



# *Cheerfulness*

**IN NEGATIVE WORLD**



**JULY 27, 2025**

# Beverly Heights Church

Welcome and Greeting

Rev. Dr. Nathanael Devlin, Senior Pastor

Announcements

Psalm Instruction - **Psalm 65**

*'Tis by Thy Strength*

Pastor Devlin

## THE LORD GATHERS US FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

*Come, Christians Join to Sing*  
Jinna Park, *Accompanist and Organist*

Hayes

*The first note of the prelude marks the beginning of worship. Please use this brief period of time for prayer and preparation while keeping conversation at a low volume and to a minimum. **Please refrain from clapping unless led to do so.***

Call to Worship

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made!

**People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Congregational Introit **Psalm 117**

vv. 1

*Praise the Lord God, All You Nations*

Prayer of Invocation

Opening Psalm of Praise **No. 122**

vv. 1-3

*I Was Filled with Joy and Gladness*

Responsive Reading

from Psalm 32

Pastor Devlin

Leader: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

**People: I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to You at a time when You may be found.**

Leader: Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.

**People: Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!**

**THE LORD CLEANSSES OUR SIN**

Unison Prayer of Confession, Followed by Silent Confession of Sin

*Please bow your head. For those who are able, you are invited to kneel during the confession of sin.*

**Heavenly Father, You see us as we are and know our inmost thoughts. We confess that we are unworthy of Your gracious care. We forget that all life comes from You and that to You all life returns. We have not sought to do Your will with our whole hearts. We have not lived as grateful children, nor lived as Christ loves us. Apart from You, we are nothing. Only Your grace can sustain us. Lord, in Your mercy, forgive us, heal us, and make us whole. Set us free from our sin and restore us to the joy of Your salvation now and evermore. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

*Hear the good news of the gospel: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. By the command of Christ and the power of his promises, you are forgiven."*

Unison Confession of Faith

Definition of Chalcedon

**Therefore, following the holy fathers, we all with one accord teach men to acknowledge one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, at once complete in Godhead and complete in manhood, truly God and truly man, consisting also of a reasonable soul and body; of one substance with the Father as regards his Godhead, and at the same time of one substance with us as regards his manhood; like us in all respects, apart from sin; as regards his Godhead, begotten of the Father before the ages, but yet as regards his manhood begotten, for us men and for our salvation, of Mary the virgin, the God-bearer; one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, Only-begotten, recognized in two natures, without confusion, without change, without division, without separation; the distinction of natures being in no way annulled by the union, but rather the characteristics of each nature being preserved and coming together to form one person and subsistence, not as parted or separated into two persons, but one and the same Son and Only-begotten God the Word, Lord Jesus Christ; even as the prophets from earliest times spoke of him, and our Lord Jesus Christ himself taught us, and the creed of the fathers has handed down to us.**

**THE LORD SANCTIFIES OUR LIVES**

Congregational Response No. 731

*Doxology*

The musical score is written in G major and 2/4 time. It consists of three systems of piano accompaniment and congregational response. The lyrics are: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heav'nly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen." The piano part uses chords and simple melodic lines to support the vocal line.

*Children ages kindergarten and younger are dismissed to Walkabouts Room, and Runabouts Room.  
All other children remain in worship with their families.*

Scripture Reading

Matthew 9:1-8

Sermon

**Cheerfulness in Negative World**  
Cheerful Forgiveness

Pastor Devlin

**THE LORD RECEIVES OUR GIFTS AND HEARTS**

Call for the Offering and Offertory

*His Faithfulness Can Never Fail*

Jones

Prayers of the People

Prayers for Faith and Faithfulness

Mr. Peter A. Chace

**THE LORD MEETS US AT THE TABLE**

Words of Institution and Examination of Conscience (\*See below)

Invitation and Coming to the Table

*Please note: we will eat together in the pew.  
Those who are unable to come to the table will be served in the pew.  
The Elders are serving bread and wine.  
To better serve those with restrictions,  
please see Pastor Devlin for gluten-free bread and/or grape juice.*

Communion Psalm

*Come, Bless the Lord*

Prayer of Thanksgiving followed by the Threefold Amen **No. 740**

*Trinity Hymnal*

**THE LORD SCATTERS US TO ADVANCE HIS KINGDOM**

Closing Fugal Hymn

vv. 1, 2

*Ye Choirs on New Jerusalem*

Benediction

Postlude

*Christ the Victorious*

Burton

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***\*May I Come to the Lord's Table?***

*All baptized believers who trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior; including those from other congregations, are a part of the true Church and are invited to partake in the Lord's Supper. As we come to the table we rejoice as we remember our need to trust in Jesus Christ as Lord, to repent of sin, and to covenant once more to live as followers of Jesus. Those who are ignorant in their knowledge of Christ or who are living ungodly and unrepentant lives should refrain from the table. Baptized children may be admitted to the Lord's Supper provided their parents have appeared before the Pastor or Session to share their child's profession of faith, in a manner acceptable to the Session.*

# Sermon Materials

Within the story of American secularization, there have been three distinct stages:

- **Positive World (Pre-1994):** Society at large retains a mostly positive view of Christianity. To be known as a good, churchgoing man remains part of being an upstanding citizen. Publicly being a Christian is a status-enhancer. Christian moral norms are the basic moral norms of society and violating them can bring negative consequences.
- **Neutral World (1994–2014):** Society takes a neutral stance toward Christianity. Christianity no longer has privileged status but is not disfavored. Being publicly known as a Christian has neither a positive nor a negative impact on one's social status. Christianity is a valid option within a pluralistic public square. Christian moral norms retain some residual effect.
- **Negative World (2014–Present):** Society has come to have a negative view of Christianity. Being known as a Christian is a social negative, particularly in the elite domains of society. Christian morality is expressly repudiated and seen as a threat to the public good and the new public moral order. Subscribing to Christian moral views or violating the secular moral order brings negative consequences.

~Aaron Renn, "The Three Worlds of Evangelicalism," *First Things*, February 2022

## Cheerfulness in Negative World

June 8	Wealth without Woe	Proverbs 10:22
June 15	A Cheerful Giver	2 Corinthians 9:7
June 22	Cheer and No Loss	Acts 27:13-26
June 29	Cheer Is Enough	Acts 27:33-38
July 6	A Cheerful Defense	Acts 24:10
July 13	A Cheerful Gift	Romans 12:8
July 20	Cheerful Song and Prayer	James 5:13
July 27	Cheerful Forgiveness	Matthew 9:2
August 3	Cheerful Faith	Matthew 9:22
August 10	Cheer Over Fear	Matthew 14:27
August 17	Cheerful Calling	Mark 10:49
August 24	Cheer Overcomes Negative World	John 16:33
August 31	Dwelling in the Tents of Kedar	Psalm 120

### THIS WEEK AT BEVERLY HEIGHTS

**SUNDAY, JULY 27**

9:00 AM    Worship Service

**MONDAY, JULY 28**

*Church Offices Closed*

**TUESDAY, JULY 29**

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 30**

10:00 AM    Staff Meeting

3:00 PM    Prayer Team Meeting

**THURSDAY, JULY 31**

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 1**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 2**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 3**

9:00 AM    Worship Service

10:30 AM    Linger Longer Fellowship

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### Beverly Heights Presbyterian Church

1207 Washington Road ❖ Mt. Lebanon, PA ❖ 15228

[www.beverlyheights.org](http://www.beverlyheights.org) ❖ 412-561-5100

**Gathered By His Love For Us ~ Scattered By Our Love For Him**

## 'Tis by Thy Strength

From Psalm 65:6-13

1. 'Tis by Thy strength the moun-tains stand, God of e-ter-nal pow'r;  
melody

The sea grows calm at Thy com-mand, And tem-pests  
The sea grows calm at Thy com-mand, The sea grows calm at

The sea grows calm at Thy com-mand, And tem-pests cease to roar,  
Thy com-mand, And tem-pests cease to roar,  
calm at Thy com-mand, And tem-pests cease to roar,

And tem-pests cease to roar, And tem-pests cease to roar.

2. Thy morning light and ev'ning shade  
Successive comforts bring;  
Thy plenteous fruits make harvest glad;  
Thy flow'rs adorn the spring.

3. Seasons and times and moons and hours,  
Heav'n, earth, and air are Thine;  
When clouds distill their fruitful show'rs,  
The Author is divine.

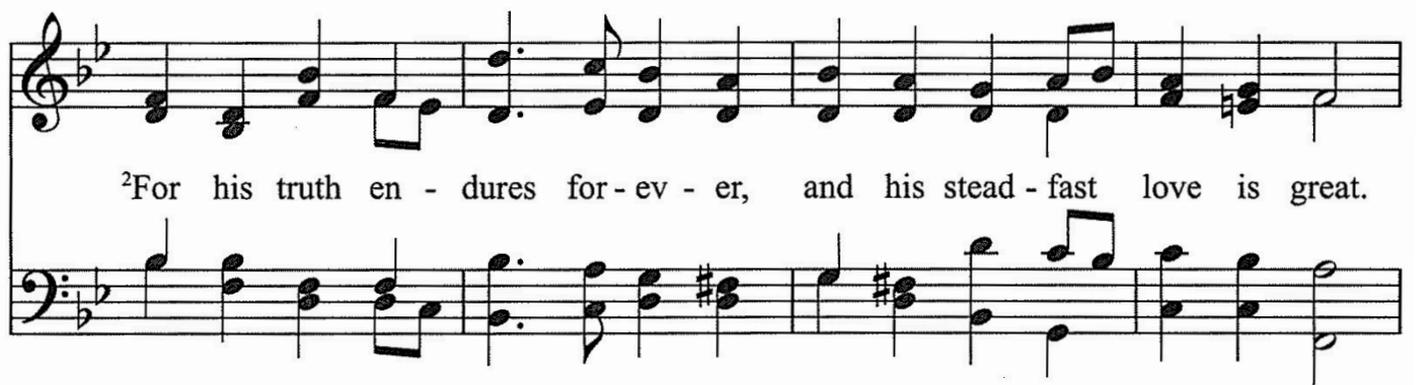
4. Those wand'ring cisterns in the sky,  
Borne by the winds around,  
With wat'ry treasures well supply  
The furrows of the ground.

5. The thirsty ridges drink their fill,  
And ranks of corn appear:  
Thy ways abound with blessings still,  
Thy goodness crowns the year.

# 117B Praise the LORD God, All You Nations



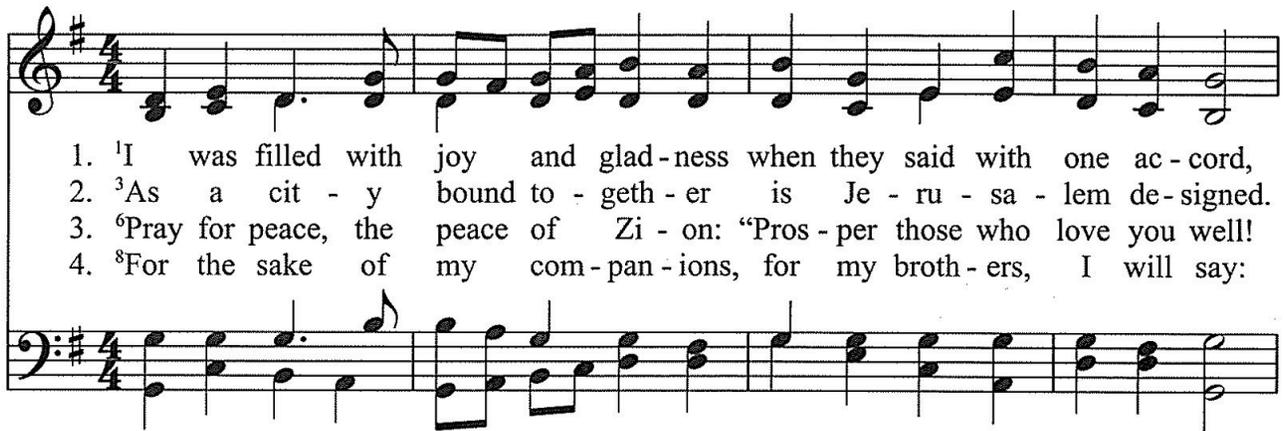
<sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD God, all you na - tions; all you peo - ples, sing his praise.



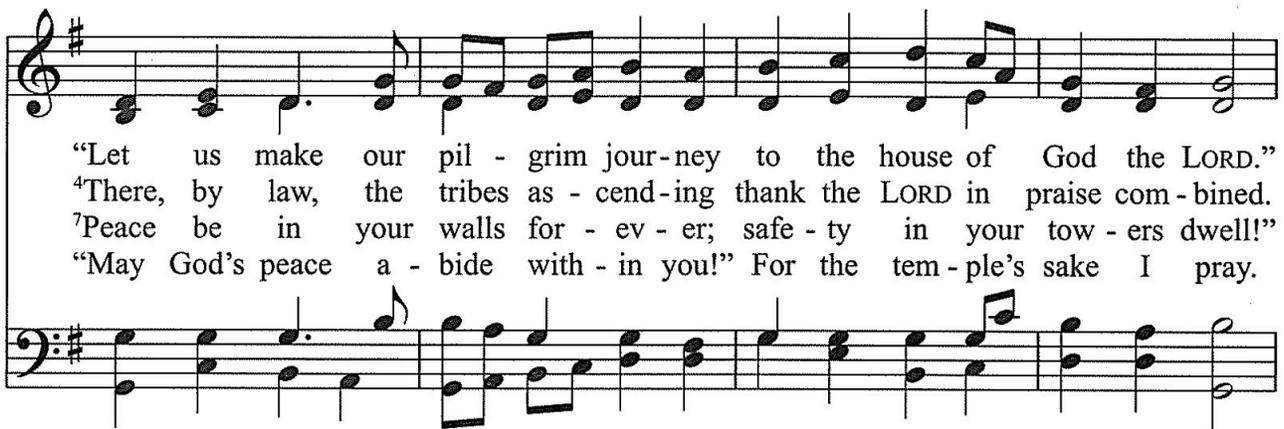
<sup>2</sup>For his truth en - dures for - ev - er, and his stead - fast love is great.



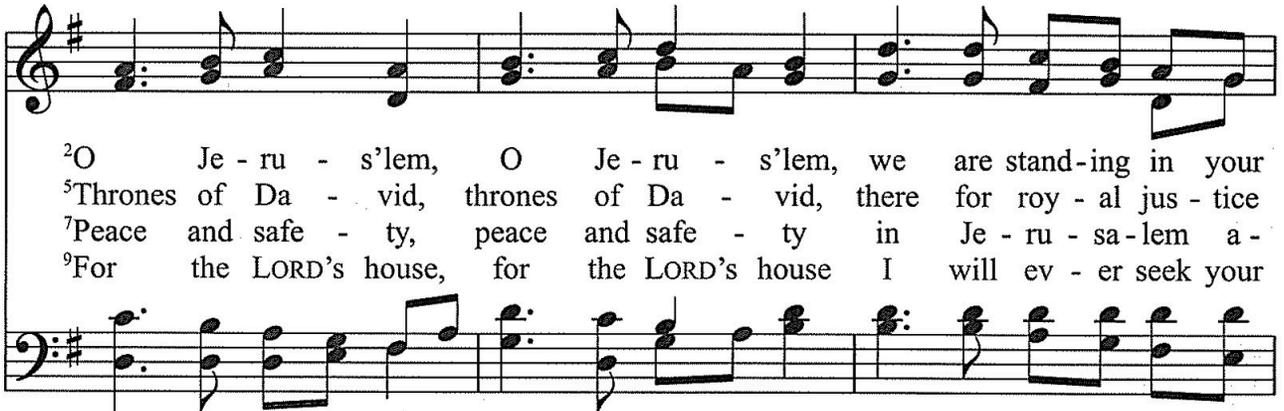
He is faith - ful! He is faith - ful! Hal - le - lu - jah! Praise the LORD!



1. <sup>1</sup>I was filled with joy and glad-ness when they said with one ac-cord,  
 2. <sup>3</sup>As a cit - y bound to - geth - er is Je - ru - sa - lem de-signed.  
 3. <sup>6</sup>Pray for peace, the peace of Zi - on: "Pros - per those who love you well!  
 4. <sup>8</sup>For the sake of my com-pan - ions, for my broth - ers, I will say:



"Let us make our pil - grim jour-ney to the house of God the LORD."  
<sup>4</sup>There, by law, the tribes as - cend-ing thank the LORD in praise com - bined.  
<sup>7</sup>Peace be in your walls for - ev - er; safe - ty in your tow - ers dwell!"  
 "May God's peace a - bide with - in you!" For the tem - ple's sake I pray.



<sup>2</sup>O Je - ru - s'lem, O Je - ru - s'lem, we are stand-ing in your  
<sup>5</sup>Thrones of Da - vid, thrones of Da - vid, there for roy - al jus - tice  
<sup>7</sup>Peace and safe - ty, peace and safe - ty in Je - ru - sa - lem a -  
<sup>9</sup>For the LORD's house, for the LORD's house I will ev - er seek your



gates; (*in your gates*) we are stand - ing in your gates.  
 stand; (*jus - tice stand*) there for roy - al jus - tice stand.  
 bound; (*a - bound*) in Je - ru - sa - lem a - bound.  
 good; (*seek your good*) I will ev - er seek your good.

# Advancing Still

*You have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God.*  
—Hebrews 12:22

# 84B

Psalm 84:7-12

4. <sup>7</sup> Ad - vanc - ing still from strength to strength They go where oth - er  
5. <sup>9</sup> And look, O God, up - on our Shield; The face of Your A -  
6. <sup>11</sup> For God the LORD is shield and sun; The LORD will grace and

pil - grims trod, Till each to Zi - on comes at length And  
noint - ed view; <sup>10</sup> One day with - in Your courts will yield More  
glo - ry give. No good will He with - hold from one Who

stands be - fore the face of God. <sup>8</sup> LORD God of hosts, my  
good than thou - sands with - out You. I'd rath - er stand near  
does up - right - ly walk and live. <sup>12</sup> O LORD of hosts, that

plead - ing hear; O Ja - cob's God, to me give ear.  
my God's house Than dwell in tents of wick - ed - ness.  
one is blessed, Who makes his trust up - on You rest.

1. Ye choirs of new Je - ru - sa - lem, Your sweet-est notes em - ploy,  
 2. How Ju-dah's Li - on bursts His chains And crushed the ser - pent's head;

melody

The Pas - chal  
 And brought with

The Pas - chal vic - to - ry to  
 And brought with Him from death's do -

The Pas - chal vic - to - ry to hymn In strains of  
 And brought with Him from death's do - mains The long - im -

The Pas - chal vic - to - ry to hymn The Pas - chal vic - to - ry  
 And brought with Him from death's domains, And brought with Him from death's

vic - to - ry to hymn  
 Him from death's domains

End of st. 6

hymn  
 mains In strains of ho - ly joy.  
 ho - ly joy, The long - im - pri - soned dead.  
 pri - soned dead, run. Al - le - lu - ia!

to hymn  
 do - mains

3. From Hell's devouring jaws the prey  
 Alone our Leader bore;  
 His ransomed hosts pursue their way  
 Where He hath gone before.

4. Triumphant in His glory now  
 His scepter ruleth all,  
 Earth, Heav'n, and Hell before Him bow,  
 And at His footstool fall.

5. While joyful thus His praise we sing,  
 His mercy we implore,  
 Within His palace bright to bring  
 And keep us evermore.

6. All glory to the Father be,  
 All glory to the Son,  
 All glory, Holy Ghost, to Thee,  
 While endless ages run.