



GRACE COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship July 16, 2023 9:30am
7th Sunday After Pentecost

Gathering

PRELUDE

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

arr. Jim Lucas

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

ONE: As many of us were baptized into Christ,

ALL: we have also clothed ourselves with Christ.

ONE: Together we are one body and one Spirit,

ALL: just as we were called to the one hope of our calling.

*HYMN 297

“In Christ Called to Baptize”

ST. DENIO

In Christ Called to Baptize 297

1 In Christ called to bap - tize, we wit - ness to grace
 2 In Christ called to ban - quet, one ta - ble we share,
 3 In Christ called to wit - ness, by grace we will preach
 4 U - nite us, a - noint us, O Spir - it of love,

and gath - er a peo - ple from each land and race.
 a ha - ven of wel - come, a cir - cle of care.
 the life - giv - ing gos - pel; God's love we will teach.
 for you are with - in us, a - round us, a - bove.

In deep, flow - ing wa - ters, we share in Christ's death,
 Al - though we are man - y, we share in one bread.
 By grace may our liv - ing give proof to our praise
 E - quip us for ser - vice with gifts you be - stow.

then, ris - ing to new life, give thanks with each breath.
 One cup of thanks - giv - ing pro - claims Christ, our head.
 in cost - ly com - pas - sion re - flect - ing Christ's ways.
 In Christ is our call - ing. In Christ may we grow.

Written for use at the 1997 meeting of the Lutheran World Federation, this text about Christian vocation and ministry organizes the first three stanzas around verbs: baptize, banquet, witness. The final stanza is a prayer for the Spirit's gifts to empower all these callings.

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

(Awakening to Worship, our child-friendly worship time, is on summer hiatus. 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.)

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Levi Walker Fleeman
Son of Aimee and Kyle Fleeman

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

We ask that you forgive us, compassionate God, when we think too highly of ourselves and demand privilege and honor. Forgive us, Lord, when we can't lift our gaze because we don't believe we have anything to give you. You have given us the best gifts of all: freedom from the things that really harm us and the way to life abundant. Have mercy on our foolishness and heal our selfish hearts, that we may live faithfully for you. In Jesus' name we pray. 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 606

"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

Matthew 7:1–6, 21–23 (CEB)

Tom Stroud

"Don't judge, so that you won't be judged. You'll receive the same judgment you give. Whatever you deal out will be dealt out to you. Why do you see the splinter that's in your brother's or sister's eye, but don't notice the log in your own eye? How can you say to your brother or sister, 'Let me take the splinter out of your eye,' when there's a log in your eye? You deceive yourself! First take the log out of your eye, and then you'll see clearly to take the splinter out of your brother's or sister's eye. Don't give holy things to dogs, and don't throw your pearls in front of pigs. They will stomp on the pearls, then turn around and attack you.

“Not everybody who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will get into the kingdom of heaven. Only those who do the will of my Father who is in heaven will enter. On the Judgment Day, many people will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, didn’t we prophesy in your name and expel demons in your name and do lots of miracles in your name?’ Then I’ll tell them, ‘I’ve never known you. Get away from me, you people who do wrong.’

ANTHEM

“This Is My Word”

Summer Choir

by Pepper Choplin
based on Isaiah 55:10-12

*As the snow falls from heaven
as it comes in swirling showers from the sky, so is my word.
As the rains bring the water to the earth that is thirsty and dry, so is my word.
And the word of my mouth, it shall not return empty,
it will bless the earth wherever it is heard, this is my word.
As the rains bring renewal and the tender buds begin to come alive, so is my word.
Giving seed to the sower and the bread to the hungry till they thrive, so is my word.
O Lord, when I am weary, when I feel the days I’m living are in vain,
my God, help me be faithful to the word you have given to proclaim.
And you will go out in joy and be led forth in peace,
and the hills will break before you into song.
So be faithful, brave, and true, for I will go before you.
And when your earthly journey here is done, I’ll say well done.
As the snow falls from heaven and the
rain comes in showers from the sky, this is my word.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ephesians 4:1–16 (CEB)

Therefore, as a prisoner for the Lord, I encourage you to live as people worthy of the call you received from God. Conduct yourselves with all humility, gentleness, and patience. Accept each other with love, and make an effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit with the peace that ties you together. You are one body and one spirit, just as God also called you in one hope. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of all, who is over all, through all, and in all.

God has given his grace to each one of us measured out by the gift that is given by Christ. That’s why scripture says, When he climbed up to the heights, he captured prisoners, and he gave gifts to people.

What does the phrase “he climbed up” mean if it doesn’t mean that he had first gone down into the lower regions, the earth? The one who went down is the same one who climbed up above all the heavens so that he might fill everything.

He gave some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers. His purpose was to equip God’s people for the work of serving and building up the body of Christ until we all reach the unity of faith and knowledge of God’s Son. God’s goal is for us to become mature adults—to be fully grown, measured by the standard of the fullness of Christ. As a result, we aren’t supposed to be infants any longer who can be tossed and blown around by every wind that comes from teaching with deceitful scheming and the tricks people play to deliberately

mislead others. Instead, by speaking the truth with love, let's grow in every way into Christ, who is the head. The whole body grows from him, as it is joined and held together by all the supporting ligaments. The body makes itself grow in that it builds itself up with love as each one does its part.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Gone on Vocation"

Revs. Mitch & Sue Trigger

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC

"Im Abendrot"
(*"In the Glow of Evening"*)

Music by Franz Schubert (1797–1828)

German Librettist, Karl Lappe

Andrew Alka, tenor
*How lovely is your world,
Father, in its golden radiance
when your glory descends
and paints the dust with glitter;
when the red light that shines from the clouds
falls silently upon my window.*

*Could I complain? Could I be apprehensive?
Could I lose faith in you and in myself?
No, I already bear your heaven
here within my heart.
And this heart, before it breaks,
still drinks in the fire and savours the light.*

Translation © Richard Wigmore
author of *Schubert: The Complete Song Texts* (Schirmer Books)
provided via Oxford International Song Festival (www.oxfordsong.org).

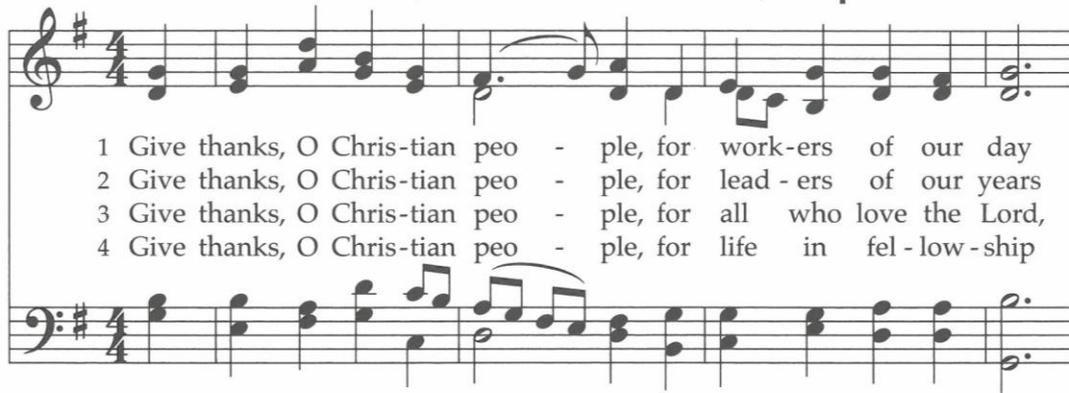
Sending

*HYMN 644

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"Give Thanks, O Christian People"

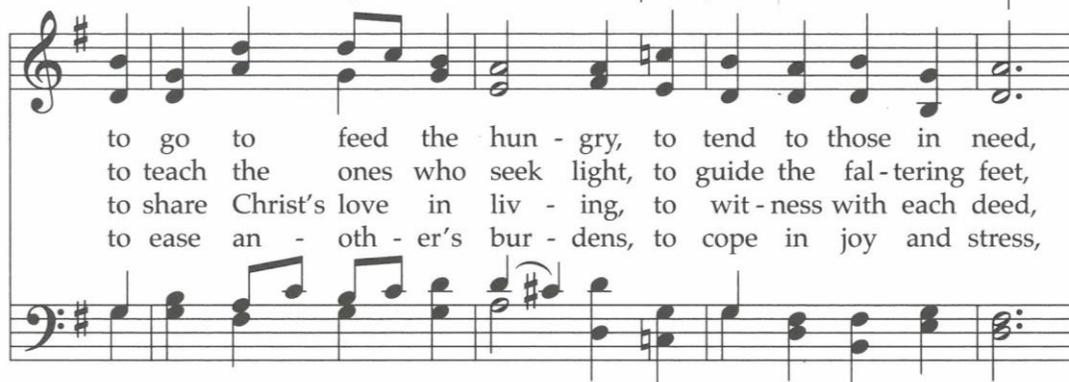
Give Thanks, O Christian People 644



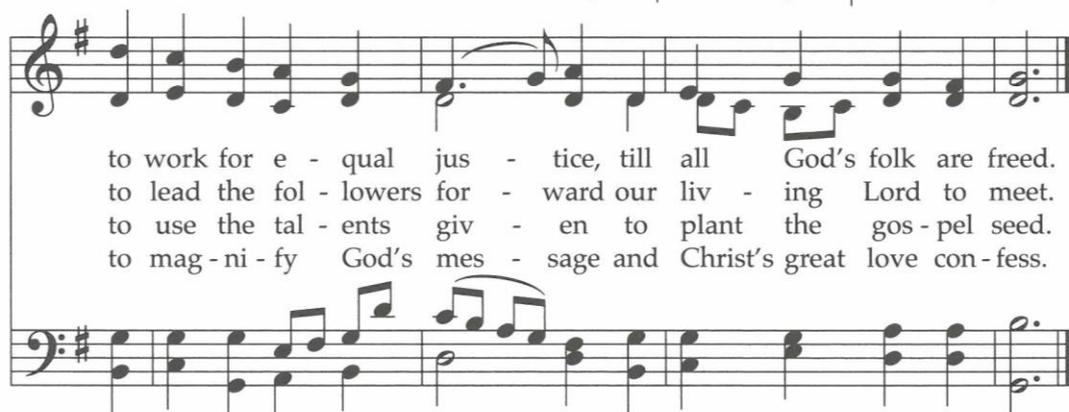
1 Give thanks, O Chris-tian peo - ple, for work-ers of our day
 2 Give thanks, O Chris-tian peo - ple, for lead - ers of our years
 3 Give thanks, O Chris-tian peo - ple, for all who love the Lord,
 4 Give thanks, O Chris-tian peo - ple, for life in fel - low - ship



who heed the call to ser - vice and make it their life's way
 who live to share with oth - ers our joy when Christ ap - pears,
 who live each day be - liev - ing in God's e - ter - nal Word:
 with all who trust our Sav - ior their serv - ing to e - quip:



to go to feed the hun - gry, to tend to those in need,
 to teach the ones who seek light, to guide the fal - tering feet,
 to share Christ's love in liv - ing, to wit - ness with each deed,
 to ease an - oth - er's bur - dens, to cope in joy and stress,



to work for e - qual jus - tice, till all God's folk are freed.
 to lead the fol - lowers for - ward our liv - ing Lord to meet.
 to use the tal - ents giv - en to plant the gos - pel seed.
 to mag - ni - fy God's mes - sage and Christ's great love con - fess.

This text was written by a Presbyterian director of Christian education in Washington, DC, to honor the ministry of a colleague who was leaving the area. It is an effective reminder that God's people serve in many vocations and ministries. The tune adapts a secular German song.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Toccata”
Linda Dover, organist

by William Held

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

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