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

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..
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 supreme,
3 Let courage be our friend; let wisdom 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 ages long!
Enabling us to catch the vision, dream the dream!
As we in mission magnify the Crucified!
For Christ the Lord has triumphed o’er the ages long!

In bold accord, come celebrate the journey 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.
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

1 God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and
end-less store, nature’s wonder, Jesus’ wisdom, costly Christ, your Son: all at peace in health and
mighty grace conferred: ours to use for home and
cross, grave’s shattered door: gifted by you, we turn joined, the church made one. Now direct our daily spread the gospel word. Open wide our hands in

2 Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of
free-dom, races labor, lest we strive for self alone. Born with talents, sharing, as we heed Christ’s age-less call, healing, teaching,

3 Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your to you, offering up ourselves in praise; thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

MUSIC: The Sacred Harp, 1844; harm. James H. Wood, 1938

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.
**Equipping**

**EPISODE 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
Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;
give thanks because we’re given Jesus Christ, the Son. Give

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

poor say, “We are rich because 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.

MUSC: Henry Smith, 1978
Text and Music © 1978 Integrity’s Hosanna! Music (admin. EMICMCPublishing.com)
CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”  
arr. Barry Braman

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

Some music is 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 #504087502.