



GRACE COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship January 29, 2023 9:30am
Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

Gathering

PRELUDE

“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”
Linda Dover, organist

by J.S. Bach

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. Mitch Trigger

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 27)

ONE: O Lord, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?

**ALL: Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right
and speak the truth from their heart;**

ONE: Who do not slander with their tongue and do no evil to their friends
nor heap shame upon their neighbors; in whose eyes the wicked are despised
but who honor those who fear the Lord;

**ALL: Who stand by their oath even to their hurt; who do not lend money
at interest and do not take a bribe against the innocent.**

*HYMN 372

“O for a World”

AZMON

O for a World

372

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The piano accompaniment is in the bass clef, providing a harmonic foundation with chords and moving lines.

1 O for a world where ev - ery - one re - spects each oth - er's ways,
2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,
3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice
4 The poor are rich; the weak are strong; the fool - ish ones are wise.
5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,

where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.
where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
that o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.
Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

Everything longed for in this text is a reminder of how far our present world is from what God wants. Yet this is not just wishful thinking; it is a call to action, a summons to participate in the fulfillment of God's desire for all earth's people to live in radical *shalom*.

TEXT: Miriam Therese Winter, 1987
MUSIC: Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839
Text © 1990 Medical Mission Sisters

AZMON
CM

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

(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.)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

You have told us what is good, O God. Your hopes for us are clear. And still we live as though it is unclear what you want us to do. We live as though we were not the recipients of grace upon grace. We have withheld what is not our own. We have judged when it was not our place. We have sinned by what we have done and what we have failed to do. We know that we have sinned. We seek your forgiveness and your reconciliation and strength that we may follow in the way you would have us go. Cleanse us and guide us. We make this and all our prayers in reliance upon our faithful savior, Jesus Christ.

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 607

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

Equipping

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Micah 6:1–8 (NRSVUE)

Susan Fitzgerald

Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the Lord has a case against his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,
and I sent before you Moses,

Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

“With what shall I come before the Lord
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

ANTHEM

“Within These Walls”

by Pepper Choplin

Chancel & Exaltation! Singers

Patrick O’Halloran, director

*Within these walls, we assemble. Within these walls, we gather in your name.
As we join our hearts in a holy union, we come to find communion in your holiness again.
Within these walls, let there be harmony; a common bond; a Spirit from above.
And as your children let us love each other as sisters and as brothers united by your love.
We are the branches, you are the Vine. We are the vessels and you are the Wine.
We are the body, you are the Head. For ev’ry hunger, you are the Bread.
Within these walls, let there be refuge, a place of rest when doubts and trials form.
And let us lift each other as we gather to find your peace no matter how terrible the storm.
Within these walls, give us Your vision. Within these walls, let us understand
that beyond these walls, there are hurting people who have never felt your healing hand.
Beyond these walls, send us forward. Beyond these walls, let your will be done.
We are your people; you will leave us never, and we shall work together
until your kingdom comes. Your kingdom come!
Within these walls, let us listen. Within these walls, let us pray.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 5:1–12 (NRSVUE)

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“An Outward Focus”

Rev. Mitch Trigger

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC

“Take My Life”

Cindy Schendel, soprano

*Take my life and let it be consecrated Lord to thee;
Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of Thy love.*

*Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee
Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King.
Take my voice and let me sing always, only for my King.*

*Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold;
Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

*Take my will and make it Thine, it shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own; it shall be Thy royal Throne;
Take my heart, it is Thine own, it shall be Thy royal Throne.*

by France R. Havergal
arr. by Craig Courtney

Sending

*HYMN 754

“Help Us Accept Each Other”

BARONITA

Help Us Accept Each Other 754

G Em Am7 B7 C
 1 Help us ac - cept each oth - er as Christ ac - cept - ed us;
 2 Teach us, O Lord, your les - sons, as in our dai - ly life
 3 Let your ac - cep - tance change us, so that we may be moved
 4 Lord, for to - day's en - coun - ters with all who are in need,
 C G A A7 D
 teach us as sis - ter, broth - er, each per - son to em - brace.
 we strug - gle to be hu - man and search for hope and faith.
 in liv - ing sit - u - a - tions to do the truth in love;
 who hun - ger for ac - cep - tance, for jus - tice and for bread,
 G Em Am7 B7 C
 Be pres - ent, Lord, a - mong us and bring us to be - lieve
 Teach us to care for peo - ple, for all, not just for some,
 to prac - tice your ac - cep - tance un - til we know by heart
 we need new eyes for see - ing, new hands for hold - ing on:
 C G Em D7 G
 we are our - selves ac - cept - ed, and meant to love and live.
 to love them as we find them, or as they may be - come.
 the ta - ble of for - give - ness, and laugh - ter's heal - ing art.
 re - new us with your Spir - it; Lord, free us; make us one!

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

The scriptural basis of this text is Romans 15:7, recast as a prayer in the opening two lines of the first stanza. The many implications of living as people who have been accepted by Christ fill the remaining stanzas. This tune was composed for the first publication of this text.

TEXT: Fred Kaan, 1974
 MUSIC: Doreen Potter, 1974
 Text and Music © 1975 Hope Publishing Company

BARONITA
 7.6.7.6.D

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Praeludium in F”
 Linda Dover, organist

by J.S. Bach

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

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