



# GRACE COVENANT

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship   February 8, 2026   9:30am  
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

### 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*

#### PRELUDE

“Give Me Oil in My Lamp”  
Chancel Choir with Praise Team & GCPC Brass

arr. Mary McDonald

*Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning  
Give me oil in my lamp, I pray  
Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning  
Keep me burning till the break of day*

*Sing hosanna, sing hosanna  
Sing hosanna to the King*

*Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising  
Give me joy in my heart, I pray  
Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising  
Keep me praising till the break of day*

*Give me peace in my heart, keep me loving  
Give me peace in my heart, I pray  
Give me peace in my heart, keep me loving  
Keep me loving till the break of day*

*Give me love in my heart, keep me serving  
Give me love in my heart, I pray  
Give me love in my heart, keep me serving  
Keep me serving till the break of day*

*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 & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Karen Wright

### INTROIT

“Welcome All People”

C.E. Walz

Joy Singers

Emily Hussey & Hilary Schmidt, co-directors

Zoey Wetzig & Landon Wilson, chimes

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Praise the Lord!

ALL: **Happy are those who fear the Lord, who delight greatly in God’s commandments.**

ONE: They rise in the darkness as a light for others;

ALL: **They are gracious, merciful, and righteous.**

ONE: We come to worship the God whose goodness is meant to be heard and seen.

ALL: **Like a song that lingers, like light that cannot be hidden. Let us worship God together with heart, voice, and life.**

### \*HYMN 409

“God Is Here!”

ABBOT’S LEIGH

## GATHERING

409

## God Is Here!

1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to  
 2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our  
 3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the  
 4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an

of - fer praise and prayer; may we find in  
 life - long need of grace; here are ta - ble,  
 Shep - herd's flock and fold; here as bread and  
 age of change and doubt keep us faith - ful

full - er mea - sure what it is in Christ we share.  
 font, and pul - pit; here the cross has cen - tral place.  
 wine are tak - en, Christ sus - tains us as of old.  
 to the gos - pel; help us work your pur - pose out.

Commissioned for the dedication of a renovated worship space in Austin, Texas, this text is one of the few to devote attention to how customary church features facilitate worship. The tune was composed in wartime Britain to replace a Haydn tune tainted by Nazi associations.

TEXT: Fred Pratt Green, 1979, rev. 1988  
 MUSIC: Cyril Vincent Taylor, 1941  
*Text © 1979 Hope Publishing Company  
 Music © 1942, ren. 1970 Hope Publishing Company*

ABBOT'S LEIGH  
 8.7.8.7.D

GATHERING

Here, as in the world a - round us, all our  
 Here in hon - es - ty of preach-ing, here in  
 Here the ser - vants of the Ser - vant seek in  
 Here, in this day's ded - i - ca - tion, all we

var - ied skills and arts wait the com - ing  
 si - lence, as in speech, here, in new - ness  
 wor - ship to ex - plore what it means in  
 have to give, re - ceive: we, who can - not

of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.  
 and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.  
 dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.  
 live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

CALL TO CONFESION

Emily Nelson Dixon

Jesus calls us the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Yet we confess that too often we blend in rather than stand out, choosing silence over truth, comfort over courage. Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin together.

PRAYER OF CONFESION (*Together*)

**Gracious God, You call us to lives that add flavor and bring light, yet we confess that we often dull the sharp edges of faith. We hide what you have given us, afraid to be seen, afraid to be heard. We neglect the weightier matters of your law — justice, mercy, and faithfulness — and settle for what is easy or familiar.**

**Forgive us when our lives fall out of tune with your love. Restore us, so that our words, our actions, and even our silence may reflect your grace. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

MUSICAL ASSURANCE

"Gratitude"

Nicole Nordeman

Carrie Devries, solo

*Send some rain, would you send some rain? 'Cause the earth is dry and needs to drink again  
And the sun is high and we are sinking in the shade*

*Would you send a cloud, thunder long and loud?  
Let the sky grow black and send some mercy down.  
Surely you can see that we are thirsty and afraid*

*But maybe not, not today  
Maybe You'll provide in other ways  
And if that's the case ...*

*We'll give thanks to you with gratitude for lessons learned in how to thirst for you;  
How to bless the very sun that warms our face if you never send us rain.  
Daily bread, give us daily bread. Bless our bodies, keep our children fed  
Fill our cups, then fill them up again tonight  
Wrap us up and warm us through, tucked away beneath our sturdy roofs  
Let us slumber safe from danger's view this time*

*Or maybe not, not today  
Maybe You'll provide in other ways  
And if that's the case ...*

*We'll give thanks to you with gratitude. A lesson learned to hunger after you;  
That a starry sky offers a better view, if no roof is overhead;  
And if we never taste that bread  
Oh, the differences that often are between  
Everything we want and what we really need  
So grant us peace, Jesus, grant us peace. Move our hearts to hear a single beat  
Between alibis and enemies tonight.*

*Or maybe not, not today  
Peace might be another world away  
And if that's the case ...*

*We'll give thanks to you with gratitude, for lessons learned in how to trust in you  
That we are blessed beyond what we could ever dream  
In abundance or in need...And if You never grant us peace ...  
But, Jesus, would You please ...*

## 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.)*

## SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

ONE: May the peace of Christ be with you.

**ALL: And also with you and all others!**

## CHILDREN'S RESPONSE

“Everybody’s Got a Place in the Choir”  
Celebration! Singers & Keith Langabee, drums

Greg Gilpin

*All God’s children got a place in the choir.  
Sing, “Hallelujah!” Everybody’s got a place in the choir.  
I’m gonna sing and shout, gonna clap my hands, gonna lift my voice to glory!  
Come and join me, take your place in the choir!*

## Equipping

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

### Psalm 112 (NRSVue)

Barbara Douglas

Praise the Lord!

Happy are those who fear the Lord,  
who greatly delight in his commandments.

Their descendants will be mighty in the land;  
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

Wealth and riches are in their houses,  
and their righteousness endures forever.

They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright;  
they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.

It is well with those who deal generously and lend,  
who conduct their affairs with justice.

For the righteous will never be moved;  
they will be remembered forever.

They are not afraid of evil tidings;  
their hearts are firm, secure in the Lord.

Their hearts are steady; they will not be afraid;  
in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.

They have distributed freely; they have given to the poor;

their righteousness endures forever;  
their horn is exalted in honor.  
The wicked see it and are angry;  
they gnash their teeth and melt away;  
the desire of the wicked comes to nothing.

## ANTHEM

### “You Are Not Alone”

Molly Ijames

*\*Commissioned by Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, this anthem is dedicated to honoring  
the many years of faithful service of retired Music Director, Rebecca Prater.\**

Chancel Choir

*When the sun spills glory on the road ahead,  
or when looming rainclouds in the sky are spread,  
every path is charted, every step is known,  
I am walking with you; You are not alone.*

*Do not be afraid, my beloved child,  
do not be dismayed, I am still your God.  
I will never leave you; trust the truth you know:  
I will journey with you everywhere you go*

*When the shadows deepen in the moonless night,  
And the mist surrounds you, hiding stars from sight,  
With the dark descending, dimming all you see,  
Look up, my beloved, lift your eyes to Me.*

*When the winds of summer freshen youthful days,  
When the autumn splendors, fill midlife with praise.  
When the snows of winter burden age with care,  
Through each turning season, you will find me there.*

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

### Matthew 5:13–20

“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled underfoot.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke

of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

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

SERMON

“Be Salty”

Rev. Karen Wright

HYMN 641

“When in Our Music God Is Glorified”

ENGELBERG

## ADORATION

## 641 When in Our Music God Is Glorified

1 When in our mu - sic God is glo - ri - fied,  
 2 How of - ten, mak - ing mu - sic, we have found  
 3 So has the church, in lit - ur - gy and song,  
 4 And did not Je - sus sing a psalm that night  
 5 Let ev - ery in - stru - ment be tuned for praise!

and ad - o - ra - tion leaves no room for pride,  
 a new di - men - sion in the world of sound,  
 in faith and love, through cen - tu - ries of wrong,  
 when ut - most e - vil strove a - gainst the light?  
 Let all re - joice who have a voice to raise!

it is as though the whole cre - a - tion cried:  
 as wor - ship moved us to a more pro - found  
 borne wit - ness to the truth in ev - ery tongue:  
 Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight:  
 And may God give us faith to sing al - ways:

1-4 Am G Dsus D 5 Am G

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

Written to supply this tune with words suitable for occasions celebrating music, this text explores how human song gives voice to creation, how music can convey new insight, how sung faith has kept the church authentic, how Jesus relied on the psalms, and how sound can be praise.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD's PRAYER

### A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

#### OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC

“Ballade”  
Charter Ringers

Arnold Sherman

#### Sending

#### \*SONG TO SEND

“Start a Fire”  
Praise Team/All

by Mosley, Mattson & Lowry

*This world can be cold and bitter~ Feels like we're in the dead of winter  
Waiting on something better. But am I really gonna hide forever?*

*Over and over again, I hear your voice in my head  
Let your light shine, let your light shine for all to see*

**Start a fire in my soul. Fan the flame and make it grow  
So there's no doubt or denying  
Let it burn so brightly that everyone around can see  
That it's you, that it's you that we need  
Start a fire in me**

*You only need a spark to start a whole blaze~ It only takes a little faith.  
Let it start right here in this place so these old walls will never be the same  
Over and over again, I hear your voice in my head  
They need to know, I need to go. Spirit won't you fall on my heart!*

**Start a fire in my soul. Fan the flame and make it grow  
So there's no doubt or denying  
Let it burn so brightly that everyone around can see  
That it's you, that it's you that we need  
Start a fire in me**

*You are the fire. You are the flame. You are the light on the darkest day  
We have the hope. We bear your name. We carry the news that  
you have come to save! Only you can save~*

**Start a fire in my soul. Fan the flame and make it grow  
So there's no doubt or denying**

Let it burn so brightly that everyone around can see  
That it's you, that it's you that we need  
Start a fire in me

Start a fire in me

You are the fire, You are the flame  
You are the light on the darkest day  
Start a fire in me

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Karen Wright

POSTLUDE

“Go Out with Joy”  
Chancel Choir with Praise Team & GCPC Brass & Percussion

Isaiah 55:12, 13

*For you shall go out with joy, be led forth with peace,  
The mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing,  
And all the trees, the trees shall clap their hands.*

*Pine trees shall shoot up in place of the camel thorn,  
Myrtles instead of briars; All this shall win the Lord a great name, a sign for all time.*

*\*Stand in body or spirit*

GOD'S PEACE TO YOU

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### **Joy! Singers**

*Hilary Schmidt & Emily Hussey, co-directors*

Drake Cabe, Rowan Cabe, Gilbert Dixon, Josie Noren, Wyatt Schendel, Abby Schmidt, Bristol Sellers, Weston Sellers, Zoey Wetzig, Landon Wilson

### **Celebration! Singers**

*Pam Kelly, director – Angela Krug, accompanist, Katie Hearn & Kieth Langabee, asst. Directors Eloise Armbrecht, Margo Armbrecht, Henry Frye, Abel Frye, Kamden Frye, Charlotte Hearn, Mallory Hearn, Aidan Hussey, Liam Hussey, Evie Schmidt, James Schmidt, Magnolia Sellers, Max Soule, Grant Stromberg, Nolan Tamke, Quinn Tamke, Sarah Wright, Lucas Wright*

### **Chancel Choir**

*Patrick O'Halloran, director – Linda Dover, accompanist*

Anne Hirner, Anne Stroud, Barbara Douglas, Bill Turner, Bob Dover, Cal Sweeten, Cindy Schendel, Chris Lindsay, Connie Richards, Conor Schesser, Diane Hevener, Edwin Fukunaga, Ellin Schoenfeld, Emily Dixon, Esme Dixon, Gene Wilson, Harold Frye, Jim Kelly, Karen Kesler, Kathy Bures, Kathy Williams, Keith Langabee, Kelly Scarborough, Lara Schesser, Lauren Bond, Linda Bruns, Mac Fechting, Melanie Townsend, Pam Kelly, Paul Bruns, Rob Schendel, Susan Hayden, Terri Monrad

### **Charter Ringers**

*Chris Krug and Celia Nicholas, co-directors*

Linda Bruns, Kathy Bures, Edwin Fukunaga, Katie Hearn, Donna Heer, Cheryl Johnson, Jim Kelly, Angela Krug, Keith Langabee, Lynn Long, Lara Schesser, Cal Sweeten, Jason Walker, Mikki Walker

### **Praise Team**

*Carrie Devries, director*

Carrie Devries, Cal Sweeten, Jami Howe, Donna Goeckler, Miles McDonald, Andrew Sellars, Stephen Wing, Miles McDonald, Jill Endaya-Allen, Darryl Prater

### **GCPC Brass & Percussion**

*Darryl Prater, director*

Darryl Prater, Lara Schesser, Lane Benton, Karen Wright, Christopher Cabe



**GRACE COVENANT**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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