



GRACE COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship February 18, 2024 9:30am
First Sunday in Lent

Gathering

PRELUDE "Chorale Prelude: For the Beauty of the Earth" by Claude T. Smith
GCPC Orchestra arr. Joseph Benjamin Earp
Pam Smith Kelly, director

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. Karen Wright

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to examine our souls,

ALL: for we have not only met temptation, we have felt its grip.

ONE: The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to mend our ways,

ALL: for we have not only committed sin, we have felt its sting.

ONE: The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to rend our hearts,

ALL: for we have not only witnessed forgiveness, we have felt its power.

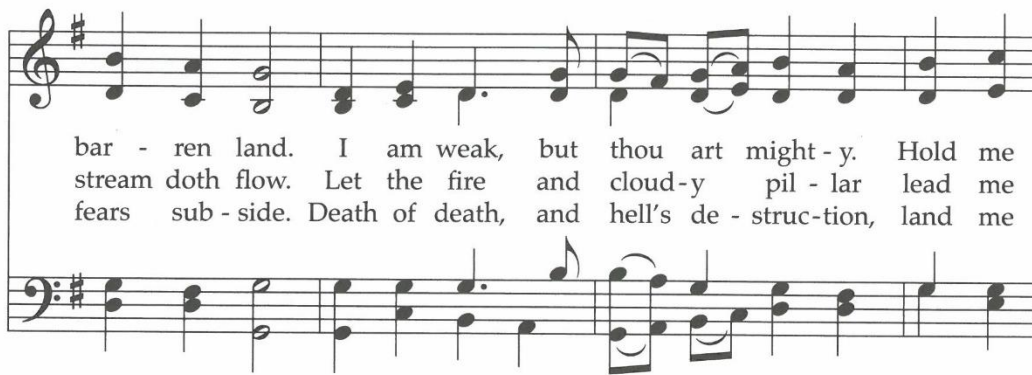
O, come, let us worship the Lord!

*HYMN 65 "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" CWM RHONDDA

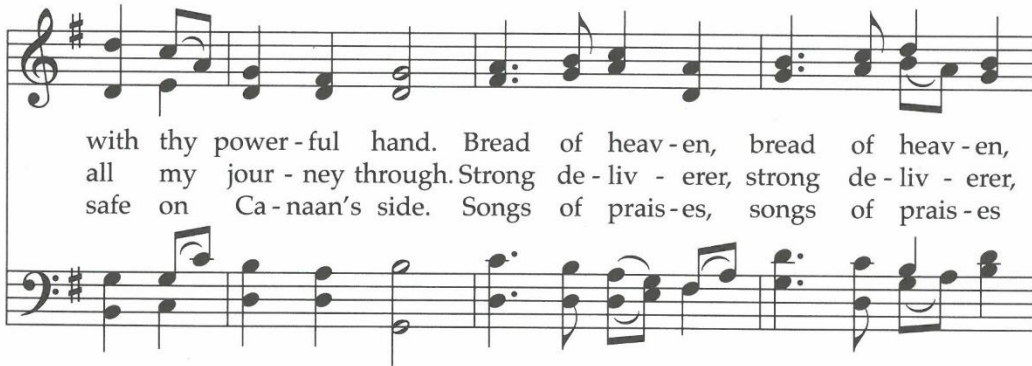
Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah 65



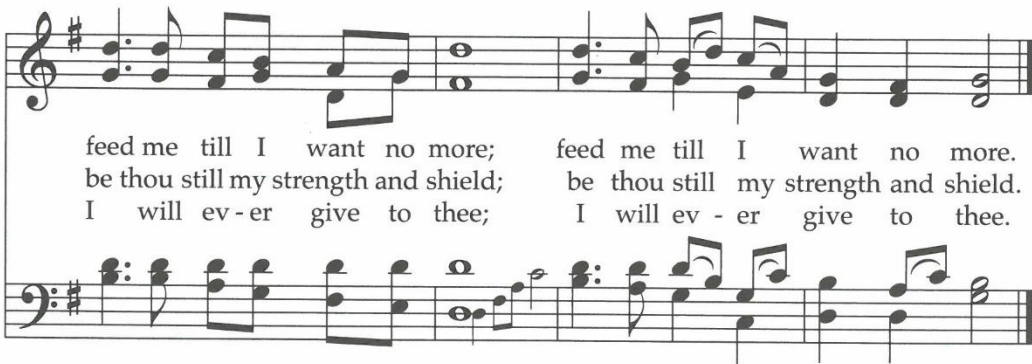
1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y. Hold me
 stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
 fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with thy power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es



feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.
 be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

Few Welsh hymns are as well known or loved as this 18th-century text that did not gain its popular tune until the early 20th century. In both its original text and in English translation, it is a stirring hymn of pilgrimage filled with vivid imagery from Hebrew Scripture.

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.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Karen Wright

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

Almighty God, you despise nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts, that, truly repenting of our sins and acknowledging our brokenness, we may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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 23

"God, You Spin the Whirling Planets"

PLEADING SAVIOR

God, You Spin the Whirling Planets 23

Capo 1: (D) (G) (D) (G) (A) (D) (G)
 E^b A^b E^b A^b B^b E^b A^b



1 God, you spin the whirl-ing plan-ets, fill the seas and
 2 You have called us to be faith-ful in our life and
 3 God, your word is still cre-at-ing, call-ing us to

(D) (A) (D) (Bm) (G) (D) (G) (A) (D)
 E^b B^b E^b Cm A^b E^b A^b B^b E^b



spread the plain, mold the moun-tains, fash-ion blos-soms, call forth
 min-is-try. We re-spond in grate-ful wor-ship joined in
 life made new. Now re-veal to us fresh vis-tas where there's

(G) (D) (A) (D) (G) (D) (A)
 A^b E^b B^b E^b A^b E^b B^b



sun-shine, wind, and rain. We, cre-at-ed in your im-age,
 one com-mu-ni-ty. When we blur your gra-cious im-age,
 work to dare and do. Keep us clear of all dis-tor-tion.

(D) (Bm)(F#m) (G)(A) (D) (G)
 E^b Cm Gm A^b B^b E^b A^b



would a true re-flec-tion be of your jus-tice,
 fo-cus us and make us whole. Healed and strength-ened
 Pol-ish us with lov-ing care. Thus, new crea-tures

(D) (G) (A) (D) (G) (Em) (D) (A) (D)
 E^b A^b B^b E^b A^b Fm E^b B^b E^b



grace, and mer-cy and the truth that makes us free.
 as your peo-ple, we move on-ward toward your goal.
 in your im-age, we'll pro-claim Christ ev-ery-where.

This text was written for the 1979 National Meeting of United Presbyterian Women, whose theme, "In the Image of God," is variously considered here as reflection, focus, distortion, and polishing for clarity. The words are well set to an anonymous 19th-century American tune.

Equipping

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 9:8–17 (NRSVue)

Rev. Karen Wright

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh, and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

ANTHEM

“The Kingdom”

by André J. Thomas

Chancel & Exaltation! Singers

based on Romans 14:17

Gay Lee Ludwig-Bonney, string bass & Chris Culp, djembe

Righteousness, peace, joy in the Holy Ghost.

Righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost, that's the kingdom of God.

Don't you want to be a part of the kingdom? Come on ev'rybody!

Oh, yes, there's joy in the kingdom! Oh, yes, there's peace in the kingdom!

Oh, yes, there's love in the kingdom! Come on ev'rybody!

The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness, fullness thereof.

We are part of the earth, and it is part of us.

The perfumed flowers are our sisters, the deer, the horse, the great eagle.

These are our brothers. Oh, all things are connected.

Rivers our brothers, earth our mother. The earth is the Lord's.

Righteousness, peace, joy in the Holy Ghost.

Righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost, that's the kingdom of God,

that's the kingdom of God, that's the kingdom of God!

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 1:9–15 (NRSVue)

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tested by Satan, and he was with the wild beasts, and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Stepping Into the Space in Between”

Rev. Karen Wright

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

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC

“Nocturne”
GCPC Orchestra
Pam Smith Kelly, director

by Claude T. Smith
arr. Joseph Benjamin Earp

[Sending](#)

*HYMN 450

“Be Thou My Vision”

SLANE

Be Thou My Vision

Capo 1: (D) E^b (G) A^b (D/F#) E^b/G (A7) B^b7 (D) E^b



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true Word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;
 4 High King of Heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

(A) B^b (D) E^b (G) A^b (A) B^b



naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

(G) A^b (D) E^b (F#m7) Gm7 (G) A^b (A) B^b



thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tower;
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

(Bm) Cm (D/F#) E^b/G (G) A^b (D) E^b



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heaven - ward, O Power of my power.
 High King of Heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

These stanzas are selected from a 20th-century English poetic version of an Irish monastic prayer dating to the 10th century or before. They are set to an Irish folk melody that has proved popular and easily sung despite its lack of repetition and its wide range.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Karen Wright

POSTLUDE

“Chorale Prelude: All Things Bright and Beautiful” by Claude T. Smith
GCPC Orchestra arr. Joseph Benjamin Earp
Pam Smith Kelly, director

Today's playing of each GCPC Orchestra piece is its World Premiere presentation.

GOD'S PEACE TO YOU

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GCPC Orchestra

Pam Smith Kelly, director

Susan Culp, Jani Scheppers, Debbie Stewart, *flute*

Chris Culp, *oboe*

Bob Dover, Amy Jantz, Lauren Bond, Wanda Temm, Robin Thompson, *clarinet*

Miles McDonald, *alto saxophone*

Richard Rogers, *tenor saxophone*

Pat Setser, Natalie Walker, *bass clarinet*

Lisa England, *bassoon*

Russ Thompson, Jana Porter, Darryl Prater, Kevin Schwartz, *trumpet*

Jim Kelly, Ellin Schoenfeld, Diana Paris, Sherry Berard, *horn*

David Roth, David England, *trombone*

Mike Hockley, Lara Schesser, *baritones*

Brent Herdman, Michael Watts, Paul Weissenborn, *tuba*

Becky Showalter, Chris Lindsay, Edwin Fukunaga, *violin*

Gay Lee Ludwig-Bonney, *string bass*

Ken Eberhart, Keith Langabee, Chris Culp, *percussion*

Linda Dover, *piano and organ*



GRACE COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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