



**GRACE COVENANT**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship August 11, 2024 9:30am  
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering

PRELUDE

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

arr. Michael Raehpour

Charlie Graves, Darryl Prater, & Jim Kelly – Trumpet Trio

*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 —written by Joanna Harade

ONE: Though we may be inclined to brag, let us come together with humility.

**ALL: How good a thing it is when all of God’s people live together in unity.**

ONE: Though we may be tempted to use harsh words, let us come together with gentleness.

**ALL: How good a thing it is when all of God’s people live together in unity.**

ONE: Though we may want everything to happen quickly, let us come together with patience.

**ALL: How good a thing it is when all of God’s people live together in unity.**

ONE: Though the world around often encourages hate, let us come together in love.

**ALL: How good a thing it is when all of God’s people live together in unity.**

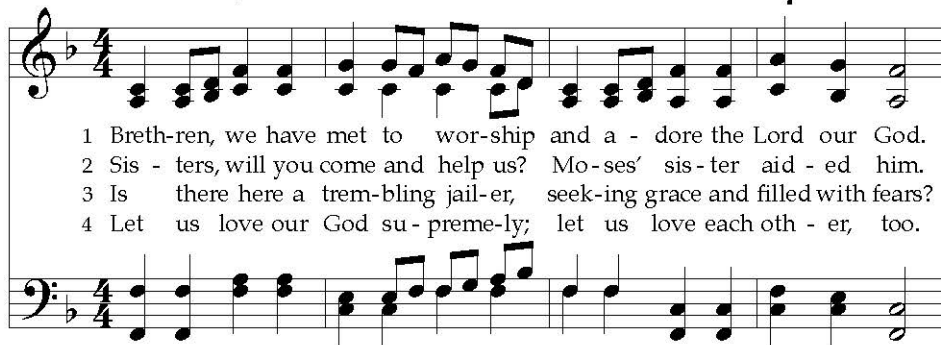
ONE: In humility, gentleness, patience, love, and unity,

**ALL: *Let us worship the God who has called us together.***

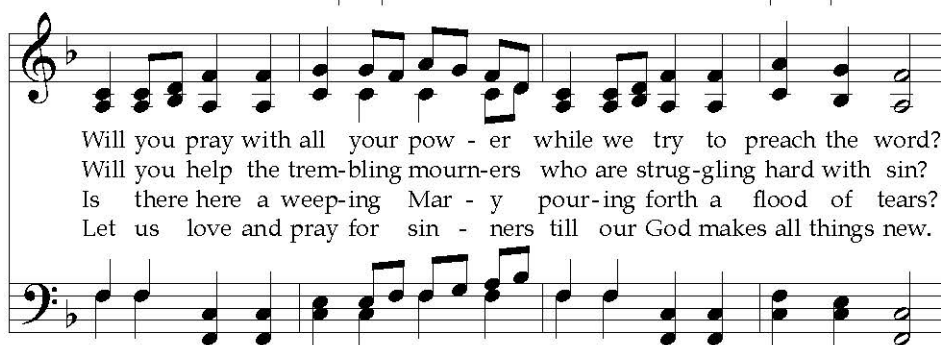
"Brethren, We Have Met to Worship"  
v. 1 High Voices ... v. 2 Low Voices ... vv. 3 & 4 All

GATHERING

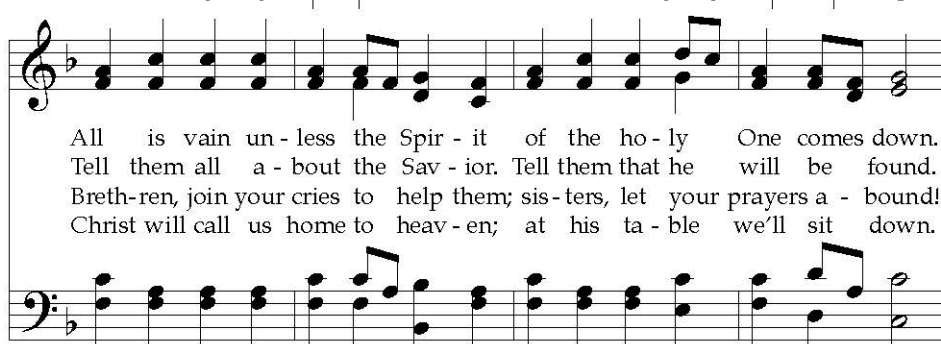
## Brethren, We Have Met to Worship 396




1 Breth-ren, we have met to wor-ship and a - dore the Lord our God.  
2 Sis - ters, will you come and help us? Mo-ses' sis-ter aid - ed him.  
3 Is there here a trem-bling jail-er, seek-ing grace and filled with fears?  
4 Let us love our God su - preme-ly; let us love each oth - er, too.



Will you pray with all your pow - er while we try to preach the word?  
Will you help the trem-bling mourn-ers who are strug-gling hard with sin?  
Is there here a weep-ing Mar - y pour-ing forth a flood of tears?  
Let us love and pray for sin - ners till our God makes all things new.



All is vain un - less the Spir - it of the ho - ly One comes down.  
Tell them all a - bout the Sav - ior. Tell them that he will be found.  
Breth-ren, join your cries to help them; sis-ters, let your prayers a - bound!  
Christ will call us home to heav - en; at his ta - ble we'll sit down.



Breth - ren, pray, and ho - ly man - na will be show-ered all a-round.  
Sis - ters, pray, and ho - ly man - na will be show-ered all a-round.  
Pray, O pray, that ho - ly man - na will be scat-tered all a-round.  
Christ will gird him-self and serve us with sweet man-na all a-round.

This hymn comes out of the early 19th-century southern camp meeting experience, where believers were invited to pray for new converts, often likened to biblical characters such as Paul's jailer (Philippians 1:12-13). As its name shows, the five-note tune was created for this text.

## BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

## 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.)*

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Karen Wright

*A voice is crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

**Merciful God, we confess that we have wandered from your way of truth and life. You call us to share all that we have and work together for the common good, but we hoard up treasures for ourselves and deny others their daily bread. You call us to set the captives free and seek justice for the oppressed, but we live in fear of our neighbors and hide ourselves from our own kin. You call us to walk in the newness of life and to be witnesses to the resurrection, but we dwell in the valley of dry bones and keep silent about your saving love. Forgive us, God of grace. Set us free from sin, death, and fear so that we may serve you with gladness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*Hear the good news: God's love has been poured into our hearts through the gift of the Holy Spirit. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.*

## SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

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

\*HYMN 321

"The Church's One Foundation"

AURELIA

## The Church's One Foundation 321

1 The chur-ch's one foun-da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord.  
 2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,  
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op-pressed,  
 4 Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war,  
 5 Yet she on earth has un - ion with God, the Three in One,

She is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.  
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion: one Lord, one faith, one birth.  
 by schis - ms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,  
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more:  
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won:

From heaven he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride.  
 One ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,  
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"  
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,  
 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we,

With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.  
 and to one hope she press - es, with ev - ery grace en - dued.  
 And soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song,  
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.  
 like them, the meek and low - ly, may live e - ter - nal - ly.

This hymn was one of twelve written by an English curate to affirm the articles of the Apostles' Creed with biblical allusions such as 1 Corinthians 3:11 here. Though not created for this text, the tune was joined to it in 1868, and the two have been inseparable ever since.

## Equipping

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Deuteronomy 31:12–13 (NRSVue)

Anne Stroud

Assemble the people — men, women, and children, as well as the aliens residing in your towns — so that they may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God and to observe diligently all the words of this law and so that their children, who have not known it, may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God, as long as you live in the land that you are crossing over the Jordan to possess.

### ANTHEM

“Sing Community, Sing Peace”

Music by Mark Hayes

Act II from EncoreKC!

Words by Terry York

Pam Smith Kelly, director — Mary Bertoldie, accompanist

*Sister, brother, live in harmony. Same and other, live in harmony.*

*Human fam’ly, in choirs for all to hear and see, sing community, sing peace.*

***(Refrain) Simple song, sacred call; dare to sing and live in peace, and love for all.***

***Against the silence, against the shouting, dare to sing and live in peace and love for all.***

*With your neighbor, live in harmony. With the stranger, live in harmony.*

*With the refugee, in choirs for all to hear and see, sing community, sing peace. (Refrain)*

*For the children, live in harmony. With the frightened, live in harmony.*

*With the enemy, in choirs for all to hear and see, sing community, sing peace. (Refrain)*

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 2:42–47 (NRSVue)

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words

**Thanks be to God!**

### SERMON

“Telling Our Story: Gather”

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.**

## COMMISSIONING OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

### A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

#### OFFERING OF GIFTS & MUSIC “I Carry You in My Heart” Music by Donna Butler Douglas

Words adapted from e. e. cummings & Philippians 1 by Kathy Burdette

Act II from EncoreKC!

Pam Smith Kelly, director – Mary Bertoldie, accompanist

*I carry you in my heart; I carry you in my heart.*

*For your light and love made my soul to sing like the quiet winter warms to spring.*

*And I carry your heart with mine; I carry your heart with mine.*

*I thank my God for ev'ry thought of you.*

*I carry you in my heart; I carry you in my heart.*

*You are part of God's perfect mystery, for the way you live helps me to see.*

*And I carry your heart with mine; I carry your heart with mine.*

*I thank my God for ev'ry thought of you.*

*And this is the root of the root, and this is the bud of the bud  
and the sky of the sky, of a tree called life, which grows and grows.*

*Because of you my heart can love still more.*

*I carry you in my heart. I thank my God for you.*

*For your light and love made my soul to sing like the quiet winter warms to spring.*

*And I carry your heart with mine; I carry your heart with mine.*

*I thank my God for ev'ry thought of you.*

*And because of you my heart can love – still more.*

### Sending

\*HYMN 506

“Look Who Gathers at Christ’s Table”

COPELAND

## 506 Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table!

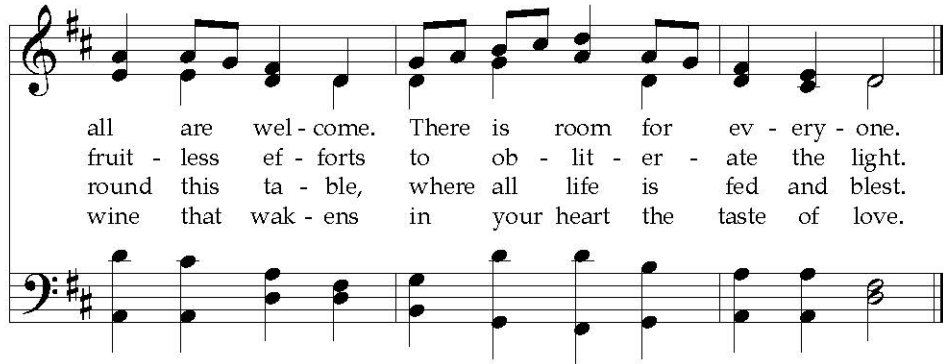
1 Look who gath - ers at Christ's ta - ble! Hear the sto - ries  
 2 Clouds of light sur - round the ta - ble; an - cient fol - low -  
 3 Their sad sto - ries are re - peat - ed in a thou - sand  
 4 Bring your joy and bring your sad - ness, and pre - pare to

that they bring. Some are weep - ing; some are laugh - ing;  
 ers ap - pear, saints con - fess - ing how they wres - tled  
 dif - ferent ways, but they share one thing in com - mon:  
 be sur - prised by the host whose hands are wound - ed,

some have songs they want to sing. Oth - ers ask why they're in -  
 with their guilt, their doubt and fear. Pe - ter tells of his de -  
 they all end in thanks and praise for the host who has in -  
 who will o - pen wide your eyes when he bless - es bread and

vit - ed, bur - dened by the wrong they've done. Christ in - sists they  
 ny - ing Christ was ev - er in his sight; Paul re - lates his  
 vit - ed north and south and east and west to con - verge a -  
 breaks it— truth and man - na from a - bove!—and then pass - es

This text celebrates the radical hospitality that characterizes Christ's welcome, which transcends time and reaches in all directions (Matthew 8:11/ Luke 13:29). Saints of old are, like us, people in need of forgiveness, and the response to such pardon is "thanks and praise."



all are wel - come. There is room for ev - ery - one.  
 fruit - less ef - forts to ob - lit - er - ate the light.  
 round this ta - ble, where all life is fed and blest.  
 wine that wak - ens in your heart the taste of love.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Karen Wright

POSTLUDE

Linda Dover, organist

## GOD'S PEACE TO YOU

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 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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