



GRACE COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship July 2, 2023 9:30am
5th Sunday After Pentecost/13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gathering

PRELUDE

“The Lord’s My Shepherd”
Linda Dover, organist

arr. Patricia Lou Harris

In worship following reflective music, we are requesting a response of quiet or a contemplative “amen.” Any music that elicits a response of applause is to the glory of God.

WELCOME

Rev. Mitch Trigger

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 13)

One: Let us sing to the Lord!

All: Our God has dealt bountifully with us.

One: The night was dark, and God’s face seemed hidden.

All: In sorrow and pain, we cried out to God.

One: Still we trusted in God’s steadfast love,

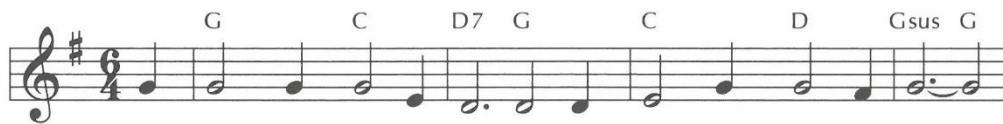
All: And now our hearts rejoice in God’s salvation!

*HYMN 106

“Prepare the Way, O Zion”

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

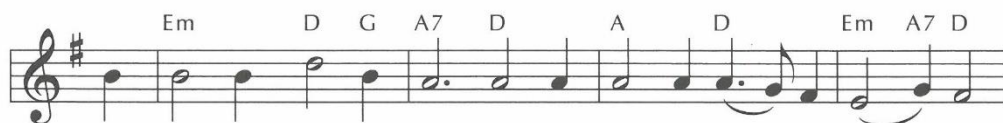
Prepare the Way, O Zion 106



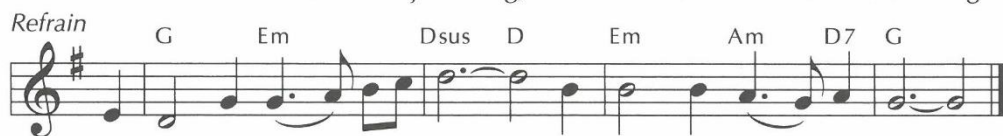
1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
 and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
 All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.



O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This engaging Advent text based on Isaiah 40:3–5 and Psalm 24:7–10 has been in use in the Church of Sweden for almost two hundred years. It is set to a version of an even older Swedish tune, which in turn seems to be derived from a German folktune that spread to Scandinavia.

TEXT: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1812; rev. 1819; trans. Augustus Nelson, 1958;
 adapt. Charles P. Price, 1980, alt.
 MUSIC: *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; arr. *American Lutheran Hymnal*, 1930
 Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN
 7.6.7.6.7.7 with refrain

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

(Awakening to Worship, our child-friendly worship time, is on summer hiatus. Our Nursery welcomes young children, and our ushers can assist families to the nursery located in the children's wing. Worship bags are available for children who stay in worship.)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

God of Providence, your faithfulness is endless, but we fail to trust. You hold all creation in the palm of your hand, but we take our lives into our own hands more often than we would like to admit. When we trust ourselves more than your grace, forgive us. When we get caught up in our own pains and worries, relieve us. When we think the world rests on our shoulders, remind us. Call us back to your way. Teach us to turn our lives over to your gracious care. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you and all others!

*HYMN 606

“Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

Equipping

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 22:1–8 (CEB)

Melanie Townsend

After these events, God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” Abraham answered, “I’m here.” God said, “Take your son, your only son whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah. Offer him up as an entirely burned offering there on one of the mountains that I will show you.” Abraham got up early in the morning, harnessed his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, together with his son Isaac. He split the wood for the entirely burned offering, set out, and went to the place God had described to him. On the third day, Abraham looked up and saw the place at a distance. Abraham said to his servants, “Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will walk up there, worship, and then come back to you.” Abraham took the wood for the entirely burned offering and laid it on his son Isaac. He took the fire and the knife in his hand, and the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father?” Abraham said, “I’m here, my son.” Isaac said, “Here is the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the entirely burned offering?” Abraham said, “The lamb for the entirely burned offering? God will see to it, my son.” The two of them walked on together.

SONG OF EXULTATION

“My Life Flows On in Endless Song”

arr. Jean Shafferman

Karen Kesler, soprano

*My life flows on in endless song above earth's lamentation.
I hear the real though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing.
It sounds and echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing!
I've got peace like a river. I've got peace like a river.
I've got peace like a river in my soul.
I've got joy like a fountain, joy like fountain flowing on in endless song,
on in endless song, endless song.
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing, singing, singing!*

*No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since love is Lord of earth, Lord of earth and heav'n, how can I keep from singing!
How can I keep from singing! How can I keep from singing!*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 22 :9–14 (CEB)

They arrived at the place God had described to him. Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He tied up his son Isaac and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. Then Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to kill his son as a sacrifice. But the Lord's messenger called out to Abraham from heaven, "Abraham? Abraham?" Abraham said, "I'm here." The messenger said, "Don't stretch out your hand against the young man, and don't do anything to him. I now know that you revere God and didn't hold back your son, your only son, from me." Abraham looked up and saw a single ram caught by its horns in the dense underbrush. Abraham went over, took the ram, and offered it as an entirely burned offering instead of his son. Abraham named that place "the Lord sees." That is the reason people today say, "On this mountain the Lord is seen."

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Ever-Changing God"

Rev. Mitch Trigger

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC

"Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life"

arr. Jeanette Keyser
Linda Dover, organist

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

The Invitation to the Table

The Great Thanksgiving, Prayers of the People, and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy 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 thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

The Words of Institution

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup – *partake of the bread first and then drink as instructed.*

Music During Communion "Communion Meditation" arr. Virgil & Jeanne Hostetler

Prayer After Communion

Sending

*HYMN 756

“O God of Every Nation”

LLANGLOFFAN

O God of Every Nation 756

1 O God of ev - ery na - tion, of ev - ery race and land,
 2 From search for wealth and pow - er and scorn of truth and right,
 3 Lord, strength-en those who la - bor that all may find re - lease
 4 Keep bright in us the vi - sion of days when war shall cease,

re - deem the whole cre - a - tion with your al - might - y hand.
 from trust in bombs that show - er de - struc - tion through the night,
 from fear of rat - tling sa - ber, from dread of war's in - crease;
 when ha - tred and di - vi - sion give way to love and peace,

Where hate and fear di - vide us and bit - ter threats are hurled,
 from pride of race and sta - tion and blind - ness to your way,
 when hope and cour - age fal - ter, your still small voice be heard;
 till dawns the morn - ing glo - rious when truth and jus - tice reign

in love and mer - cy guide us and heal our strife - torn world.
 de - liv - er ev - ery na - tion, e - ter - nal God, we pray.
 with faith that none can al - ter, your ser - vants un - der - gird.
 and Christ shall rule vic - to - rious o'er all the world's do - main.

If we truly believe that God cares for all people, we cannot limit our prayers and songs for peace to the welfare of our own nation, no matter how much we may love it. This challenging text is set to a stirring Welsh tune, named for a hamlet with a prominent Baptist chapel.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”
Linda Dover, organist

arr. Jean E. Middleswarth

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

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