



GRACE COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship May 5, 2024 9:30am
Sixth Sunday of Easter

Gathering

SONG TO GATHER

“Grace Flows Down”

by Christy Nockels

All

**Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound.
Amazing Love, now flowing down
From hands and feet that were nailed to the tree
As Grace flows down and covers me.
It covers me~ it covers me~ it covers me~ and covers me.**

WELCOME

Rev. Karen Wright

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Give thanks to the LORD, for God is good;

ALL: God’s love endures forever.

ONE: In our anguish we cried to the LORD, and God answered by setting us free.

ALL: Give thanks to the LORD, for God is good; God’s love endures forever.

ONE: The LORD is our strength and our song; God has become our salvation.

ALL: Give thanks to the LORD, for God is good; God’s love endures forever.

ONE: We will not die but live, and will proclaim what the LORD has done.

ALL: Give thanks to the LORD, for God is good; God’s love endures forever.

This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

—from Psalm 118:1, 5, 14, 17, 22–24, NIV

*SONG TO PRAISE

"God So Loved"

by We the Kingdom

All

Come all you weary, come all you thirsty, come to the well that never runs dry

Drink of the water, come and thirst no more

Come all you sinners, come find his mercy, come to the table, he will satisfy

Taste of his goodness, find what you're looking for.

For God so loved the world that he gave us his one and only son to save us

Whoever believes in him will live forever

Bring all your failures, bring your addictions, come lay them down

at the foot of the cross

Jesus is waiting there with open arms

For God so loved the world that he gave us his one and only Son to save us

Whoever believes in him will live forever

The power of hell forever defeated. Now it is well, I'm walking in freedom

For God so loved, God so loved the world.

Praise God ~ Praise God ~ from whom all blessings flow

Praise him ~ Praise him ~ for the wonders of his love (Repeat)

For God so loved the world that he gave us his one and only Son to save us

Whoever believes in him will live forever

The power of hell forever defeated. Now it is well, I'm walking in freedom

For God so loved, God so loved the world.

Bring all your failures, bring your addictions, come lay them down

at the foot of the cross

Jesus is waiting ~ God so loved the world.

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.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Karen Wright

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We thank you, gracious God, for Jesus Christ the true vine, with his roots eternally grounded in you. We rejoice that by grace we have been grafted into him, to be branches on a vine which bears the loveliest of all the fruits of earth. Yet we confess that all is not well with the way we live.

Forgive us for the occasions when we have been the ones to introduce disease into the vine, preferring its contamination to the vigour of health. Forgive us for neglecting to draw deeply on the sap of Life, for our tendency to wander instead of growing on the framework you provide, for being content, and sometimes even proud of, a few sparse or undersized fruits, for the apathy which lets us go through some seasons without bearing any fruit.

Have mercy on us. Do not lose patience or sever us completely from the true vine. Rather heal our diseases, discipline, and train our wandering tendrils, prune our unfruitful branches, and cut away our diseased ones. May we remain in Christ and Christ in us, through all the changing seasons of life. Let us delight in bearing the fruits of love which are our true purpose and joy. For your Name's sake. 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!**

***SONG OF PEACE**

"The Goodness of Jesus"

by City Alight

All

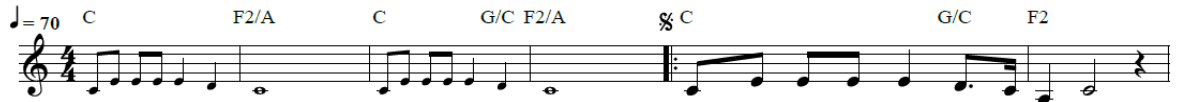
The Goodness of Jesus

(as published by City Alight Music)

Words and Music by

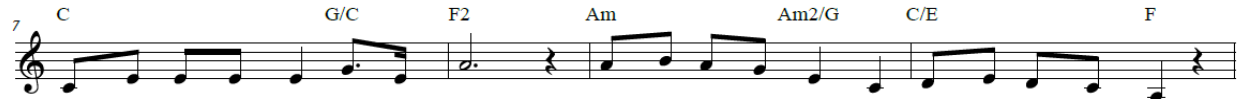
Fiona Aghajanian, Harrison Druery, Michael Farren,
Jaywan Maxell, Jonny Robinson and Rich Tompson

INTRO



VERSE

1. Come you wea - ry heart now to Je - sus.
2. Come find what this world can - not of - fer.
3. Come and find your hope now in Je - sus.

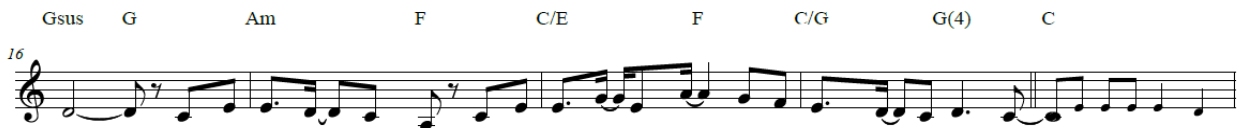


Come you an - xious soul now and see. There is per - fect love and com - fort in your tears.
Come and find your joy here com - plete. Taste the liv - ing wa - ter, nev - er thirst a - gain.
He is all He said He would be. Grace is o - ver - flow - ing from the Sav - iour's heart.

CHORUS



Rest here in His won - drous peace. Oh the good - ness, the good - ness of Je - sus. Sat - is - fied, He is all that I
Rest here in His won - drous peace.
Rest here in His won - drous grace.



need. May it be, come what may, that I rest all my days in the good - ness of Je - sus.



good - ness of Je - sus.

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Equipping

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 8:26–40 (NRSVue)

Chris Krug

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, the queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.
In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.”

The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

SONG TO REFLECT

“Abide”

by Aaron Keyes

Praise Team

*For my waking breath, for my daily bread, I depend on you, I depend on you.
For the sun to rise, for my sleep at night, I depend on you, I depend on you.*

*You’re the way the truth and the life. You’re the well that never runs dry.
I’m the branch and you are the vine. Draw me close and teach me to abide.*

*Where the spirit leads, as I’m following, I depend on you, I depend on you.
For the victories still in front of me, I depend on you, I depend on you.*

*You’re the way the truth and the life. You’re the well that never runs dry.
I’m the branch and you are the vine. Draw me close and teach me to abide.*

*Be my strength my song in the night. Be my all my treasure my prize.
I am yours forever you’re mine. Draw me close and teach me to abide.*

*When I pass through death, as I enter rest, I depend on you, I depend on you.
For eternal life, to be raised with Christ, I depend on you, I depend on you.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 15:1–8 (NRSVue)

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Pruning the Dead Branches”

Rev. Karen Wright

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

SONG FOR GIVING

“Give Thanks”

by Hannah Hobbs

Praise Team

*With grateful hearts, humble before the most holy
Saved by grace by the blood of the Lamb who was slain
Saying thank you again and again*

*Give thanks for the Lord is good
His love endures forever
Give thanks to the Lord our God
His love endures
Forever and evermore*

*Kings bow low under the weight of his glory
Oh my soul remember the Lord your Redeemer
He is faithful and he will deliver*

*Give thanks for the Lord is good
His love endures forever
Give thanks to the Lord our God
His love endures
Forever and evermore*

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Rev. Karen Wright

Invitation to the Table

The Great Thanksgiving 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.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People – *partake of the bread first and then drink as instructed.*

Music During Communion “Give Thanks” with “Abide”

Praise Team

Give thanks for the Lord is good

His love endures forever

Give thanks to the Lord our God

His love endures

Forever and evermore

Oh God of ages, you won't forsake us

So I say thank you, Lord.

You're always able in all things faithful

So I say thank you, Lord

You're the way the truth and the life. You're the well that never runs dry.

I'm the branch and you are the vine. Draw me close and teach me to abide.

Be my strength my song in the night. Be my all my treasure my prize.

I am yours forever you're mine. Draw me close and teach me to abide

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Karen Wright

*SONG TO SEND

“A Thousand Hallelujahs”

by Brooke Ligertwood

All

Who else would rocks cry out to worship?

Whose glory taught the stars to shine?

Perhaps creation longs to have the words to sing

But this joy is mine

**With a thousand hallelujahs we magnify your name
You alone deserve the glory, the honor and the praise
Lord Jesus, this song is forever yours
A thousand hallelujahs and a thousand more.**

**Who else would die for our redemption?
Whose resurrection means I'll rise?
There isn't time enough to sing of all you've done
But I have eternity to try**

**With a thousand hallelujahs we magnify Your name
You alone deserve the glory, the honor and the praise
Lord Jesus, this song is forever yours
A thousand hallelujahs and a thousand more.**

**Praise to the Lord, to the Lamb, to the King of heaven
Praise for he rose, now he reigns. We will sing forever.**

**With a thousand hallelujahs we magnify your name
You alone deserve the glory, the honor and the praise
Lord Jesus, this song is forever yours
A thousand hallelujahs and a thousand more.**

GOD'S PEACE TO YOU

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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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