



GRACE COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship May 29, 2022 9:30am
7th Sunday of Easter

Gathering

PRELUDE

“Prelude”

César Cui

Edited by Charles Callahan (ASCAP)

“How Great Thou Art”

arr. Stuart K. Kline

Setting by Albert Zabel (ASCAP)

Linda Dover, organ

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Mitch Trigger

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

One: Jesus offers us peace

All: so that we will not be afraid.

One: The Holy Spirit reminds us

All: we are never alone.

One: God makes a home among us

All: because God loves us. Let us worship the Triune God.

*HYMN

“If We Just Talk of Thoughts and Prayers”

O WALY WALY

If We Just Talk of Thoughts and Prayers

O WALY WALY LM ("Though I May Speak")



If we just talk _____ of thoughts and prayers _____
If we just dream _____ of what could be _____
If we just sing _____ of do - ing good _____
God, may our prayers _____ and dreams and songs _____



— And don't live out _____ a faith that dares, _____
— And do not build _____ com - mun - i - ty, _____
— And don't walk through _____ our neigh - bor - hood _____
— Lead to a faith _____ that takes on _____ wrongs -



— And don't take on _____ the ways of _____ death, _____
— And do not seek _____ to change our _____ ways, _____
— To learn its hope, _____ to ease its _____ pain, _____
- That works for peace _____ and just - ice, _____ too, _____



— Our thoughts and prayers _____ are fleet - ing breath. _____
— Our dreams of change _____ are false dis - plays. _____
— Our talk of good _____ is simp - ly _____ vain. _____
— Then will our prayers _____ bring joy to _____ you. _____

Biblical References: Isaiah 58; Matthew 7:21, 24-27; 1 Corinthians 13:1; James 2:14-26; 1 John 3:18-24

Tune: Traditional English melody

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A TIME FOR CHILDREN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Grace giving God, you ask us to love and to keep your word. Simple instructions.
Yet, even with the Holy Spirit to help us, we still fail at loving and following faithfully.**

Every time we fail, speak to us again of your truths.

**Keep telling us over and over again, so that one day soon,
we hear your words and believe. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: You are God's beloved. Peace be with you.

All: And also with you and all others!

Equipping

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Acts 16:16–34 (*Common English Bible*)

Brandon Hearn

One day, when we were on the way to the place for prayer, we met a slave woman. She had a spirit that enabled her to predict the future. She made a lot of money for her owners through fortune-telling. She began following Paul and us, shouting, "These people are servants of the Most High God! They are proclaiming a way of salvation to you!" She did this for many days.

This annoyed Paul so much that he finally turned and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ, I command you to leave her!" It left her at that very moment.

Her owners realized that their hope for making money was gone. They grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them before the officials in the city center. When her owners approached the legal authorities, they said, "These people are causing an uproar in our city. They are Jews who promote customs that we Romans can't accept or practice." The crowd joined in the attacks against Paul and Silas, so the authorities ordered that they be stripped of their clothes and beaten with a rod. When Paul and Silas had been severely beaten, the authorities threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to secure them with great care. When he received these instructions, he threw them into the innermost cell and secured their feet in stocks.

Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. All at once there was such a violent earthquake that it shook the prison's foundations. The doors flew open and everyone's chains came loose. When the jailer awoke and saw the open doors of the prison, he thought the prisoners had escaped, so he drew his sword and was about to kill himself. But Paul shouted loudly, "Don't harm yourself! We're all here!"

The jailer called for some lights, rushed in, and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He led them outside and asked, "Honorable masters, what must I do to be rescued?"

They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your entire household." **They spoke the Lord's word to him** and everyone else in his house. Right then, in the middle of the night, the jailer welcomed them and washed their wounds. He and everyone in his household were immediately baptized. He brought them into his home and gave them a meal. He was overjoyed because he and everyone in his household had come to believe in God.

ANTHEM

+“You Do Not Walk Alone”
Chancel & Exaltation! Singers

Music by Elaine Hagenberg
Traditional Irish Blessing

*May you see God’s light on the path ahead when the road you walk is dark.
May you always hear, even in your hour of sorrow, the gentle singing of the lark.
When times are hard may hardness never turn your heart to stone,
may you always remember when the shadows fall you do not walk alone.*

HEBREWS SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 34:17–18

Common English Bible

When the righteous cry out, the LORD listens; he delivers them from all their troubles.
The LORD is close to the brokenhearted; he saves those whose spirits are crushed.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“What Would **You** Say?”

Rev. Mitch Trigger

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC

“My Shepherd Will Supply My Need”
Linda Dover, piano

RESIGNATION
Southern Harmony 1835
Setting by John Carter

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sending

*HYMN

“God, In Our Church’s Teaching”

AURELIA

God, In Our Church's Teaching

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2021

Aurelia

Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). It consists of two systems of staves. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

1. God, in our church's teaching, may we be bold and clear;
2. I - sai - ah bold - ly told us you hate our worship ways
3. May these be crucial lessons we teach the old and young:
4. O God, we grieve the violence, the shootings, and the hate;

may it become our practice to counter hate and fear.
when we ignore injustice and simply offer praise.
that racist ways are evil, that sexist ways are wrong.
we grieve our own in-difference—our speaking out too late.

We've said that Jesus' message is one that's filled with love,
And Jesus gave a warning: When we— in sin and pride—
In Sunday schools and pulpits, may this be what we speak:
God, in our church's witness, may we say loud and clear:

and yet our sweeping statements are clearly not enough.
refuse to welcome others, we turn our Lord aside.
God made each person precious, beloved and unique.
We welcome every neighbor. We work for justice here.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“For All the Saints”

Linda Dover, organ

arr. Charles Callahan

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

***+Today’s anthem, “You Do Not Walk Alone” by Elaine Hagenberg
was donated by Joe & Beth Lillian in honor of their daughter,
Jenna Lillian’s love of singing and graduation from St. Olaf College.
May 2020***

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