ear of sov'reign grace attends the mourner's prayer;
O may I ever find a place to breathe my sorrows there.

O gracious God, where shall I flee? You are my only trust;
My weary soul will cleave to you, though prostrate in the dust.
Your mercy seat is open still, here let my soul retreat;
With humble hope attend your will, and wait beneath your feet.

Dear refuge of my weary soul, I wait beneath your feet.

†Call to Worshipfrom Psalm 63:1-5;7-8

Leader: O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul
thirsts for you;

**All: my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land
where there is no water.**

Leader: So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.

**All: Because your steadfast love is better than life, my
lips will praise you.**

Leader: So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will
lift up my hands.

**All: My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food,
and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips,**

Leader: for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your
wings I will sing for joy.

All: My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Leader: Let us worship God!

*The one true God
graciously invites us into
his presence to worship
him in spirit and in truth,
and we eagerly respond
in faith. This begins
a dialogue which will
continue to the end of the
service as God initiates
with us, and we respond
to him.*

***†Hymn of Praise**—God of Our Fathers..... NATIONAL HYMN, HYMN #710
Sung by all *Stanzas #1, 3, 4*

†Invocation

*† Indicates the congregation standing. *Ushers may seat worshipers at this time.*

All: **We believe that our good God, after creating all things, did not abandon them to chance or fortune, but leads and governs them according to his holy will, in such a way that nothing happens in this world without God's orderly arrangement. Yet God is not the author of, and cannot be charged with, the sin that occurs. For God's power and goodness are so great and incomprehensible that God arranges and does his works very well and justly even when the devils and the wicked act unjustly.**

Leader: We do not wish to inquire with undue curiosity into what God does that surpasses human understanding and is beyond our ability to comprehend. But in all humility and reverence, we adore the just judgments of God, which are hidden from us, being content to be Christ's disciples, so as to learn only what God shows us in the Word, without going beyond those limits.

All: **This doctrine gives us unspeakable comfort since it teaches us that nothing can happen to us by chance but only by the arrangement of our gracious heavenly Father, who watches over us with fatherly care, sustaining all creatures under his lordship, so that not one of the hairs on our heads (for they are all numbered) nor even a little bird can fall to the ground without the will of our Father.**

Corporate Confession of Sin *(please kneel if able to do so)*

Gracious Father,
I am wayward and double-minded. My spirit is willing, but my flesh is weak.
I struggle to be in the world, but not of it.
I foolishly try to serve two masters, you and money.
I want to honor Jesus by resisting sin.
But I often succumb to the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes,
and the pride of life.

I have experienced your loving mercy and pardon,
and I hear you say, "Go and sin no more,"
but I continue to fall into the same sins and old habits.
Your word and my conscience tell me to stop sinning,
but my fallen desires overpower me.
The good I want to do, I do not do,
and what I do not want to do, I continue to do.
I claim devotion to Christ, but fall to the devices of the deceiver,
who so easily lures me into the fleeting pleasures and deceitfulness of sin.
I foolishly return to my folly,
falling back into that which harms me and steals my true joy in you.
Oh, Lord, deliver me from me!

Give me grace and strength to mortify my sinful thoughts, desires, and actions.
Father, conform me to the image of your all-satisfying, sin-destroying Son.
Jesus, you are worthy, you are everything, and you are enough.
Holy Spirit, sanctify me more and more that I might be holy as God is holy.
Through Christ I pray, Amen.

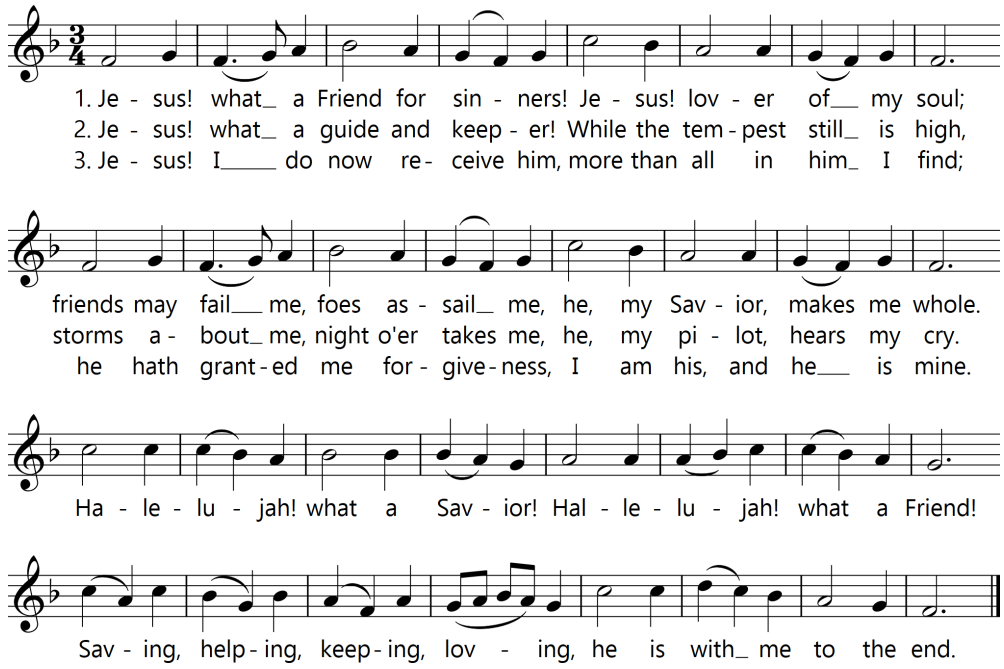
Personal Confession of Sin

Assurance of Pardoning Grace 1John 2:1-2

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. (He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Having confessed our sins, the minister declares a gospel promise assuring that God forgives us because Christ has fully atoned for all the sins of those who truly repent. Divine mercy frees us from our guilt and shame.

†Response—Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners



1. Je - sus! what_ a Friend for sin - ners! Je - sus! lov - er of_ my soul;
2. Je - sus! what_ a guide and keep - er! While the tem - pest still_ is high,
3. Je - sus! I___ do now re - ceive him, more than all in him_ I find;
friends may fail___ me, foes as - sail___ me, he, my Sav - ior, makes me whole.
storms a - bout___ me, night o'er takes me, he, my pi - lot, hears my cry.
he hath grant - ed me for - give - ness, I am his, and he___ is mine.
Ha - le - lu - jah! what a Sav - ior! Hal - le - lu - jah! what a Friend!
Sav - ing, help - ing, keep - ing, lov - ing, he is with_ me to the end.

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

All: **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.**

Offering

Additional Ways to Give

- Online via the app or QR code on the front of the bulletin
- Text "Give \$" followed by the gift amount to 706.550.6813
- Mail checks to 615 Telfair Street, Augusta, Georgia, 30901

With grateful hearts for God's extravagant mercy and blessing, we joyfully present our offerings to the Lord for the ministry of our church and community.

†Passing of The Peace

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: **And also with you.**

Having been reminded that we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, in response to God's grace, we gladly extend the peace of the gospel to one another.

Dismissal of Children:

- 8:30 Pre-K through 3rd grades exit. 4th and 5th grades remain in the service.
- 11 a.m. Pre-K through K exit. 1st through 5th grades remain in the service.

†Hymn of Preparation—Before the Throne of God Above

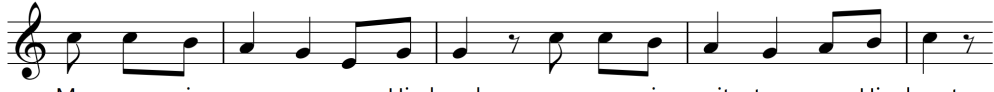
Sung by all



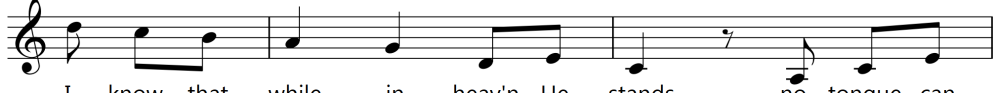
1. Be - fore the Throne of God a - bove I have a strong and per - fect plea:
2. When Sa - tan tempts me to des - pair and tells me of the guilt with - in,
3. Be - hold Him there the ris - en Lamb, my per - fect spot - less righ - teous - ness,



a great High Priest whose name is Love Who e - ver lives and pleads for me.
up - ward I look and see Him there Who made an end of all my sin.
the great un - change - a - ble I AM, the King of glo - ry and of grace.



My name is gra - ven on His hands, my name is writ - ten on His heart.
Be - cause the sin - less Sav - ior died my sin - ful soul is coun - ted free.
One with Him - self I can - not die, my soul is pur - chased by His blood,



I know that while in heav'n He stands no tongue can
For God the just is sa - tis - fied to look on
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 Sa - vior and my God!

C. Bancroft | V. Cook

Old Testament Lesson Esther 2:19-3:6
page 484 in the pew Bible

Response

Leader: This is the Word of God.

All: Thanks be to you, O God.

Sermon—Insatiable, Intentional, and Immense.....Dr. Ken McHeard

1. Insatiable Appetite

2. Intentional Engagement

3. Immense Consequences

†Hymn of Response—If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee NEUMARK

Sung by all

The first staff of music is written on a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a time signature of 3/4. The melody consists of the following notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), C5 (half), D5 (quarter), E5 (quarter), F#5 (quarter), G5 (quarter), A5 (quarter), Bb5 (quarter), C6 (half). Above the staff, the text "sang by an" is written.

1. If thou but suf - fer God to guide thee, and hope in him through
2. What can these anx - ious cares a - vail thee, these nev - er - ceas - ing
3. On - ly be still, and wait his lei - sure in cheer - ful hope, with
4. All are a - like be - fore the High - est; 'tis eas - y to our
5. Sing, pray, and keep his ways un - swerv - ing, so do thine own part

The first staff of music is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It contains the following notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half).

all thy ways, he'll give thee strength, what - e'er be - tide thee,
moans and sighs? What can it help, if thou be - wail thee
heart con - tent to take what - e'er thy Fa - ther's plea - sure
God, we know, to raise thee up though low thou li - est,
faith - ful - ly, and trust his Word—though un - de - serv - ing,

[illegible]

and bear thee through the e - vil days: who trusts in God's un -
o'er each dark mo - ment as it flies? Our cross and tri - als
and all dis - cern - ing love hath sent; nor doubt our in - most
to make the rich man poor and low; true won - ders still by
thou yet shalt find it true for thee; God nev - er yet for -

chang - ing love builds on the Rock that naught can move.
do but press the heav - ier for our bit - ter - ness.
wants are known to him who chose us for his own.
him are wrought who set - teth up and brings to naught.
sook at need the soul that trust - ed him in - deed.

The Lord's Supper

(In keeping with Paul's instructions in 1 Corinthians 11, our elders will gladly admit a child to the Lord's Supper when he or she is able to express an age-appropriate confession of faith in Jesus Christ and understanding of the purpose and meaning of Communion. When parents believe their child is ready to be admitted to the Lord's Table, they are encouraged to contact their parish elders to schedule an interview for their child.)

Doxology **OLD HUNDREDTH**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him all creatures

here be - low. Praise him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host. Praise

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

The word “doxology,” coined in the 17th century, is a combination of the words “glory” and “word.” A doxology is a “word of glory,” a hymn of praise to the Triune God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), who is one divine nature in three persons.

†Benediction

Postlude—Toccata on *God of Our Fathers*..... W. L. Fleury

We encourage you to join us again for corporate worship this evening at 6 p.m.!

Psalm 92 reminds us that it is good to declare God's steadfast love in the morning, and his faithfulness by night. Bookending the Lord's Day in morning and evening worship offers numerous benefits. It helps guard the entire day for spiritual refreshment and rest. Additionally, those who prioritize evening worship receive double the means of grace, joy and spiritual nourishment, including God's Word, prayer, praise, fellowship, and feasting at the Lord's table.

First Presbyterian Church

AUGUSTA, GEORGIA

*COMMENDING THE GREATNESS OF GOD IN JESUS CHRIST
TO ALL PEOPLES AND ALL GENERATIONS*



The Lord's Day Morning Worship

September 7, 2025

8:30 & 11 a.m.

Welcome!

We are so glad you are worshipping with us today! We'd like to get to know you better, so please visit the Welcome Desk located in the Commons.



Scan the QR code to:

- Let us know you are a guest
- Find out more about First Pres
- Request prayer