

GRACE COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11100 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS 66210 ♦ 913-345-1256 ♦ gcpc.org

Service of Worship March 14, 2021 10:00am 4th Sunday In Lent

Gathering

PRELUDE

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"
Linda Dover, organ

arr. Robert Lau

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (spoken together)

We worship the God who inhabits our world and indwells our lives.

We need not look up to find God, we need only to look around:

within ourselves, beyond ourselves, into the eyes of another.

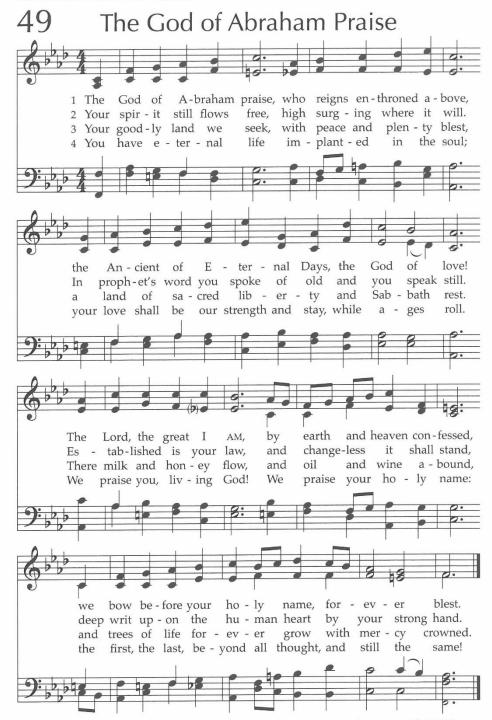
We need not listen for a distant thunder to find God,

we need only listen to the music of life,

the words of children, the questions of the curious, the rhythm of a heartbeat.

We worship the God who inhabits our world and who indwells our lives.

GOD'S COVENANT WITH ISRAEL



Shaped by its traditional Jewish tune, this selection of English stanzas conveys the essence of the *Yigdal*, a canticle based on a medieval Hebrew statement of faith about the nature of God and often used in synagogue worship, alternately chanted by cantor and congregation.

A TIME WITH STEWART

PRAYER FOR REFLECTION (video)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE & SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you and all others!

HYMN 777

"How Long, O Lord"

HOW LONG, O LORD



This paraphrase of Psalm 13 convincingly captures the psalm's initial sense of self-centered desperation. Then, like sunlight breaking through clouds of despair, this mood is suddenly dispelled by an awareness of God's mercy and love, which is so much greater than we can imagine.

TEXT: Barbara Woollett, 1990
MUSIC: Christopher Norton, 1990
Fext © 1990 The Jubilate Group (admin. Hope Publishing Company)
Music © 1993 HarperCollins Religious (admin. U.S.A. and Canada Music Services)

HOW LONG, O LORD 8.6.8.8.6

Equipping

GOSPEL LESSON

John 3:14-21

(Common English Bible)

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so must the Human One be lifted up so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life. God didn't send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him isn't judged; whoever doesn't believe in him is already judged, because they don't believe in the name of God's only Son. "This is the basis for judgment: The light came into the world, and people loved darkness more than the light, for their actions are evil. All who do wicked things hate the light and don't come to the light for fear that their actions will be exposed to the light. Whoever does the truth comes to the light so that it can be seen that their actions were done in God."

SUNG SCRIPTURE

"God So Loved the World" Chancel Singers I Music by John Stainer Text from John 3:16–17

Liz Chandler, Terri Monrad, Sue Trigger, Connie Richards, Gene Wilson, Mitch Trigger, and Joe Hoffman (See text from above Scripture)

SERMON

"Promises in the Dark"

Rev. Mitch Trigger

SUNG RESPONSE

"Abide With Me"
Chancel Singers III

arr. Molly Ijames Words by Henry F. Lyte

Lauren Bond, Karen Kesler, Susan Sutherland, Susan Hayden, David Sutherland, Linda Bruns, Paul Bruns, and Bob Dover Abide with me, fast falls the eventide; the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide! When other helpers fail and comforts flee, help of the helpless, O abide with me.

> I need thy presence ev'ry passing hour; what but thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r? Who, like thy self, my guide and stay can be? Through cloud and sunshine O abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes; shine through the gloom and point me to the skies. Heav'n's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee, in life, in death, abide O Lord with me. Amen.

Sending

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN 177

"I Will Come to You" (Solos on verses; All Refrain)

YOU ARE MINE



Presuming to speak in the voice of God, as this song does, can only be done with integrity if the singers understand their words as an expression of what they believe about God's nature and God's intentions. It is an occasion for affirming faith, not for wishful thinking.

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Christa, Du Lamm Gottes" (Lamb of God, Our Savior) Linda Dover, organ

J.S. Bach

GOD'S PEACE TO YOU

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