



**\*Prayer of Confession**

**Eva Garst**

Lord, we long to draw close to you, but we are afraid. We are afraid to heed your summons for we don't know what awaits us when we step out in faith. We are wary of taking risks for your sake, because the forces of chaos seem stronger than your assurances to us. We worry that we will not have enough faith in you, or in the gifts you've given us to do the things you ask. Forgive us O God, and lift us from our fear that we might follow you in deeper faith.

*(Silent prayers may follow)*

**\*Assurance of Forgiveness:**

**Eva Garst**

Holy are you, O God.

**And great is your will and power to redeem.**

Through Christ you are making us whole again,

**One with you and each other.**

God's forgiveness is sure as the sunrise, and refreshing as the dew.

**Thanks be to God!**

**\*Sung Response #240**

**Verse 4**

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to God's name.

Come let us praise the living God,

joyfully sing to our Savior.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to God's name.

**Children's Sermon**

**Reece Barringer**

**Anthem:**

***"Devotion"***

**JPC Choir**

**Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer**

**Hymn #649 GTG**

***"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"***

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.

How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come.

'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

### **THE WORD**

#### **Scriptures:**

#### **Psalm 121 (NRSV)**

- <sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills—  
from where will my help come?
- <sup>2</sup> My help comes from the LORD,  
who made heaven and earth.
- <sup>3</sup> He will not let your foot be moved;  
he who keeps you will not slumber.
- <sup>4</sup> He who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.
- <sup>5</sup> The LORD is your keeper;  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand.
- <sup>6</sup> The sun shall not strike you by day  
nor the moon by night.
- <sup>7</sup> The LORD will keep you from all evil;  
he will keep your life.
- <sup>8</sup> The LORD will keep your going out and your  
coming in from this time on and forevermore.

#### **John 3:1-17 (NRSV)**

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus<sup>[a]</sup> by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You<sup>[c]</sup> must be born from above.'<sup>[d]</sup> <sup>8</sup> The wind<sup>[e]</sup> blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." <sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?  
<sup>11</sup> "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you<sup>[f]</sup> do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has

ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup> "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

**Sermon**

**Rev. Allen Huff**

**\*Affirmation of Faith:**  
(From *The Confession of 1967*)

God's sovereign love is a mystery  
beyond the reach of the human mind.

Human thought ascribes to God  
superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness.  
But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ  
by showing power in the form of a servant,  
wisdom in the folly of the cross,  
and goodness in receiving  
sinful men and women.

The power of God's love in Christ  
to transform the world  
discloses that the Redeemer  
is the Lord and Creator  
who made all things  
to serve the purpose of God's love.  
*Amen.*

**OUR RESPONSE TO GOD**

**Offertory:**

***"God So Loved the World"***

John Stainer, arr. by Larry Shackley

**\*Doxology #606**

***"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"***

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**Prayer of Dedication**

**\*Hymn #292 GTG**

***“As the Wind Song”***

As the wind song through the trees,  
as the stirring of the breeze,  
so it is with the Spirit of God,  
as the heart made strangely warm,  
as the voice within the storm,  
so it is with the Spirit of God.  
Never seen, ever known  
where this wind has blown  
bringing life, bringing power to the world,  
as the dancing tongues of fire,  
as the soul’s most deep desire,  
so it is with the Spirit of God.

As the rainbow after rain,  
as the hope that’s born again,  
so it is with the Spirit of God.  
as the green in the spring,  
as a kite on a string,  
so it is with the Spirit of God.  
Making words that are new,  
making peace come true,  
bringing gifts, bringing love to the world,  
as the rising of the yeast,  
as the wine at the feast,  
so it is with the Spirit of God.

**SENDING**

**\*Benediction:**

**\*Postlude:**

***“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”***

Kathleen Thomerson, 1966

\*Please stand in body or spirit.

***Sanctuary flowers are given today by Jim and Sara Cash  
in honor of our 61<sup>st</sup> Wedding Anniversary***

**Welcome** to all who are visiting with us at Jonesborough Presbyterian Church! More information about our congregation and ministry can be found at [www.jpcusa.org](http://www.jpcusa.org).

**Reminder: If you are mailing your tithes/offerings, please use the church mailing address (PO Box 383) and not the treasurer's.  
Thank You!**

**Ministry Teams & Ruling Elders:**  
**Administration** – Mike Floyd  
**Christian Education** – Mark McCalman  
**Congregational Life & Membership** – Phyllis Cash  
**Local Missions** – Karen Childress  
**Property & Safety** – Doug Hillmuth  
**Stewardship & Finance** – Andy Andrews  
**Worship** – Pat Hurley  
**Clerk of Session** – Bill Reese

**April 14th, 2024**

<b>Attendance</b>		<b>Offering</b>	
In Person	87	Collections	\$5,571.00
Live Stream	12	Broyles SS Class	\$39.00
Sunday School	32	Other Designations	\$75.00
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,685.00</b>

***This Week's Calendar of Events***

<b>Apr. 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9:45 am</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
		<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Worship</b>
		<b>5:30 pm</b>	<b>Centering Prayer</b>
<b>Apr. 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>6 – 7:15 pm</b>	<b>Book Study</b>
<b>Apr. 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>Session</b>
<b>Apr. 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>Chancel Choir</b>
<b>Apr. 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>Golden Heirs</b>
<b>Apr. 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9:45 am</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
		<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Worship</b>
		<b>5:30 pm</b>	<b>Centering Prayer</b>

**April Elder on Call: Geoff Hoare**  
**April Counters: Pat Hurley and Ruth Verhegge**

**The 2024 Flower sign-up sheet  
is posted in the lower-level Narthex.  
Dates available are Aug. 4, 11; Sept. 1; Nov. 17.  
Please sign up soon or call the office!**

**Announcements & Community Events:**

**Jonesborough Area Ministerial Association (JAMA):** JAMA Food Pantry Item of the Month is **Canned Fruit**. Donated items can be placed into the bins in Fellowship Hall. Your continued support of those in our community who are food insecure is greatly appreciated!

**JPC's Centering Prayer** group will gather weekly year-round following a simple format that includes scripture readings, excerpts from the writings of various authors, a twenty-minute silent sit, and spoken prayer. Our Centering Prayer facilitators will rotate weekly between Lee Clements, Becky Keeler, Mark McCalman, and Justin Reilly. All are welcome – including newcomers. Come and see! To learn more, go to JPC's website, Facebook page or contact the church office.

**Community Help Center:** Continuing through April, they are asking for donations of personal hygiene items for their clients. A list is in the March Newsletter and these items can be placed in the green bin in the Fellowship Hall next to the JAMA bins.  
**Items needed:** Toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, razors, dish soap, laundry detergent, toilet paper, diapers, wipes, feminine hygiene products.



**Special Offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing:** When you give to the Pentecost Offering, you help the church encourage, develop, and support its young people to build a life of faith, and address the needs of at-risk children.