



## GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship October 20, 2024 9:30am  
Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

### 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

“His Eye Is on the Sparrow” by Civilla Martin & Charles Gabriel  
Wind Ensemble – Pam Smith Kelly, director arr. Clifton Taylor  
*I sing because I’m happy, I sing because I’m free,  
for his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.*

*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

#### INTROIT *(seated)*

“God Is So Good”  
(All Sing)

GOD IS SO GOOD

**God is so good; God is so good;  
God is so good; God’s so good to me.**

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

**Group 1: Worship the Lord with gladness!**

**Group 2: Come into God’s presence with singing!**

Leader: Know this! The Lord is God.

**Group 1: Know this! We belong to the Lord who made us.**

**Group 2: Know this! We are God’s people, and the sheep of God’s pasture.**

Leader: So, enter God's gates with thanksgiving,

**Group 1: Come into the holy courts with praise.**

**Group 2: Give thanks to God and bless God's holy name.**

Leader: For the Lord is good;

**Group 1: God's steadfast love endures forever,**

**Group 2: God's faithfulness is for all generations.**

\*HYMN 385

"All People That on Earth Do Dwell"

OLD HUNDREDTH

# All People That on Earth Do Dwell 385

(Psalm 100)

1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing to the  
 2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; with - out our  
 3 O en - ter then his gates with praise; ap - proach with  
 4 For why? The Lord our God is good; his mer - cy

Lord with cheer - ful voice; him serve with mirth, his  
 aid he did us make; we are his folk; he  
 joy his courts un - to; praise, laud, and bless his  
 is for - ev - er sure; his truth at all times

praise forth tell. Come ye be - fore him and re - joice.  
 doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.  
 name al - ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.  
 firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.

In a pairing that began in 1561, this paraphrase of Psalm 100 by a Scot is set to a tune that a French composer originally created for Psalm 134 in the Genevan Psalter of 1551. They have appeared together in nearly every comprehensive English-language hymnal since then.

## 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

We come before God not as despised sinners, but as beloved children. With the confidence of the children of God let us humbly confess our sin.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

**Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression. Have mercy on us Lord; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Do not fear, says the Lord, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name; you are mine. God is doing a new thing; now it springs forth! By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

## SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

**ONE:** May the peace of Christ be with you.

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

\*HYMN 659

“Know That God Is Good”  
Karen Wright, leader & djembe

MUNGU NI MWEMA

THANKSGIVING

# 659 Know That God Is Good

*Mungu ni mwema*

1 Know that God is good. Know that  
2 Hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le,  
Mu - ngu ni mwe - ma. Mu - ngu

God is good. Know that God is good;  
hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah,  
ni mwe - ma. Mu - ngu ni mwe - ma,

God is good; God is good.  
hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.  
ni mwe - ma, ni mwe - ma.

This engaging song from central Africa is based on an affirmation that recurs in numerous psalms (34:8; 73:1; 100:5; 135:3; 145:9) as well as several other books of the Hebrew Scriptures. Both the brief text (in English, Hebrew, and Shona) and the musical parts are easily learned.

TEXT: Democratic Republic of Congo  
MUSIC: Democratic Republic of Congo; arr. Edo Bumba, 1997  
Music Arr. © Edo Bumba

MUNGU NI MWEMA  
5.5.5.3.3

## Equipping

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Lamentations 3:21–26 (NRSVue)

Cheryl Johnson

But this I call to mind,  
and therefore I have hope:

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,  
his mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.  
“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul,  
“therefore I will hope in him.”

The Lord is good to those who wait for him,  
to the soul that seeks him.  
It is good that one should wait quietly  
for the salvation of the Lord.

### ANTHEM

+“Good” (*The Lord Is Good*)

by Gale Jones Murphy

Chancel & Exaltation! Singers

based on 2 Chronicles 5:13

*Our God is merciful slow to anger. Our God is powerful. God cannot fail.  
Our God is wonderful perfect in all ways, but most of all, the Lord is good.  
God is rest for the weary, defender for the weak,  
God’s salvation, righteousness, our hope, joy, and peace!  
Hallelujah! You are ev’rything we need. The Lord is good!  
The Lord is good, so good!*

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalms 100 (NRSVue)

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.  
Serve the Lord with gladness;  
come into his presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God.  
It is he who made us, and we are his;  
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise.  
Give thanks to him; bless his name.

For the Lord is good;  
his steadfast love endures forever  
and his faithfulness to all generations.

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

SERMON

“Generosity Through the Generations:  
For the Lord Is Good”

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

Eileen Thomson

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC

“Deep River”  
GCPC Wind Ensemble

setting by James Swearingen

[Sending](#)

\*HYMN 39

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

FAITHFULNESS

## 39 Great Is Thy Faithfulness



1 \*Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;  
2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,  
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee.  
sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove  
thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide,

Thou chang - est not; thy com - pas - sions they fail not.  
join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness  
strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row:

As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.  
bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

\*Or "Great is thy faithfulness, O God, Creator."

Written as a meditation on Lamentations 3:22-23, this text is one of the few hymns among the 1200 poems by this Methodist writer and pastor that has gained much currency. The tune that appears here was composed especially for these words, and the pairing has proved enduring.



CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

*Refrain*

Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness!  
오 신 실 하 신 주 오 신 실 하 신 주

Morn - ing by morn - ing, new mer - cies I see.  
날 마 다 자 비 를 베풀 시 며

All I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed.  
일 용 할 모 든 것 내 려 주 시 니

Great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!  
오 신 실 하 신 주 나 의 구 주

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Karen Wright

POSTLUDE

“His Eye Is on the Sparrow” by Civilla Martin & Charles Gabriel

Wind Ensemble – Pam Smith Kelly, director

arr. Clifton Taylor

*Flutes: Katie Hearn, Jani Scheppers, Debbie Stewart*

*Clarinets: Bob Dover, Amy Jantz, Lauren Bond, Edwin Fukunaga*

*Bass Clarinet: Pat Setser and Natalie Walker*

*Bassoon: Lisa England*

*Trumpets: Charles Graves, Russ Thompson, Kevin Schwartz*

*Horns: Jim Kelly, Wendy Kenemer*

*Trombones: David Roth, David England, Karen Wright*

*Baritones: Mike Hockley, Lara Schesser*

*Tubas: Brent Herdman, Paul Weisenborn*

*Percussionists: Jill Endaya-Allen, Keith Langabee*

*\*Stand in body or spirit*

+Today’s anthem, “Good” (*The Lord Is Good*) was donated  
in memory of Jim Adams, husband of Sandy Adams,  
from his memorial fund.

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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