



GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Service of Worship November 8, 2020 10:00am
5th Sunday in the Season of Thanks Giving

Gathering

PRELUDE

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

arr. Bill Ingram

Members of Exaltation! Ringers & Jubilation! Ringers

Kathy Bures, director

Andrew Alka, Chris Alka, Kelly Kowalczewski,

Jane Knoche, Kylie Sutherland, & Meredith Watson

*For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies;
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP *(spoken together)*

Come, let us celebrate the wondrous gifts that God has given us.

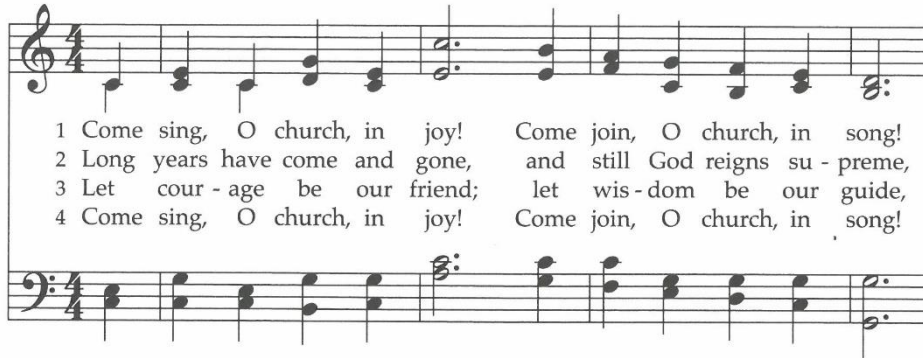
Throughout all our lives, God has blessed us with love and hope.

Praise be to God who provides for us.

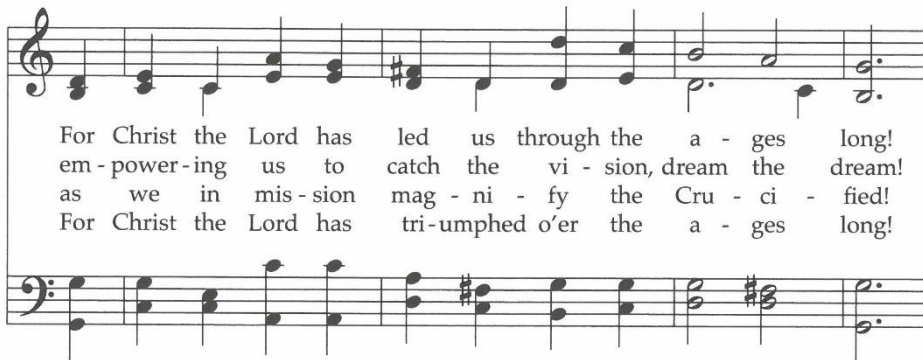
**May our hearts be truly grateful, and may we show our gratitude
by the ways in which we live and care for others..**

THE CHURCH

305 Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!



1 Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!
 2 Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns su - preme,
 3 Let cour - age be our friend; let wis - dom be our guide,
 4 Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!



For Christ the Lord has led us through the a - ges long!
 em - power - ing us to catch the vi - sion, dream the dream!
 as we in mis - sion mag - ni - fy the Cru - ci - fied!
 For Christ the Lord has tri - umphed o'er the a - ges long!



In bold ac - cord, come cel - e - brate the jour - ney now and praise the Lord!

This text was the winner in a hymn competition sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Bicentennial Committee for the 1988–1989 observance, which had the theme "Celebrate the Journey." The late 18th-century tune (first used with Psalm 148) is appropriately celebratory.

A TIME WITH STEWART

PRAYER OF THE DAY AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Bounteous God, you have lavished your finest gifts on each one of us. We thank you for the many ways in which you have blessed our lives--with love, hope, friends, our church, and so many other things that we cherish. Help us be a blessing for others--that they may come to know you and rejoice in your love. Give us hearts of courage and confidence to step out into the world in service, bringing hope where there is doubt, peace where there is strife, love where there is discord. These things we pray

as we also pray the prayer Jesus taught his disciples, saying:

**“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.”

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

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you and all others!

HYMN 716

“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

BEACH SPRING

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending 716

Capo 3: (D) (Bm) (G)
F Dm B \flat

1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and
2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of
3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through powers your

(D) (Bm)
F Dm

end - less store, na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly
Christ, your Son: all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es
grace con - ferred: ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to

(G) (D) (A)
B \flat F C

cross, grave's shat - tered door: gift - ed by you, we turn
joined, the church made one. Now di - rect our dai - ly
spread the gos - pel word. O - pen wide our hands in

(Bm) (F \sharp m) (Bm) (G) (A) (D)
Dm Am Dm B \flat C F

to you, of - fering up our - selves in praise; thank - ful song shall
la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone. Born with tal - ents,
shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call, heal - ing, teach - ing,

(Bm) (G) (D)
Dm B \flat F

rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This text on stewardship was one of about 450 submissions in a search for such hymns conducted by the Hymn Society of America in 1961. These words are well grounded by their musical setting, an early American shape note tune named for a Baptist church in Harris County, Georgia.

TEXT: Robert L. Edwards, 1961, alt.
MUSIC: *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; harm. James H. Wood, 1958
Text © 1961, ren. 1989 *The Hymn Society* (admin. *Hope Publishing Company*)
Music Harm. © 1958, ren. 1986 *Broadman Press* (admin. *Music Services*)

BEACH SPRING
8.7.8.7.D

Equipping

EPISTLE LESSONS The Letter to the Hebrews 13:1–3,5–6 (Common English Bible)
Keep loving each other like family. Don't neglect to open up your homes to guests, because by doing this some have been hosts to angels without knowing it. Remember prisoners as if you were in prison with them, and people who are mistreated as if you were in their place. Your way of life should be free from the love of money, and you should be content with what you have. After all, he has said, *I will never leave you or abandon you*. This is why we can confidently say, *The Lord is my helper, and I won't be afraid. What can people do to me?*

The First Letter of Peter 3:8–9,13–17, 4:8–10 (Common English Bible)
Finally, all of you be of one mind, sympathetic, lovers of your fellow believers, compassionate, and modest in your opinion of yourselves. Don't pay back evil for evil or insult for insult. Instead, give blessing in return. You were called to do this so that you might inherit a blessing. Who will harm you if you are zealous for good? But happy are you, even if you suffer because of righteousness! Don't be terrified or upset by them. Instead, regard Christ the Lord as holy in your hearts. Whenever anyone asks you to speak of your hope, be ready to defend it. Yet do this with respectful humility, maintaining a good conscience. Act in this way so that those who malign your good lifestyle in Christ may be ashamed when they slander you. It is better to suffer for doing good (if this could possibly be God's will) than for doing evil. Above all, show sincere love to each other, because love brings about the forgiveness of many sins. Open your homes to each other without complaining. And serve each other according to the gift each person has received, as good managers of God's diverse gifts.

ANTHEM

"Let Me Walk With You"

by Joel Raney

Chancel Singers III

& Washington Gladden

Lauren Bond, Karen Kesler, Susan Sutherland,
Susan Hayden, Connie Richards, David Sutherland,
Linda Bruns, Paul Bruns, & Bob Dover

*O Master, let me walk with thee in lowly paths of service free;
tell me thy secret: help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way.
O Master, let me walk beside you, let me take you by the hand.
Guide my feet and light the pathway till I reach the promised land.
Master, order my steps, keep them strong and true.
O Master, Savior, let me walk with you.*

SERMON

“Open Arms”

Rev. Mitch Trigger

Sending

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN 647

“Give Thanks”

GIVE THANKS

647

Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart; give thanks to the Ho-ly One;

give thanks be-cause we're giv-en Je-sus Christ, the Son. Give

Son. And now let the weak say, "We are strong"; let the

poor say, "We are rich be-cause of what the Lord has done for

us!" And us!" Give thanks. Give thanks.

Drawing on language from 2 Corinthians 6:10 and 12:10 as well as Psalm 126:3, this short and repetitive song can be easily memorized. The simple vocabulary makes it suitable for multigenerational use, reminding all ages how gratitude for God's goodness changes our perspective.

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

arr. Barry Braman

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

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