



Service of Worship August 16, 2026 9:30am
Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

GATHERING THE SUPPLIES

PRELUDE

"Brethren, We Have Met to Worship"

Linda Dover, organist

HOLY MANNA

arr. Don Hustad

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Karen Wright

*OPENING TO THE CREATIVE SPIRIT "Let Us Be Drawn In"

Leader: In the world of the driven

***People:* Let us be drawn in**

Leader: Let your love be a given

Let us be drawn in

Leader: To imagine, to dream, to create, to redeem

For the sake of the livin'

Let us be drawn in

Leader: Hovering is the creative posture of taking a moment to see the "big picture." In a world of quick fixes and instant gratification, we sometimes want to skip the step of paying quiet attention to this question: "what one thing do we need to focus on now?" Clearing the decks in order to give ourselves space and time to think, to ruminate, to consider what is necessary, feels like a luxury but in fact both creativity experts and Jesus point to the importance of taking reflective time. The "project" of our lives and work in the world as Christians depends upon this as well. If you didn't feel that you have to do or fix EVERYTHING, what ONE thing would you work on at this point in your life? What do you feel drawn to?

Leader: In the world of the driven

***People:* Let us be drawn in**

Leader: Let your love be a given

Let us be drawn in

Leader: To imagine, to dream, to create, to redeem

For the sake of the livin'

Let us be drawn in

Leader: Let us pray together:

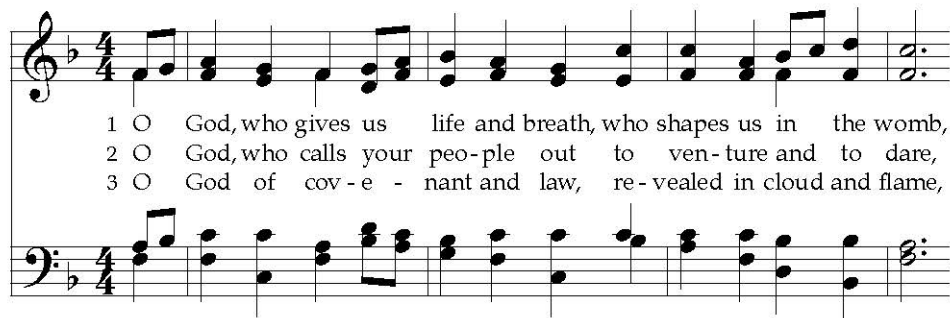
Hovering God, you are as close as the air we walk through and breathe. Open us to stop and feel your presence this day so that we might learn what *you* would have us do in the midst of so *much* to do. Draw us into your quiet patience. Give us the courage to wait. Amen.

* HYMN 53

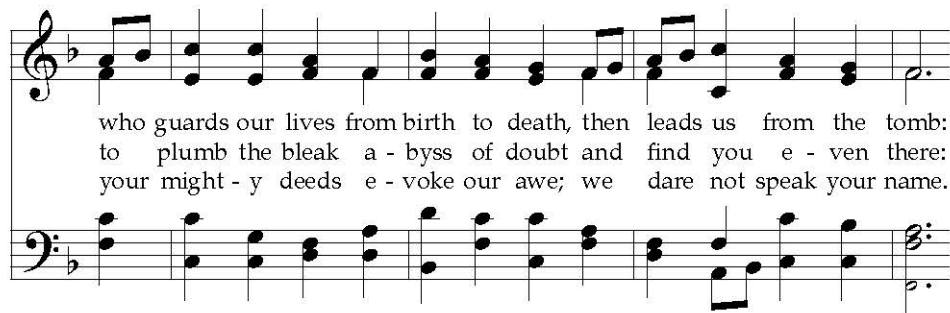
"O God, Who Gives Us Life"

NOEL

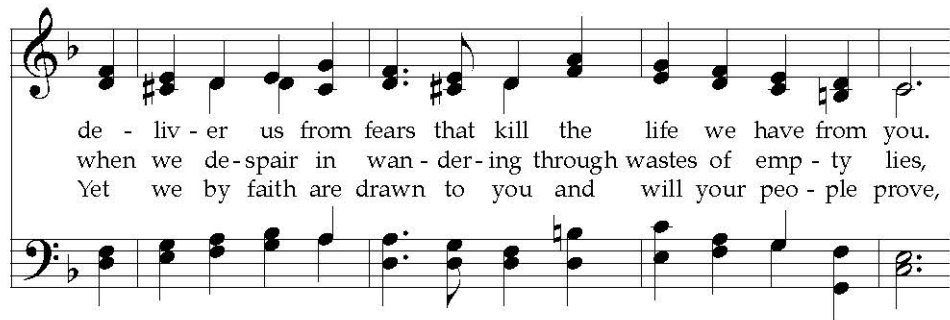
53 O God, Who Gives Us Life



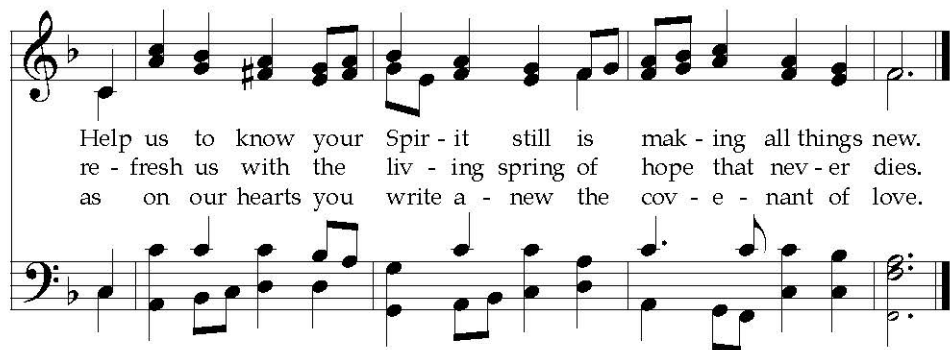
1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
 2 O God, who calls your peo-ple out to ven-ture and to dare,
 3 O God of cov-e - nant and law, re-vealed in cloud and flame,



who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
 to plumb the bleak a - byss of doubt and find you e - ven there:
 your might - y deeds e - voke our awe; we dare not speak your name.



de - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
 when we de-spair in wan-der-ing through wastes of emp - ty lies,
 Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your peo - ple prove,



Help us to know your Spir - it still is mak - ing all things new.
 re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that nev - er dies.
 as on our hearts you write a - new the cov - e - nant of love.

Christians often fail to appreciate how much we can learn about God from the Hebrew Scriptures. This text draws on a variety of passages that call attention to God's faithfulness toward the Chosen People and the promise of a new covenant written on the heart (Jeremiah 31:31-34).

CALL TO CONFESSION

Emily Nelson Dixon

What holds us back from connecting with the Presence of our Creator? Artist Pablo Picasso said, “Every act of creation is first of all an act of destruction.” That means that whenever God leads us into new territory in our lives, “the way we’ve always done” life will change, something will be different. Sometimes what holds us back is our fear that if we don’t just plow forward in the same old ways, we won’t be able to handle the change.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and Creative God, You draw us toward life, freedom, and the possibilities you place before us. Yet we confess that we are often afraid to follow. We keep doing things the way we have always done them because change feels frightening. We allow fear, doubt, and the need for control to drive us rather than trusting your Spirit to draw us forward.

Like Jesus in the wilderness, we are tempted to prove ourselves, to take the easy way, and to grasp for certainty rather than resting in the truth that we are already beloved. Forgive us, O God. Help us release what we need to leave behind so something new can be created in us. Draw us in, O God, into deeper connection with you, with one another, and with the life you are creating among us. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

You CAN handle changes. Why? Because God is always with us! We don’t need to know what it is that each of us is struggling to change in our lives in order to create more goodness and freedom, we just need to remind each other that we are not alone and we are supporting one another!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Noisy Offering

(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.)

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

ONE: May the peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you and all others!

*RESPONSE

"Let Us Be Drawn In"

Leader: In the world of the driven

***People:* Let us be drawn in**

Leader: Let your love be a given

Let us be drawn in

Leader: To imagine, to dream, to create, to redeem

For the sake of the livin'

Let us be drawn in

"LET THERE BE..."

AN IMAGINATIVE WORD

"Bedspread Forts"

by SARK, Inspiration Sandwich

"Remember the safety of a good fort?

Bedspreads draped across chairs, weighted down by giant books,
with a tunnel leading under the card table.

Maybe there was a hole in one of the bedspreads,
put there so you could peer out, unseen.

You might pass a stack of comic books and a row of cookies into your fort,
and stay there all day in the dull glow of bedspread light.

The fort was your refuge, your secret spot.
The interior untouched by adult hands or eyes.
It was a world you built for yourself."

What if we could remember to build a world of forts made with blankets?

Where we each had time to focus, to hover,
in the quiet, dull glow of bedspread light?

ANTHEM

"Panis Angelicus"

Cesar Franck

Patrick O'Halloran, soloist
with Linda Dover, accompanist

*The bread of angels becomes our bread today;
the living bread of heaven makes every promise whole.*

*What wondrous grace:
the poor and humble are welcomed to the table
and nourished by their Lord.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 4:1–13

Nelson Townsend

“Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.’ Jesus answered him, ‘It is written, “One does not live by bread alone.”’ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, ‘To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.’ Jesus answered him, ‘It is written, “Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.”’ Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, “He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,” and “On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.”’ Jesus answered him, ‘It is said, “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.”’ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.”

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Drawn In: Hover”

Rev. Karen Wright

GETTING OUR HANDS DIRTY

PRAYING FOR THE WORLD WE CO-CREATE

**Lord listen to Your children praying
Lord send Your Spirit in this place
Lord listen to Your children praying
Send us love send us pow'r send us grace**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Lord listen to Your children praying
Lord send Your Spirit in this place
Lord listen to Your children praying
Send us love send us pow'r send us grace**

OFFERING OF THE CREATIVE SPIRIT

“This is my creative spirit in the world, this is my offering.
May you see the things you do, no matter how small or mundane,
as the way that you contribute goodness to the world,
creating more life, more joy, more love.”

People: Praise be to God, the Creator of all that is!

OFFERTORY

“Psalm”

Gordon Young

Linda Dover, organist

LIFTING THE SPIRIT

*CLOSING HYMN 543

“God Be the Love”

GREEN TYLER

SENDING

**God, Be the Love to
Search and Keep Me**
O Christ, Surround Me

543



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
2 Bind to my-self the Name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness-
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light-ning,
4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:
es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:
light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur-round me; O Christ, sur-round me.

This hymn is a 21st-century adaptation of the traditional Celtic prayer style known as a *lorica* (Latin for “armor” or “breastplate”). Many such petitions for God’s presence and protection were never written down, but this one is based on an example attributed to St. Patrick.

TEXT and MUSIC: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, 2004
Text and Music © 2004 This Here Music, Worldmaking.net

GREEN TYLER
9.8.9.5.5

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Trumpet Tune in C”

Linda Dover, organist

David Lasky

**Stand in body or spirit*

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

Music and/or lyrics are reprinted by permission of CCLI 1154643 and OneLicense A-705105.
Our Church Streaming & Podcast Licenses are CSPL 048834 through CCLI & included in OneLicense A-705105.
Any videos are shown by permission of CVLI #504397326.

The series "Drawn In" is from the Worship Design Studio and Dr. Marcia McFee.

RECORD YOUR ATTENDANCE AT TODAY’S WORSHIP SERVICE WITH OUR VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE PAD:

Click this link: <https://bit.ly/GCPCattendance>, or scan the QR Code below, and it will take you to the link.



GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11100 College Boulevard ♦ Overland Park, KS 66210
Phone (913) 345-1256 ♦ www.gcpc.org