



# SOUTH CLT PRES CHURCH

Sunday, December 15, 2024

Worship Service

**Welcome**

Bethany LaShell

**Call to Worship**

Pastoral Intern Rob Jones

*Psalm 8:1-6*

LEADER: O LORD, OUR LORD, HOW MAJESTIC IS YOUR NAME IN ALL THE EARTH!  
YOU HAVE SET YOUR GLORY ABOVE THE HEAVENS.

**PEOPLE: OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABIES AND INFANTS, YOU HAVE ESTABLISHED  
STRENGTH BECAUSE OF YOUR FOES, TO STILL THE ENEMY AND THE AVENGER.**

LEADER: WHAT IS MAN THAT YOU ARE MINDFUL OF HIM, AND THE SON OF MAN  
THAT YOU CARE FOR HIM? YET YOU HAVE MADE HIM A LITTLE LOWER THAN THE  
HEAVENLY BEINGS AND CROWNED HIM WITH GLORY AND HONOR.

**ALL: YOU HAVE GIVEN HIM DOMINION OVER THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS; YOU  
HAVE PUT ALL THINGS UNDER HIS FEET,**

**Worship in Song**

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH  
ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH  
SWEETLY SINGING O'ER THE PLAINS  
AND THE MOUNTAINS IN REPLY  
ECHOING THEIR JOYOUS STRAINS

GLORIA  
IN EXCELSIS DEO  
GLORIA  
IN EXCELSIS DEO

SHEPHERDS WHY THIS JUBILEE  
WHY YOUR JOYOUS STRAINS PROLONG  
WHAT THE GLADSOME TIDINGS BE  
WHICH INSPIRE YOUR HEAV'NLY SONG

COME TO BETHLEHEM AND SEE  
CHRIST WHOSE BIRTH THE ANGELS SING  
COME ADORE ON BENDED KNEE  
CHRIST THE LORD THE NEWBORN KING

SEE HIM IN A MANGER LAID  
WHOM THE CHOIRS OF ANGELS PRAISE  
MARY JOSEPH LEND YOUR AID  
WHILE OUR HEARTS IN LOVE WE RAISE

JOYFUL, JOYFUL WE ADORE THEE

JOYFUL, JOYFUL WE ADORE THEE, GOD OF GLORY, LORD OF LOVE  
HEARTS UNFOLD LIKE FLOW'RS BEFORE THEE, OPENING TO THE SUN ABOVE  
MELT THE CLOUDS OF SIN AND SADNESS, DRIVE THE DARK OF DOUBT AWAY  
GIVER OF IMMORTAL GLADNESS, FILL US WITH THE LIGHT OF DAY

ALL THY WORKS WITH JOY SURROUND THEE  
EARTH AND HEAVEN REFLECT THY RAYS  
STARS AND ANGELS SING AROUND THEE, CENTER OF UNBROKEN PRAISE  
FIELD AND FOREST, VALE AND MOUNTAIN; FLOWERY MEADOW FLASHING SEA  
CHANTING BIRD AND FLOWING FOUNTAIN, CALL US TO REJOICE IN THEE

THOU ART GIVING AND FORGIVING, EVER BLESSING, EVER BLEST  
WELLSPRING OF THE JOY OF LIVING, OCEAN DEPTH OF HAPPY REST  
THOU OUR FATHER, CHRIST OUR BROTHER, ALL WHO LIVE IN LOVE ARE THINE  
TEACH US HOW TO LOVE EACH OTHER, LIFT US TO THE JOY DIVINE

YOU CAME FROM HEAVEN'S THRONE  
ACQUAINTED WITH OUR SORROW  
TO TRADE THE DEBT WE OWE  
YOUR SUFFERING FOR OUR FREEDOM

THE LAMB OF GOD IN MY PLACE  
YOUR BLOOD POURED OUT MY SIN ERASED  
IT WAS MY DEATH YOU DIED I AM RAISED TO LIFE  
HALLELUJAH THE LAMB OF GOD

MY NAME UPON YOUR HEART

MY SHAME UPON YOUR SHOULDERS  
THE POWER OF SIN UNDONE  
THE CROSS FOR MY SALVATION

THERE IS NO GREATER LOVE  
THERE IS NO GREATER LOVE  
THE SAVIOR LIFTED UP  
THERE IS NO GREATER LOVE

## **Giving**

Pastoral Intern Rob Jones

## **Pastoral Prayer**

Ruling Elder Alan Welch

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

## **Scripture Reading**

Pastor Michael Lee

*Acts 28:11-31*

After three months we put out to sea in a ship that had wintered in the island—it was an Alexandrian ship with the figurehead of the twin gods Castor and Pollux. We put in at Syracuse and stayed there three days. From there we set sail and arrived at Rhegium. The next day the south wind came up, and on the following day we reached Puteoli. There we found some brothers and sisters who invited us to spend a week with them. And so we came to Rome. The brothers and sisters there had heard that we were coming, and they traveled as far as the Forum of Appius and the Three Taverns to meet us. At the sight of these people Paul thanked God and was encouraged. When we got to Rome, Paul was allowed to live by himself, with a soldier to guard him.

Three days later he called together the local Jewish leaders. When they had assembled, Paul said to them: "My brothers, although I have done nothing against our people or against the customs of our ancestors, I was arrested in Jerusalem and handed over to the Romans. They examined me and wanted to release me, because I was not guilty of any crime deserving death. The Jews objected, so I was compelled to make an appeal to Caesar. I certainly did not intend to bring any charge against my own people. For this reason I have asked to see you and talk with you. It is because of the hope of Israel that I am bound with this chain."

They replied, "We have not received any letters from Judea concerning you, and none of our people who have come from there has reported or said anything bad about you. But we want to hear what your views are, for we know that people everywhere are talking against this sect."

They arranged to meet Paul on a certain day, and came in even larger numbers to the place where he was staying. He witnessed to them from morning till evening, explaining about the kingdom of God, and from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets he tried to persuade them about Jesus. Some were convinced by what he said, but others would not believe. They disagreed among themselves and began to leave after Paul had made this final statement: "The Holy Spirit spoke the truth to your ancestors when he said through Isaiah the prophet:

"Go to this people and say,  
"You will be ever hearing but never understanding;  
you will be ever seeing but never perceiving."  
For this people's heart has become calloused;  
they hardly hear with their ears,  
and they have closed their eyes.  
Otherwise they might see with their eyes,  
hear with their ears,  
understand with their hearts  
and turn, and I would heal them.'[a]

"Therefore I want you to know that God's salvation has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will listen!"

For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance!

**Reader:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation:** Thanks be to God.

## Sermon

Bold Witness to the World

*Thriving Church: A Sermon Series in Acts*

*Acts 28:11-31*

Pastor Michael Lee

1. Take Courage (vv.11-16)

2. Have Hope (vv.17-22)

3. Proclaim Christ (vv.23-31)

### **Song of Response**

CHRIST IS MINE FOREVERMORE

MINE ARE DAYS THAT GOD HAS NUMBERED  
I WAS MADE TO WALK WITH HIM  
YET I LOOK FOR WORLDLY TREASURE  
AND FORSAKE THE KING OF KINGS  
BUT MINE IS HOPE IN MY REDEEMER  
THOUGH I FALL, HIS LOVE IS SURE  
FOR CHRIST HAS PAID FOR EVERY FAILING  
I AM HIS FOREVERMORE

MINE ARE TEARS IN TIMES OF SORROW  
DARKNESS NOT YET UNDERSTOOD  
THROUGH THE VALLEY I MUST TRAVEL  
WHERE I SEE NO EARTHLY GOOD  
BUT MINE IS PEACE THAT FLOWS FROM HEAVEN  
AND THE STRENGTH IN TIMES OF NEED  
I KNOW MY PAIN WILL NOT BE WASTED  
CHRIST COMPLETES HIS WORK IN ME

MINE ARE DAYS HERE AS A STRANGER  
PILGRIM ON A NARROW WAY  
ONE WITH CHRIST I WILL ENCOUNTER  
HARM AND HATRED FOR HIS NAME  
BUT MINE IS ARMOUR FOR THIS BATTLE  
STRONG ENOUGH TO LAST THE WAR  
AND HE HAS SAID HE WILL DELIVER  
SAFELY TO THE GOLDEN SHORE

AND MINE ARE KEYS TO ZION CITY  
WHERE BESIDE THE KING I WALK  
FOR THERE MY HEART HAS FOUND ITS TREASURE  
CHRIST IS MINE FOREVERMORE

COME REJOICE NOW, O MY SOUL  
FOR HIS LOVE IS MY REWARD  
FEAR IS GONE AND HOPE IS SURE  
CHRIST IS MINE FOREVERMORE!

AND MINE ARE KEYS TO ZION CITY  
WHERE BESIDE THE KING I WALK  
FOR THERE MY HEART HAS FOUND ITS TREASURE  
CHRIST IS MINE FOREVERMORE  
CHRIST IS MINE FOREVERMORE  
CHRIST IS MINE FOREVERMORE

**Benediction**

Pastor Michael Lee