



GRACE COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship March 13, 2022 9:30am
2nd Sunday in Lent

Gathering

PRELUDE "Shall We Gather at the River" arr. Dale Ward
Linda Dover, organ

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Mitch Trigger

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

As we begin this worship, we remember, O God...

The supreme love of Jesus and the blessing of his Spirit,
the reminder of his words and the sharing of his suffering,
the glory of his resurrection: shown forth in the lives of his disciples,
young and old, dead and living, articulate and silent,
strange and familiar, brilliant and ordinary.

**Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
let us worship God with joy!**

*HYMN 741 "Guide My Feet" AFRICAN AMERICAN SPIRITUAL
(verses 1-3, 5)

This African American spiritual is based on the imagery of "the race that it is set before us" in Hebrews 12:1-2. It's call-and-response structure allows for the improvisation and addition of stanzas related to an athletic metaphor that is as vivid today as it was centuries ago.

Guide My Feet

741

1 Guide my feet while I run this race;

(yes, my Lord!)

guide my feet while I run this race;

(yes, my Lord!)

guide my feet while I run this race, for I

don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 Hold my hand ... | 5 Search my heart ... |
| 3 Stand by me ... | 6 Guide my feet ... |
| 4 I'm your child ... | |

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TIME WITH STEWART

PRAYER OF THE DAY (*unison*)

At the starting line of this day, we call on your name, God of grace.

As we run the race you have set before us,

help us to keep our eyes on your goals, not our own.

When we falter, give us fresh strength and courage.

When we are fleet-footed, let us give you the glory.

Keep us from wanting to win at other's expense

or to count ourselves better than those at our side.

All runners are your children.

In the race you imagine, each one of us is a winner. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE & SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

We can run with endurance the race that God has set before us, because we know that the grace of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit goes with us.

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you and all others!

Equipping

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 40:1–5, 28–31

(Common English Bible)

Comfort, comfort my people! says your God. Speak compassionately to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her compulsory service has ended, that her penalty has been paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins! A voice is crying out: "Clear the Lord's way in the desert! Make a level highway in the wilderness for our God! Every valley will be raised up, and every mountain and hill will be flattened. Uneven ground will become level, and rough terrain a valley plain. The Lord's glory will appear, and all humanity will see it together; the Lord's mouth has commanded it." Don't you know? Haven't you heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth. He doesn't grow tired or weary. His understanding is beyond human reach, giving power to the tired and reviving the exhausted. Youths will become tired and weary, young men will certainly stumble; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength; they will fly up on wings like eagles; they will run and not be tired; they will walk and not be weary.

ANTHEM

“Hush! Somebody’s Callin’ My Name” African American Spiritual
Chancel & Exaltation! Singers II arr. Brazeal W. Dennard
David Sutherland, soloist – Patrick O’Halloran, director

(Refrain) Hush, Hush, Somebody’s callin’ my name.

Hush, Somebody’s callin’ my name.

Hush, Hush, Somebody’s callin’ my name.

Oh, my Lord, oh, my Lord, what shall I do?

v. 1 I’m so glad that trouble don’t last always. (Repeat)

Oh, my Lord, oh, my Lord, what shall I do? (Refrain)

v. 2 I’m so glad, I got my ‘ligion in time.

Hallelujah, Lord!

I’m so glad, I got my ‘ligion in time.

Oh, glory, Lord!

Oh, my Lord, oh, my Lord, what shall I do?

What shall I do? (Refrain)

v. 3 Soon one mornin’ death come creepin’ in my room (Repeat)

Oh, my Lord, oh, my Lord, what shall I do? (Refrain)

Hush, hush, hush.

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE LESSON

Hebrews 12:1-2

(Common English Bible)

So then, with endurance, let’s also run the race that is laid out in front of us, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us. Let’s throw off any extra baggage, get rid of the sin that trips us up, and fix our eyes on Jesus, faith’s pioneer and perfecter. He endured the cross, ignoring the shame, for the sake of the joy that was laid out in front of him, and sat down at the right side of God’s throne.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Competition? or Collaboration?”

Rev. Mitch Trigger

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC

“The Lord’s My Shepherd”

arr. Patricia Lou Harris

Linda Dover, organ

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sending

*HYMN 182

“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”
Stanza 1 Unison ... Stanzas 2 & 3 Parts

KINGSFOLD

182 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
 2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
 3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;

lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."
 the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."
 look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."

I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad; I
 I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream; my
 I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun; and

found in him a rest - ing place, and he has made me glad.
 thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
 in that light of life I'll walk till trav - eling days are done.

Each stanza here pairs an invitation from Jesus with a response from the narrator. These three invitations recall how Jesus welcomed those who were heavy laden (Matthew 11:28), offered living water (John 4:10-14), and identified himself as the light of the world (John 8:12, 9:5).

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“On Eagle’s Wings”
Linda Dover, piano

arr. John Carter

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

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