

unchanging truth. changing lives

Alexandria Presbyterian Church is a welcoming community of believers, rejoicing in the gospel, transformed by its power, and responding with grateful hearts in service to our God and world. We long to taste the glory of God in such an astonishing way that the city of Alexandria will be drawn to the majesty and mercy of our great God. It is our desire that our worship will serve as an authentic model to our city of the possibilities for transformation of individuals, families and a city encountering the glory and grace of God.

■ call to worship | Josh Diack, Pastor of Congregational Life

Psalms 113

Who Is like the Lord Our God?

Leader: ¹Praise the Lord!
Praise, O servants of the Lord,
praise the name of the Lord!

**All: ²Blessed be the name of the Lord
from this time forth and forevermore!
³From the rising of the sun to its setting,
the name of the Lord is to be praised!**

Leader: ⁴The Lord is high above all nations,
and his glory above the heavens!

⁵Who is like the Lord our God,

who is seated on high,
⁶who looks far down
on the heavens and the earth?

**All: ⁷He raises the poor from the dust
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,
⁸to make them sit with princes,
with the princes of his people.**

**⁹He gives the barren woman a home,
making her the joyous mother of children.
Praise the Lord!**

■ prayer of adoration

■ song of praise

The Lord Is My Salvation

The grace of God has reached for me and pulled me from the raging sea
And I am safe on this solid ground—The Lord is my salvation

I will not fear when darkness falls—His strength will help me scale these walls
I'll see the dawn of the rising sun—The Lord is my salvation

*Who is like the Lord our God? Strong to save—faithful in love
My debt is paid and the vict'ry won—The Lord is my salvation*

My hope is hidden in the Lord—He flow'rs each promise of His Word
When winter fades I know spring will come—The Lord is my salvation

In times of waiting—times of need—When I know loss—when I am weak
I know His grace will renew these days—The Lord is my salvation

And when I reach my final day He will not leave me in the grave
But I will rise—He will call me home—The Lord is my salvation

Glory be to God the Father—Glory be to God the Son
Glory be to God the Spirit—The Lord is our salvation

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■ scripture reading | Elder Ryan and Erin Furgerson

Nehemiah 9:6-31

⁶“You are the Lord, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you. ⁷You are the Lord, the God who chose Abram and brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans and gave him the name Abraham. ⁸You found his heart faithful before you, and made with him the covenant to give to his offspring the land of the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Perizzite, the Jebusite, and the Girgashite. And you have kept your promise, for you are righteous.

⁹“And you saw the affliction of our fathers in Egypt and heard their cry at the Red Sea, ¹⁰and performed signs and wonders against Pharaoh and all his servants and all the people of his land, for you knew that they acted arrogantly against our fathers. And you made a name for yourself, as it is to this day. ¹¹And you divided the sea before them, so that they went through the midst of the sea on dry land, and you cast their pursuers into the depths, as a stone into mighty waters. ¹²By a pillar of cloud you led them in the day, and by a pillar of fire in the night to light for them the way in which they should go. ¹³You came down on Mount Sinai and spoke with them from heaven and gave them right rules and true laws, good statutes and commandments, ¹⁴and you made known to them your holy Sabbath and commanded them commandments and statutes and a law by Moses your servant. ¹⁵You gave them bread from heaven for their hunger and brought water for them out of the rock for their thirst, and you told them to go in to possess the land that you had sworn to give them.

¹⁶“But they and our fathers acted presumptuously and stiffened their neck and did not obey your commandments. ¹⁷They refused to obey and were not mindful of the wonders that you performed among them, but they stiffened their neck and appointed a leader to return to their slavery in Egypt. But you are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and did not forsake them. ¹⁸Even when they had made for themselves a golden calf and said, ‘This is your God who brought you up out of Egypt,’ and had committed great blasphemies, ¹⁹you in your great mercies did not forsake them in the wilderness. The pillar of cloud to lead them in the way did not depart from them by day, nor the pillar of fire by night to light for them the way by which they should go. ²⁰You gave your good Spirit to instruct them and did not withhold your manna from their mouth and gave them water for their thirst. ²¹Forty years you sustained them in the wilderness, and they lacked nothing. Their clothes did not wear out and their feet did not swell.

²²“And you gave them kingdoms and peoples and allotted to them every corner. So they took possession of the land of Sihon king of Heshbon and the land of Og king of Bashan. ²³You

multiplied their children as the stars of heaven, and you brought them into the land that you had told their fathers to enter and possess. ²⁴So the descendants went in and possessed the land, and you subdued before them the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, and gave them into their hand, with their kings and the peoples of the land, that they might do with them as they would. ²⁵And they captured fortified cities and a rich land, and took possession of houses full of all good things, cisterns already hewn, vineyards, olive orchards and fruit trees in abundance. So they ate and were filled and became fat and delighted themselves in your great goodness.

²⁶“Nevertheless, they were disobedient and rebelled against you and cast your law behind their back and killed your prophets, who had warned them in order to turn them back to you, and they committed great blasphemies. ²⁷Therefore you gave them into the hand of their enemies, who made them suffer. And in the time of their suffering they cried out to you and you heard them from heaven, and according to your great mercies you gave them saviors who saved them from the hand of their enemies. ²⁸But after they had rest they did evil again before you, and you abandoned them to the hand of their enemies, so that they had dominion over them. Yet when they turned and cried to you, you heard from heaven, and many times you delivered them according to your mercies. ²⁹And you warned them in order to turn them back to your law. Yet they acted presumptuously and did not obey your commandments, but sinned against your rules, which if a person does them, he shall live by them, and they turned a stubborn shoulder and stiffened their neck and would not obey. ³⁰Many years you bore with them and warned them by your Spirit through your prophets. Yet they would not give ear. Therefore you gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands. ³¹Nevertheless, in your great mercies you did not make an end of them or forsake them, for you are a gracious and merciful God.”

■ testimony | the Brockhaus family

■ congregational prayer

■ offertory prayer | Femi Adeniji

■ presentation of tithes and offerings

■ sermon scripture reading

James 5:7-12

Patience in Suffering

⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

¹²But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.

■ sermon | Josh Diack, Pastor of Congregational Life

“Patience in Suffering” Sermon series: *The Book of James*

■ song of response

Christ Our Hope in Life and Death

What is our hope in life and death? Christ alone—Christ alone
What is our only confidence? That our souls belong to Him

Who holds our days within His hand? What comes, apart from His command?
And what will keep us to the end? The love of Christ in which we stand

O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal

O sing hallelujah! Now and ever we confess—Christ our hope in life and death

What truth can calm the troubled soul? God is good—God is good
Where is His grace and mercy known? In our great Redeemer’s blood

Who holds our days within His hand? Who stands above the stormy trial?
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh unto the shore—the rock of Christ?

Unto the grave what shall we sing? Christ He lives—Christ He lives
And what reward will heaven bring? Everlasting life with Him

There we will rise to meet the Lord—Then sin and death will be destroyed
And we will feast in endless joy when Christ is ours forevermore

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■ benediction

■ announcements