



# GRACE COVENANT

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship February 4, 2024 9:30am  
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

### Gathering

PRELUDE

“Jesus Loves Me”

Linda Dover, organist

Music by William Bradbury

arr. Sandy Wilkinson

*In worship following reflective music, we are requesting a response of quiet or a contemplative “amen.” Any music that elicits a response of applause is to the glory of God.*

WELCOME

Rev. Stephen Wing

SHARING OUR SONG

“I Will Sing My Praises to the Lord”

by Carol and Ken Litten

Joy! Singers (4s-1<sup>st</sup> graders)

Based on Psalm 146:2

Emily Hussey & Hilary Schmidt, co-directors and Caitlin Hussey, assistant

(Singers) Aidan Hussey, Sophia Hearn, & Evie Schmidt-drums

Charlotte Hearn & Magnolia Sellers, triangle; Brody Frye-tambourine

Rowan Cabe-sand blocks; Nathan Hearn-tone block; Bristol Sellers & Henry Frye-maracas

*I will sing my praises to the Lord. I'll sing and rejoice and lift up my voice.*

*Yes, I will sing my praises to the Lord.*

*I will clap my praises to the Lord. I'll clap and rejoice and lift up my voice.*

*Yes, I will clap my praises to the Lord.*

*I will play my praises to the Lord. I'll play and rejoice and lift up my voice.*

*Yes, I will play my praises to the Lord.*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 147)

ONE: Hallelujah! It's a good thing to sing praise to our God;

**ALL: Praise is beautiful, praise is fitting.**

ONE: God's the one who heals the heartbroken  
and bandages their wounds.

**ALL: God puts the fallen on their feet again.**

## 645 Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

1 Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all  
 2 What God's al-might - y power has made God's gra - cious mer -  
 3 The Lord is nev - er far a - way, but, through all grief  
 4 Thus all my toil-some way a - long I sing a - loud

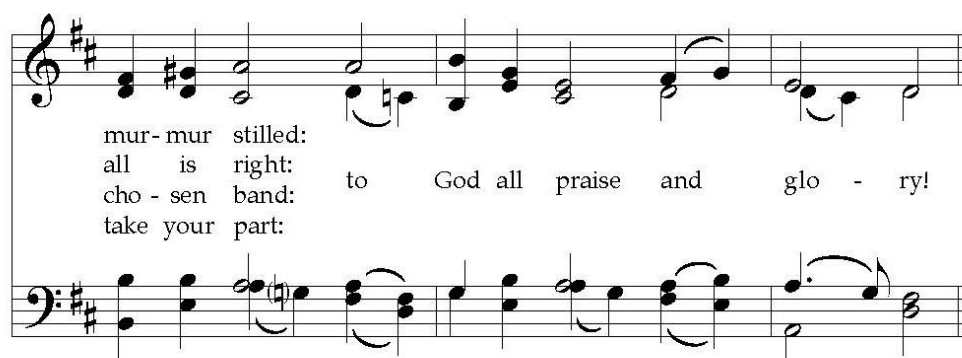
cre - a - tion, the God of power, the God of love,  
 cy keep - eth; by morn-ing glow or eve-ning shade  
 dis - tress - ing, an ev - er - pres - ent help and stay,  
 thy prais - es, that all may hear the grate - ful song

the God of our sal - va - tion. With  
 God's watch - ful eye ne'er sleep - eth. With -  
 our peace and joy and bless - ing, as  
 my voice un - wea - ried rais - es. Be

heal - ing balm my soul is filled, and ev - ery faith - less  
 in the king - dom of God's might, lo! all is just and  
 with a moth - er's ten - der hand God gent - ly leads the  
 joy - ful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and bod - y,

The regal divine imagery here will not be new to most singers, but some may not expect the third stanza's image of God as mother. Yet it is part of God's self-description in Isaiah 66:13. This Bohemian Brethren tune resembles both Genevan psalm tunes and French folk songs.

THANKSGIVING



A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Melanie Townsend & Cheryl Johnson

Presentation of Bibles to 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders

SHARING OUR SONG

"Blessed Are Those"

by Jim Ailor

Celebration! Choir (2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders)

Pam Kelly, director – Lara Schesser, assistant director

Angela Krug, accompanist

(Singers) Melo Golston-Circo, Nini Golston-Circo & Xander Circo, soloists

Abel Frye, Kamden Frye, Mallory Hearn, Liam Hussey,

Brynnley Krug, James Schmidt, & Max Soule

*Blessed are those who depend on God; the kingdom of God is theirs.*

*Blessed are those with broken hearts; they'll learn how much God cares.*

*Blessed are those with humble hearts; the earth will belong to them.*

*Blessed are those who thirst for the Lord; they'll never thirst again.*

*(Chorus) Blessed are you, blessed are you, when you choose these words of life.*

*Blessed are you, blessed are you when you choose to follow Christ!*

*Blessed are those who are merciful; God's mercy will fill their lives.*

*Blessed are those, the pure of heart; they'll see the Lord on high.*

*Blessed are those who work for peace; the children of God, they'll be.*

*Blessed are those, who suffer for Christ; the Kingdom they will see!*

*(Chorus) Blessed are you, blessed are you, when you choose these words of life.*

*Blessed are you, blessed are you when you choose to follow Christ! (Repeat)*

*When you choose to follow Christ, when you choose to follow Christ! Blessed are you!*

*(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. Stephen Wing

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

**Jesus, so often I act as if I am OK. But I am not OK. People ask how I am doing, and I say, "Fine." But I am not fine. I know it, and you know it. There is something broken in here, in my spirit. I need something, but I confess, I am not even sure what that is. I am hoping you do. I am hoping you are the mender of broken spirits. That you can mend the places that I did not even know were broken. Here I am. 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!**

\*HYMN 834

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

PRECIOUS LORD

# 834 Precious Lord, Take My Hand

1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand; lead me on, help me  
 2 When my way grows drear, pre - cious Lord, lin - ger

stand; I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.  
 near; when my life is al - most gone,

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the  
 hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I

light; take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.  
 fall; take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

This black gospel song, like much hymnody, sprang out of the author's deep personal loss (the death of his wife and newborn son), yet it has brought solace to many. He thought his fingers were playing new music, but they unlocked a deep memory of a tune almost a century old.

## Equipping

### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON      Isaiah 40:27-31 (*The Message*)

Rev. Stephen Wing

Why would you ever complain, O Jacob,  
or, whine, Israel, saying,  
“GOD has lost track of me.  
He doesn’t care what happens to me”?  
Don’t you know anything? Haven’t you been listening?  
GOD doesn’t come and go. God lasts.  
He’s Creator of all you can see or imagine.  
He doesn’t get tired out, doesn’t pause to catch his breath.  
And he knows everything, inside and out.  
He energizes those who get tired,  
gives fresh strength to dropouts.  
For even young people tire and drop out,  
young folk in their prime stumble and fall.  
But those who wait upon GOD get fresh strength.  
They spread their wings and soar like eagles,  
They run and don’t get tired, they walk and don’t lag behind.

### ANTHEM

#### “Christ, We See You”

by Ken Medema

Chancel & Exaltation! Singers

*Christ, we see you standing, knocking like a stranger at the door.  
Christ, we hear you calling to us, as you’ve called your saints before.  
We invite you here among us, hearts are open now to you.  
Come be with us; change, remake us; do what God alone can do.*

*God of all the human fam’ly, join us as we gather here.  
Open now the doors of friendship closed too long by hate and fear.  
’Round these tables of abundance, bring the hungry, one and all.  
Let compassion thrive among us as we hear communion’s call.*

#### **(Refrain)**

***Spirit, open our eyes to see visions of who we were meant to be.  
Spirit, break us and shape us and fill us with the breath of life.  
Fill us with the breath of life.***

*God of light, confront our blindness, open vision’s doors, we pray.  
From this world of pain and sadness, let us never turn away.  
With the light of understanding, guide our steps in ways of peace  
’till the day of new creation when all want and war shall cease.*

### NEW TESTAMENT LESSON      Mark 1:29-39 (*The Message*)

Directly on leaving the meeting place, they came to Simon and Andrew’s house, accompanied by James and John. Simon’s mother-in-law was sick in bed, burning up with fever. They told Jesus. He went to her, took her hand, and raised her up. No sooner had the fever left than she was up fixing dinner for them.

That evening, after the sun was down, they brought sick and evil-afflicted people to him, the whole city lined up at his door! He cured their sick bodies and tormented spirits. Because the demons knew his true identity, he didn't let them say a word.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words  
**Thanks be to God!**

SERMON "In Front of Simon's House" Rev. Stephen Wing

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERING OF GIFTS & MUSIC "My Jesus, I Love Thee" GORDON  
Linda Dover, organist arr. Todd Billingsley

Sending

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

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

by William Howard Doane, 1870  
"Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior" arr. Dale Wood  
Linda Dover, organist

Prayer After Communion

\*HYMN 415 "Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy" RESTORATION  
**(Stanzas 1 – 3)**

CONFESSION

# 415 Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

*All or Leader*

1 Come, ye sin - ners, poor and need - y, weak and wound-ed,  
 2 Come, ye thirst-y, come, and wel - come; God's free boun - ty  
 3 Come, ye wea - ry, heav - y lad - en, lost and ru - ined  
 4 Let not con - science make you lin - ger, nor of fit - ness

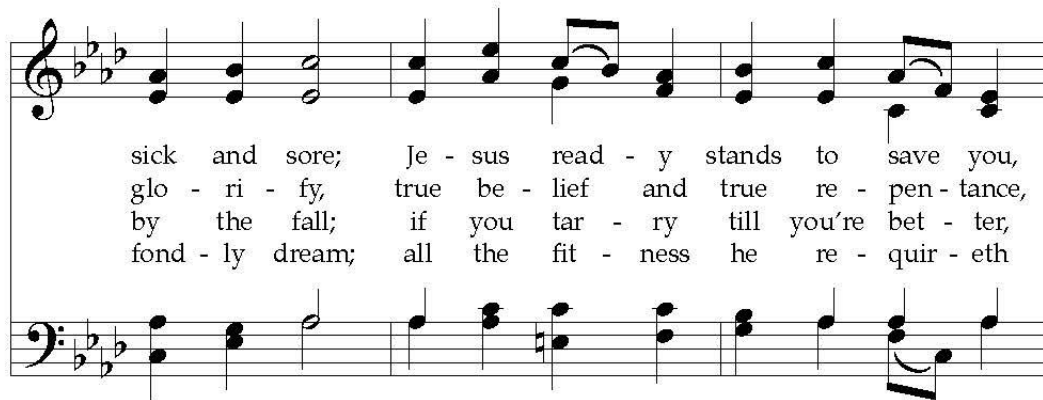
The differing voices of this text indicate that its parts were not created together. The stanzas are cast in the voice of a preacher or exhorter; but the refrain (added later) takes the voice of a penitent heeding that call in language like that of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:18).

TEXT: Stanzas, Joseph Hart, 1759, alt.; refrain, anon.  
 MUSIC: Walker's *Southern Harmony*, 1835

RESTORATION  
 8.7.8.7 with refrain

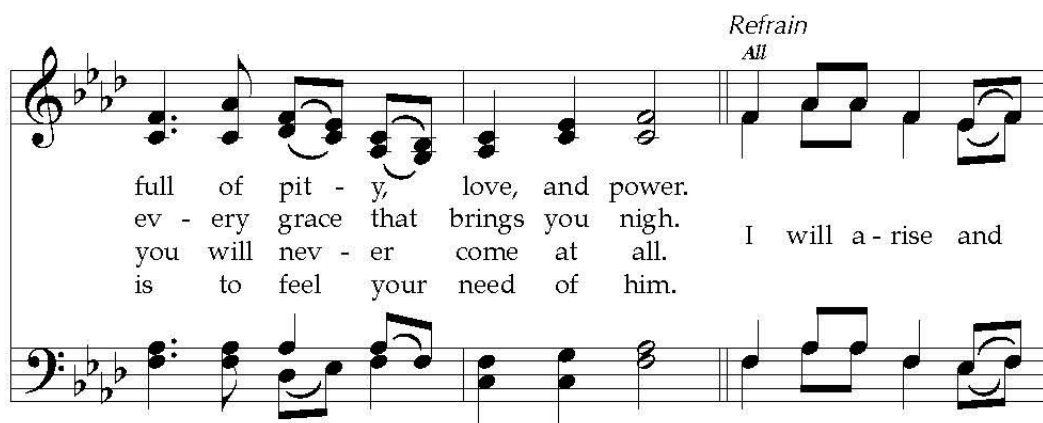


# CONFESSION

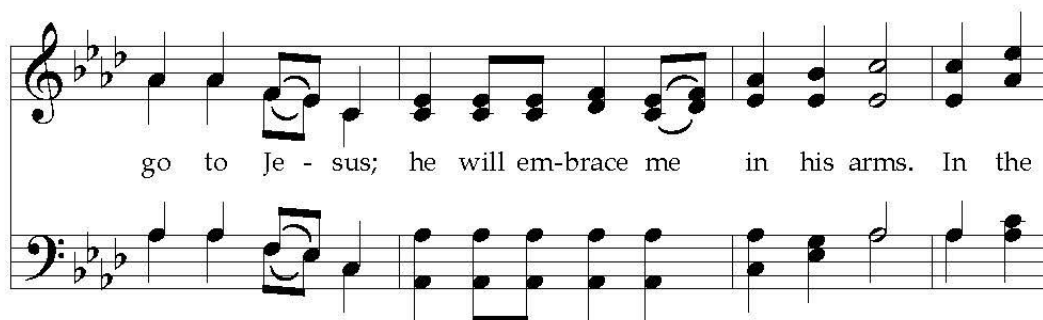


sick and sore; Je - sus read - y stands to save you,  
 glo - ri - fy, true be - lief and true re - pen - tance,  
 by the fall; if you tar - ry till you're bet - ter,  
 fond - ly dream; all the fit - ness he re - quir - eth

*Refrain*  
*All*



full of pit - y, love, and power.  
 ev - ery grace that brings you nigh. I will a - rise and  
 you will nev - er come at all.  
 is to feel your need of him.



go to Je - sus; he will em-brace me in his arms. In the



arms of my dear Sav - ior, O there are ten thou-sand charms.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Stephen Wing

POSTLUDE

“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”  
Linda Dover, organist

HYFRYDOL  
arr. Wilbur Held

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

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**GRACE COVENANT**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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