



# GRACE COVENANT

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship January 15, 2023 9:30am  
Second Sunday After Epiphany

### Gathering

PRELUDE "Sheep May Safely Graze" from *The Birthday Cantata*  
Linda Dover, organist by J.S. Bach

WELCOME Rev. Sue Trigger

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: To all searching for grace and truth,

**ALL: Come and see!**

One: To all searching for meaning and purpose,

**ALL: Come and see!**

One: To all searching for abundant life,

**ALL: Come and see!**

One: Let us worship God together.

\*HYMN 408 "There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit" SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT

GATHERING

# 408 There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit

1 There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, and I  
 2 There are bless - ings you can - not re - ceive till you

know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord; there are  
 know him in his full - ness and be - lieve; you're the

sweet ex - pres - sions on each face, and I  
 one to prof - it when you say, "I am

know they feel the pres - ence of the Lord.  
 going to walk with Je - sus all the way."

This gospel hymn grew out of this African American author and composer's intense experience of prayer with her interracial choir in Los Angeles one Sunday morning before worship. She recalled that sense of "a sweet, sweet Spirit" when she sat down at her piano the next day.

## Refrain

Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, sweet heav - en - ly Dove, stay right here

with us, fill - ing us with your love; and for these bless - ings we

lift our hearts in praise; with - out a doubt we'll know that we have

been re - vived when we shall leave this place.

## A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

*(Children ages 4 through 1st grade may go to Awakening to Worship, our child-friendly worship time. Greeters at the back of the Sanctuary will go with children to Room 12 downstairs where parents may pick up their children following worship. 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)*

**Merciful God, we confess that we have been timid and unreliable witnesses of Jesus Christ. Forgive us...**

**...for the times we have stayed silent in the face of injustice and hate,**

**...for the times our actions have not matched our beliefs,**

**...for the times we have hoarded our abundance,**

**...for the times we have turned away from your children in need.**

**For the many ways we fail to follow Jesus, forgive us. Invite us again to come and see, and to abide in your presence so that we may be transformed and renewed.**

**Empower us to witness, with our words and lives, to the love and grace we've experienced in Jesus Christ. 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 607

“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

1 Corinthians 1:1–9 (CEB)

Liz Chandler

From Paul, called by God's will to be an apostle of Jesus Christ, and from Sosthenes our brother. To God's church that is in Corinth: To those who have been made holy to God in Christ Jesus, who are called to be God's people. Together with all those who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place—he's their Lord and ours! Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God always for you, because of God's grace that was given to you in Christ Jesus. That is, you were made rich through him in everything: in all your communication and every kind of knowledge, in the same way that the testimony about Christ was confirmed with you. The result is that you aren't missing any spiritual gift while you wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will also confirm your testimony about Christ until the end so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, and you were called by him to partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

ANTHEM

“Set My Feet on Solid Ground”

by James E. Clemens

Chancel & Exaltation! Singers

Patrick O’Halloran, director

*Oh, Jesus, show me your kingdom way. Set my feet on solid ground.*

*Teach me how to walk with others in love.*

*Teach me how to stand with others for justice.*

*Teach me how to walk with others in peace.*

*Oh, Jesus, show me your kingdom way. Set my feet on solid ground.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 1:29–42 (NRSVUE)

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One.” The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas”<sup>1</sup> (which is translated Peter, [which means “rock”]).

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words

**Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

“Who Knew?”

Rev. Sue Trigger

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC

“Melodie”

by W. Faulkes

Linda Dover, organist

Sending

\*HYMN 651

“I Waited Patiently for God”

LEWIS-TOWN

THANKSGIVING

# 651 I Waited Patiently for God

(Psalm 40)

1 I wait - ed pa - tient - ly for God, for  
 2 God raised me from a mir - y pit, from  
 3 And on my lips a song was put, a  
 4 Great won - ders you have done, O Lord, all

God to hear my prayer; and God bent down to  
 mud and sink - ing sand, and set my feet up -  
 new song to the Lord. Man - y will mar - vel  
 pur - posed for our good. Un - a - ble ev - ery

where I sank and lis - tened to me there.  
 on a rock where I can firm - ly stand.  
 o - pen - eyed and put their trust in God.  
 one to name, I bow in grat - i - tude.

Psalm 40 is generally understood to be in two parts, an opening section of thanksgiving and a concluding section of lament. This 20th-century paraphrase is based on the earlier portion, and the third stanza is a significant testimony to the importance of singing God's praise.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Festal March”  
Linda Dover, organist

by G.F. Handel

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

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