



CHRIST
CHURCH

May 3, 2026

Prelude

All Things Bright and Beautiful

flutes

text, Cecil F. Alexande
arr. Catherine McMichael

In his book on hymns, Albert Bailey writes of this particular one, “For once Mrs. Alexander has forgotten her theology and lost herself in the beauty of nature” (The Gospel in Hymns, 354). Many of us, if not all, have had these moments. Whether we’re in a park, on a mountain, at the sea or a lake, or simply driving down the highway with a glorious sunset behind us, it is not difficult to find ourselves lost in the beauty of God’s creation. These scenes should bring to mind Genesis 1:31: “And God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.” Albert Bailey is perhaps mistaken when he claims that Alexander forgot her theology in the writing of these verses. For when we are in the midst of God’s creation, are our ideas of who God is not being shaped by all that we see? God made a good creation, and He loves it. Our God is a good God, who gives us good things, and then tasks us with taking care of them. Our God is imaginative, and His creation is both whimsical and sometimes startlingly majestic. Let us lift our voices in praise to our maker, the creator of all things bright and beautiful. –hymnary.org

All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
he made their glowing colors,
he made their tiny wings.

The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
the sunset and the morning
that brightens up the sky.

The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden,
he made them, every one.

The tall trees in the greenwood,
the meadows where we play,
the flowers by the water
we gather every day.

He gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty,
who has made all things well.

Welcome

Pastor Michael Anderson

Silent meditation

John 1:9-14

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

** Please rise in body and/or in spirit.*

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

Call to Worship

Deuteronomy 6:4

Elder Bryan Burke

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.”

* *Be Praised in All the Earth*

by Mark Altrogge



1. You are the One who spoke and worlds be - came.
2. You are the One who fills our hearts with joy. —



You are our mak - er and sus - tain - er. —
You are our light and our sal - va - tion.



And Je - sus You a - lone are King of kings, the
You are our ful - ness, You are all we need, the



Christ of — God, our Sa - vior, and our on - ly hope, our
first and last, — our ran - som, and our right - eous - ness, our



on - ly — love. And we want to see Your name be praised
on - ly — love.

___ in all the earth, O God___ of end-less glo - ry, God

___ of end-less worth. And we want to see Your name be praised

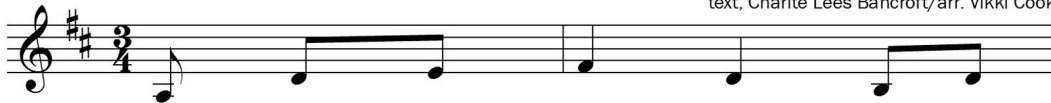
___ in all the earth, for You___ a - lone have con-quired,

You a - lone are worth - y of praise.____

You a - lone are wor - thy of praise.____

* *Before the Throne of God Above*

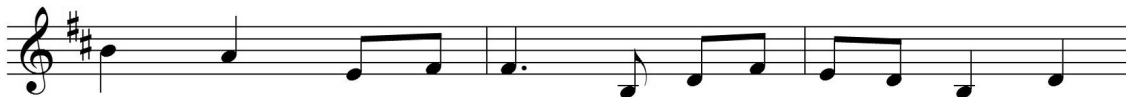
text, Charite Lees Bancroft/arr. Vikki Cook



1. Be - fore the throne of God a -
 2. When Sa - tan tempts me to des -
 3. Be - hold him there! The Ris - en



bove I have one strong and per - fect plea: a great High
 pair and tells me of the wrong with - in, up - ward I
 Lamb; my per - fect spot - less Right - eous - ness; the great un -



Priest whose name is Love, who - ev - er lives and pleads for
 look and see him there, who made an end to all my
 change - a - ble I Am; the King of Glo - ry and of



me. My name is grav - en on his hands, my name is writ - ten on his
 sin. Be - cause the sin - less Sav - ior died my sin - ful soul is count - ed
 Grace. One with Him - 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.
Sav - ior and my God, with Christ my Sav - ior and my God.

CCLI #332344

* Invocation

GOD CALLS US TO RENEWAL

Call to confession Acts 3:19-20a

Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord...

Prayer of confession followed by a time of silent confession

Declaration of Forgiveness I John 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.

8:30 service On the final verse of the song below, 4- to 5- year-olds are invited to the foyer to join Christ Kids Worship and will return following the sermon.

11:15 service Church bags are available in the foyer for 4- to 5-year-olds who need some quiet activities during the sermon.

* Arise, My Soul, Arise

text, C. Wesley; music, K. Twit



1. A - rise my soul, a - rise shake off your guil - ty fears;
2. He ev - er lives a - bove for me to in - ter - cede,
(Men) 3. Five bleeding wounds he bears, re - ceived on Cal - va - ry
4. My God is re - con - ciled, his par - d'ning voice I hear;



the bleed - ing sac - ri - fice on my be - half ap - pears.
his all - re - deem - ing love his pre - cious blood to plead.
(Women) they pour ef - fec - tual prayers they strong - ly plead for me.
he owns me for his child, I can no long - er fear;



Be - fore the throne my Su - re - ty stands,
His blood a - toned for ev - er - y race
(Men) "For - give him, O for - give" they cry,
with con - fi - dence I now draw nigh,



be - fore the throne my Su - re - ty stands
his blood a - toned for ev - er - y race
(Women) "For - give her, O for - give" they cry,
with con - fi - dence I now draw nigh,



my name is writ - ten on his hands.
and sprin - kles now the throne of grace.
(All) "don't let that ran - somed sin - ner die."
and "Fa - ther, Ab - ba, Fa - ther" cry.

(Men) (Women) (All)
A-rise, a-rise, a-rise, a-rise a-rise my soul a-rise.

(Men) (Women) (All)
A-rise, a-rise, a-rise, a-rise a-rise, a-rise my soul, a-rise,

shake of your guil - ty fears and rise.

GOD'S WORD GIVEN TO US

* Scripture reading

Acts 7:54-8:3

⁵⁴ Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." ⁵⁷ But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸ Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

^{8:1} And Saul approved of his execution.

And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. ² Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. ³ But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.

Elder: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

* Prayer

Sermon

When the Heavens Opened

Pastor Andrew VanderMaas

The Sadness of Hardened Hearts (But they ... v. 57)

The Softness of a Heart Aflame (But he .. v. 55)

The Precariousness of a Heart Pursued (But Paul ... v. 3)

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD

Invitation to the Lord's Table *Trays will be passed through the rows. The bread served is gluten free, and the grape juice served is pasteurized. Hold the bread or cup until all are served and we'll partake together.*

During the passing of the bread *Fairest Lord Jesus* congregation

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Thee will I cherish, thee will I honor,
thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,
robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,
and all the twinkling, starry host:
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
than all the angels heav'n can boast.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
now and for evermore be thine.

During the passing of the cup *Wonderful, Merciful Savior* congregation
Dawn Rodgers and Eric Wyse



1. Won - der - ful, mer - ci - ful Sav - ior, Pre - cious Re - deem - er and
2. Coun - sel - or, Com - fort - er, Keep - er, Spir - it we long to em -
3. Al - might - y, in - fi - nite Fa - ther, Faith - ful - ly lov - ing Your



Friend; _____ Who would have thought that a Lamb could
brace; _____ You of - fer hope when our hearts have
own, _____ Here in our weak - ness You find us



res - cue the souls of men? O___ You res - cue the souls of
 hope - less - ly lost the way. O___ we hope - less - ly lost the
 fall - ing be - fore Your throne, O___ we're fall - ing be - fore Your



men.____ Go to Verse 2
 way.____ } Go to Chorus You are the One that we praise.____
 throne.____ }



You are the One we a - dore.____ You give the heal - ing and



grace our hearts al - ways hun - ger for, O___ our



hearts al - ways hun - ger for.____

CCLI 332344

Prayer of Thanksgiving *spoken together*

Father, we thank you for the spiritual food of the body and blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We thank you for this assurance of your goodness and love. Now, Father, we offer ourselves to you as living sacrifices through Jesus Christ our Lord; send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

Reception of New Member (8:30 service)

Nona Snyder

Living out our faith announcements about the life of the church

Prayers of the People

During the offertory please pass the red friendship pads found at the end of the rows.

Give online at christchurchgr.org or by texting (888) 793-1604

Offertory

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

flutes

arr. Charles Callahan

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded,
for with blessing in his hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood;
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
in the body and the blood,
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,
that the pow'rs of hell may vanish
as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph;
cherubim, with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry,
"Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, Lord Most High!"

* *Gloria Patri*

Trinity Hymnal 735

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be
World without end. Amen, amen.**

* Benediction

Kids and All: You are invited to come forward and play rhythm instruments as we sing our closing Amen song.

* And All the People Said Amen!

Matt Maher

And-all the peo-ple said "A-men" Oh _____ And all the peo-ple said "A-

men." Give thanks to the Lord for his love _____ ne-ver ends.

And all the peo - ple said "A - men."

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff has a melody starting on G4, with notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. Chords D, A, D, G, and D are indicated above the staff. The second staff continues the melody from D4, with notes D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. Chords A, G, D, F#, and Bm are indicated above the staff. The third staff has a melody starting on G4, with notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. Chords G, A, G, G/F#, G/E, and D are indicated above the staff.

* Postlude

Prayer Partners are available to pray with you right now. Come to the area by the organ with anything on your heart: praise, fears, questions, thanksgiving. We'll sit down and pray together.

Worship musicians

Allison Bossenbroek, song leader

Lori Jiron, song leader

Lia Gelder, flute

Anna Kleyn, flute

Susan Guerra, piano

Grant Mosher, bass

Cameron Risma, drums