GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship November 15, 2026 9:30am
Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering

The prelude, the first act of worship, sets the tone for what is to follow.
So, we invite you as worshipers to gather, to transition from your busy lives
into a sacred place of communion with God and with each other. – Dr. Kimo Smith, adapted

SONG TO GATHER "How Great Is Our God" by Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves, Ed Cash

The splendor of the king, clothed in majesty;
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice.
He wraps himself in light, and darkness tries to hide
And trembles at his voice, trembles at his voice.

How great is our God! Sing with me;
How great is our God
And all will see how great, how great is our God!

And age to age he stands, and time is in his hands.
Beginning and the End, Beginning & the end.
The Godhead, three in one.
Father, Spirit, Son, the Lion and the Lamb~
The Lion and the Lamb.

Name above all names, worthy of all praise.
My heart will sing: How great is our God!

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 & ANNOUNCMENTS Rev. Karen Wright

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in every generation.

ALL: From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

ONE: God has entrusted each of us with gifts, opportunities, and a part to play in building God's kingdom.

ALL: May we use what we have been given with courage, faithfulness, and joy.

ONE: Come, let us worship the God who gives us life and calls us to faithful living.

All: Let us worship God!

SONG TO PRAISE "Joy of the Lord" by Chris Llewellyn, Gareth Gilkeson, Ed Cash

Though the tears may fall, my song will rise, my song will rise to you.
Though my heart may fail, my song will rise, my song will rise to you.
While there's breath in my lungs, I will praise you Lord.

In the dead of night, I'll lift my eyes, I'll life my eyes to you.
When the waters rise, I'll lift my eyes, I'll lift my eyes to you.
While there's hope in this heart. I will praise you Lord.

The joy of the Lord is my strength! The joy of the Lord is my strength!
In the darkness I'll dance, in the shadows I'll sing,
The joy of the Lord is my strength!

When I cannot see you with my eyes, let faith arise to you.
When I cannot feel your hand in mine, let faith arise to you.
God of mercy and love, I will praise you, Lord.

Oh you shine with glory, Lord of light; I feel alive with you.
In your presence now, I come alive; I am alive with you.
There is strength when I say: "I will praise you Lord!"

The joy of the Lord is my strength! The joy of the Lord is my strength!
In the darkness I'll dance, in the shadows I'll sing,
The joy of the Lord is my strength!
When sorrow comes my way, you are the shield around me.
Always, you remain my courage in the fight.
I hear you call my name, Jesus, I am coming,
Walking on the waves, reaching for your light!

The joy of the Lord is my strength! The joy of the Lord is my strength!
In the darkness I'll dance, in the shadows I'll sing,
The joy of the Lord is my strength!

CALL TO CONFESSION Emily Nelson Dixon

God knows the limits of our days and sees the fullness of our hearts. We confess that too often we allow fear to keep us from using the gifts God has entrusted to us. We hold back, bury our possibilities, and settle for what feels safe rather than stepping forward in faith. Trusting in God's steadfast love and mercy, let us confess our sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Unison)*

Gracious and everlasting God, you are our refuge through every generation, yet we often live as though our time and our gifts belong only to us. We confess that fear sometimes keeps us from taking risks, sharing generously, or stepping into the opportunities before us. We bury our gifts rather than put them to work. We focus on what we lack instead of giving thanks for what we have received.

Forgive us when we let fear shape our choices more than faith. Teach us to live wisely, to use our gifts faithfully, and to make our days count for something greater than ourselves. Help us trust in your abundance, grow in courage, and become good stewards of the life you have entrusted to us. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God has been our dwelling place in every generation. Before the mountains were formed and long after our days on earth have passed, God's love remains steadfast. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and invited once again into the joyful work of God's kingdom.

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 581 "Glory Be to The Father"

Equipping

SCRIPTURE LESSON Psalm 90:1–8 Ken Werne

Lord, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations.
Before the mountains were brought forth
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
You turn us back to dust
and say, "Turn back, you mortals."
For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past
or like a watch in the night.
You sweep them away; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning;
in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.
For we are consumed by your anger;
by your wrath we are overwhelmed.
You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

SONG TO REFLECT "God Only Knows/Awesome God"

"God Only Knows" by Joel Smallbone, Luke Smallbone, Josh Kerr,
Jordan Reynolds and Tedd Tjornhom
"Awesome God" by Rich Mullins
With Caitlin Hussey and Hilary Schmidt

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 25:14–30

"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good

and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So, take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words

Thanks be to God!

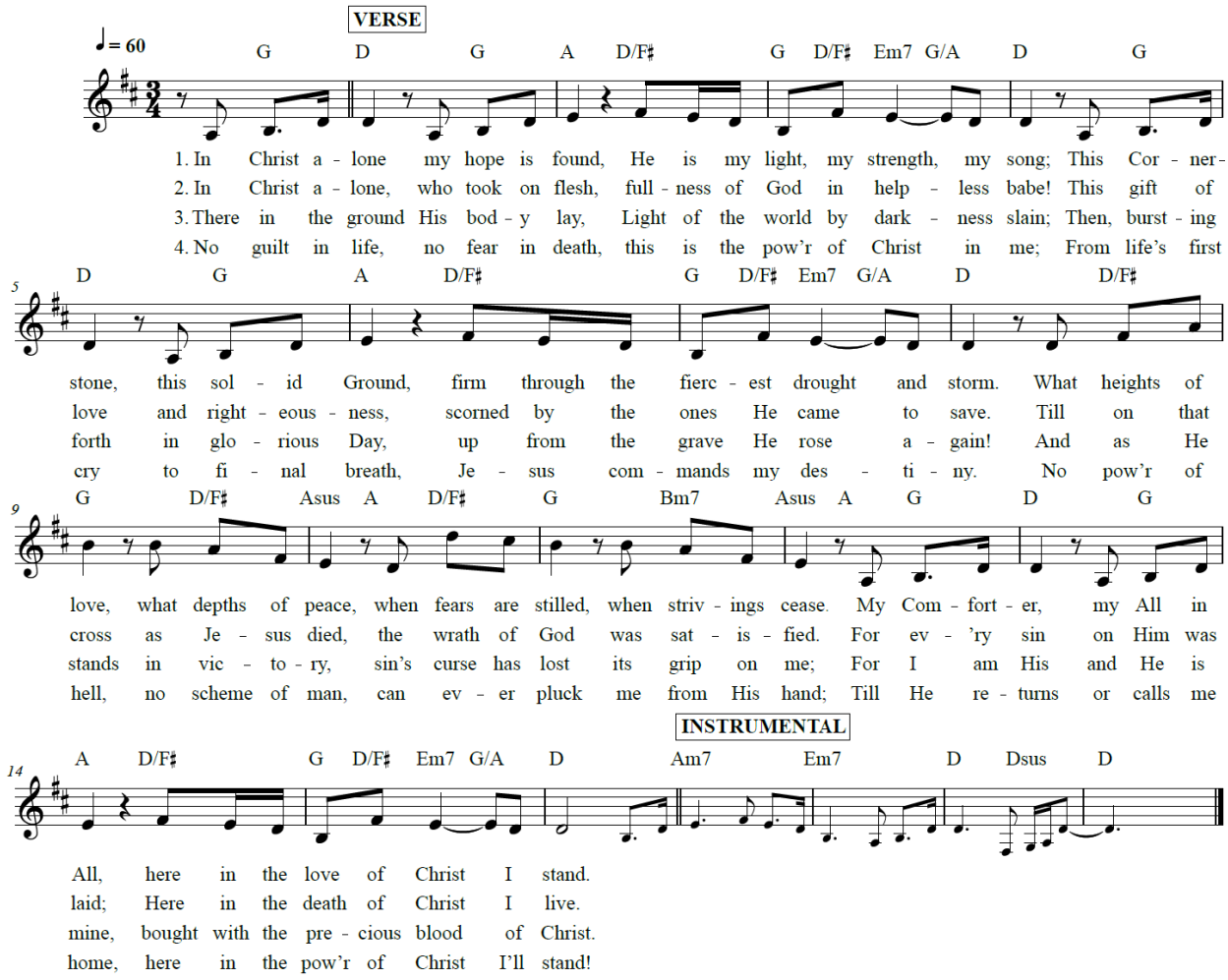
SERMON "Multiplying Our Impact" Rev. Karen Wright

SONG OF RESPONSE "In Christ Alone"

In Christ Alone

(as published by Capitol CMG Publishing)

Words and Music by
Keith Getty and Stuart Townend



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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.

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

SONG FOR GIVING "We Praise You" by Matt Redman, Brandon Lake, Brian Johnson, & Phil Wickham

Let praise be a weapon that silences the enemy.
Let praise be a weapon that conquer all anxiety.
Let it rise. Let praise arise.

We sing your name in the dark and it changes ev'rything.
We sing with all we are and we claim your victory.
Let it rise, let praise arise.

We'll see you break down ev'ry wall, we'll watch the giants fall.
For fear cannot survive when we praise you.
The God of breakthrough's on our side, forever lift him high.
With all creation cry "God we praise you."

Let faith be a song that overcomes the raging sea.
Let faith be the song that calms the storm inside of me.
Let it rise, let faith arise.

We'll see you break down ev'ry wall, we'll watch the giants fall.
For fear cannot survive when we praise you.
The God of breakthrough's on our side, forever lift him high.
With all creation cry "God we praise you."

Sending

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION — Rev. Karen Wright

*SONG TO SEND

**Stand in body or spirit*

GOD'S PEACE TO YOU

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