Lord, we are weak and frail
And are helpless in the storm;
Surround us with Your angels
And hold us in Your arms.
Our God is our refuge,
Our strength is in our God.
Rise up, O Lord, and He will flee
Before our sovereign God.

Let every creature in the sea
And every living thing
Let every mountain, every field,
And every tree in the earth.
Let all the moons and all the stars
Sing praises to the living God
Who rules them by His Word.

Psalm 47

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY
JESUS SHALL REIGN • ECBC ORCHESTRA

REJOICE, THE LORD IS KING
DARWALL

CONGREGATIONAL GREETINGS

CONRAD "BUSTER" BROWN, PASTOR

SONG OF RESPONSE

WE WILL GLORIFY

We will glorify the King of kings We will glorify the Lamb
We will glorify the Lord of lords Who is the great I am
Lord Jehovah reigns in majesty We bow before His throne
We will worship Him in righteousness We will worship Him alone
He is Lord of Heaven, Lord of Earth He is Lord of all who live
He is Lord above the universe All praise to Him we give
Oh, Hallelujah to the King of kings Hallelujah to the Lamb
Hallelujah to the Lord Of Lords Who is the great I am

POSTLUDE

WE NEED A REAL KING
BRANDON SMITH

Everyone wants to be a king.
Some of us want to be the king of our workplace, or the king of our house. Some of us want to be the king of our fantasy football league, or the king of our neighbor’s Christmas light display. Some of us treat the highway as our own little kingdom, demanding that our minions ask our permission before they change lanes or slow down.

Kings stand above everyone else, receiving praise and reverence from everyone around them. Nothing is withheld from Kings after all. They never come in second place, and they never have to account for anything.

Adam and Eve were God’s appointed rulers of his kingdom. Unlike most kingdoms we see today, they had all the power a king had. They exercised unbridled dominion over their territory. They named animals, ate their fill, and had almost no one to answer to. At least.

There was a king on his throne. With all their privileges, they still had a restriction — the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The King knew what would happen if they ate of it. He was a good King, one who wasn’t dominating, but loving. But they didn’t care. They ate of its fruit, and they lost all they had been given. Their lesser-caste-throne was ripped out from under them.

From then on, human kings didn’t stand a chance. Sin had infiltrated the kingdom. The Earth, their delegated territory, was compromised.

In 1 Samuel 8, Israel wants to install a king to make them like other nations. Despite God’s warnings, they were adamant — enough with this judge stuff; give us a king! So God gave them their hearts desire. They longed for a king who wanted to be a king. It is a hot mess on whether either Israel’s king would be anywhere close to David — a man after God’s own heart — but even David failed.

Asa, Jehoshaphat, Uzziah, Hezekiah, and a few others had decent reigns overall. Ahaz, Manasseh, Amos, and Jehoiakim? Not so much. The people wanted a king instead of the King, and they often paid for it.

Because of sin, Lord Acton was correct: “Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.” History bears this out. Personal experience bears this out. Even in a democracy like the United States with its “checks and balances,” it’s inescapable. We’re still trading peace with the King for robes of gold.

Praise be to God, our God stepped into human history in the person of Jesus Christ. He wasn’t sitting on his hands. He came as a suffering king, one who would have no throne. But the kingdom of God was brought back to the decaying kingdom of the world. The curse was being reversed.

We’re always either wanting to be king, or we’re looking to imperfect people to lead us perfectly. Our kings never fulfill us. And like Israel, we never look to the King we already have.

The King of the universe is perfect. He’s just, loving, merciful, and full of grace. He doesn’t barter with lesser kings, he can’t be bribed, and he’s not corruptible. He doesn’t just do good — He is good.

Though we live in constant revolt, lobbing grenades at his doorstep, he loves and leads. He doesn’t smite us. He doesn’t send us into exile. He still welcomes us to his table. We still can approach his throne boldly (Hebrews 4:16).

Let us go to him, saying with the wise men, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him” (Matthew 2:2).

He wasn’t sitting on his hands. The Incarnation is proof that he didn’t forget his suffering. He didn’t seek another throne to sit on, or try to grab another throne to sit on. Jesus walked into battle like a king of kings.

He was the suffering king who would have no throne. He suffered and died for us, he ruled by grace. He was the King of those he had suffered for. He rose on his throne above the sea.

He’s the King we need because he’s the King we can never be, never find, and never elect. Our stigma was over before it began. He’s the answer to ever question! He’s the King we’re longing for, and the King we already have.

CONGRATULATIONS

BRANDON SMITH

WORSHIP GUIDE

361 Egypt Road
Mr. Pleasant, SC 29464
843.856.3222

eastcooperbaptist.com
Today we join our hearts and voices in joyful praise to God as our King! As we give thanks for the marvelous grace of our Lord through His Word that makes us—a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

**REFLECTION**

**THOUGHTS FOR WORSHIP PREPARATION**

These three things—

lack of excitement with the gospel,

disappointment with God and with Christianity,

and taking on the traits of my treasure

rather than the character of Christ—
can rip the mask off of the costume kingdom in your life.

Could it be that you have shrunk the kingdom of God down to the size of your little kingdom treasures?

Be excited!

Your Messiah gives you just what you need for this battle.

The little kingdom leaves you poor,

so He offers you the good news of the eternal riches of His grace.

The little kingdom enslaves you,

so He endured the cross to set you free.

The little kingdom leaves you blind,

so He purchased your release.

In your Lord you find all the resources you need to live with insight and liberty while you breathe the big sky air of his glorious kingdom.

—Paul David Tripp

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to give us grace to keep your righteous rules.

—Psalm 119:105-107

**THE PRELUDE**

**THE KING**

ELENA CRUDGE, ORGANIST

This hymn was written by Sir Robert Grant, a Scottish Anglican who, being a nonconformist, had an association with the East India Company. He was born in India in 1779. Robert’s father, Charles Grant, supported Wilberforce, an early and effective opponent of slavery. Both father and son served as members of Parliament and directors of the East India Company.

Robert wrote this hymn in 1833, a year before being appointed Governor of Bombay, a position that he held until 1837.

This hymn was inspired by a 16th-century hymn by William Kelke—an 18th-century hymn that was, in turn, inspired by Psalm 104.

If you read Psalm 104 aloud, you will find several correspondences.

For instance:

--- The psalm (v. 2) speaks of God as "wrapped in light as with a garment;" and the hymn speaks of God "whose robe is the light."

--- The psalm (v. 5) says, "You stretch out the heavens like a canopy space." The hymn uses the phrase, "whose canopy space."

--- The psalm (v. 16) says, "Make the clouds your chariot, and ride on the wings of the wind." The hymn says, "In His chariots of cloud and dark is His path on the wings of the storm."

The first two verses of the hymn celebrate God’s glory. The last two verses celebrate God’s love and providence.

God’s power makes it possible for him to provide for us "fragile children of dust."

--- Paul David Tripp

**MORNING WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS VIDEO**

**CALL TO PRAISE**

**PSALM 95:1-7**

LEADER: Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

CONGREGATION: For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; he is our God and we are the people of his pasture.

**O WORSHIP THE KING**

LYONS

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**PHILIPPIANS 2:6-11**

LEADER: Whom do we worship as our Lord and King?

CONGREGATION: We worship Jesus as our Lord and King, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**OUR GREAT GOD**

FERNANDO ORTEGA

Eternal God, unchanging, Mysterious and unknown, Your boundless love, unfailing, In grace and mercy shown, Bright seraphim in ceaseless flight Acclaim Your glorious throne; They raise offer voices day and night in praise to You alone! Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God! Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!