



GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship February 16, 2025 9:30am
Sixth 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

“Andante Tranquillo”

by Felix Mendelssohn

“To a Wild Rose”

by Edward MacDowell

Linda Dover, organist

arr. Anthea Smith

*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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: With joy and delight we gather to praise our Holy God!
With reverence and awe, we approach our Gracious God.

**ALL: We give thanks that God understands us, and does not
want us to be that which we were never created to become!**

ONE: Creating God, You call us to worship you as your children,
made in your image, with a divine spark within each of us.

**ALL: We give thanks that God understands us, and encourages
us to grow in our knowledge of God’s awesome holiness.**

ONE: Glorious God, You invite us to sink our roots deep into Your love
and holiness, and to grow stronger each day in our faith in You.

**ALL: We give thanks that God understands us, and that the fruits
we bear are consistent with what God created us to become.
We gather to worship and praise our supporting and caring God.**

JESUS CHRIST: RESURRECTION

249 Because You Live, O Christ

1 Be - cause you live, O Christ, the gar - den of the world has come to
 2 Be - cause you live, O Christ, the spir - it bird of hope is freed for
 3 Be - cause you live, O Christ, the rain - bow of your peace will span cre -

flow - er; the dark - ness of the tomb is flood - ed with your
 fly - ing; our ca - ges of de - spair no lon - ger keep us
 a - tion; the col - ors of your love will draw all hu - man -

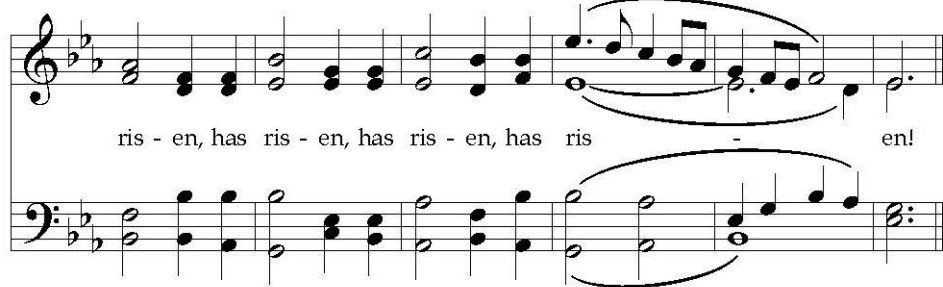
Refrain

res - ur - rec - tion pow - er.
 closed and life - de - ny - ing. The stone has rolled a - way and death can -
 kind to ad - o - ra - tion.

not im - pris - on! O sing this Eas - ter day, for Je - sus Christ has

This New Zealand author's text contains no familiar images of springtime to bolster its message, because Easter in the Southern Hemisphere comes in autumn. This hymn resulted both from her dissatisfaction with existing hymns and from her love of this exuberant Dutch tune.

JESUS CHRIST: RESURRECTION



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

Emily Nelson-Dixon

The grace of God overflows for us through Christ Jesus. Because we have faith in Christ, we dare to approach God with confidence. Let us confess together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with all that we are, and we have not loved our neighbors nor ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been; amend what we are; and direct what we shall be that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways for the sake of Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. **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!**

155 Raise a Song of Gladness

Jubilate Deo

D G A D G A (chords continue)



Raise a song of glad-ness, peo-ples of the earth.
Ju - bi - la - te De - o om - nis ter - ra.



Christ has come, bring-ing peace, joy to ev - ery heart.
Ser - vi - te Do - mi - no in lae - ti - ti - a.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, joy to ev - ery heart!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, in lae - ti - ti - a!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, joy to ev - ery heart!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, in lae - ti - ti - a!

**May be sung as a canon.*

The Latin text here, for which the musical setting was originally composed, is from Psalm 100:1. The English paraphrase gives this verse a Christian interpretation, much as Isaac Watts did when he paraphrased Psalm 98 to produce "Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come" (see no. 134).

Equipping

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Jeremiah 17:5–10 (NRSVue)

Bond Faulwell

Thus says the Lord:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the Lord.

They shall be like a shrub in the desert
and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.

They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse—
who can understand it?

I the Lord test the mind
and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

ANTHEM

"Christians, We Have Met to Worship"

Lloyd Larson

Chancel & Exaltation! Singers

*Christians, we have met to worship and adore the Lord our God.
Will you pray with all your power as we seek the Living Word?
All is vain unless the Spirit of the Holy One comes down;
Christians, pray and God's great blessing will be showered all around.*

*Let us love our God supremely; let us love each other, too.
Let us love and pray for others till our God makes all things new.
When God calls us home to heaven, at the table we sit down;
There our loving Lord will serve us with great blessings all around.*

*O worship the King, all glorious above; and gratefully sing God's wonderful love.
Christians, we have met to worship and adore the Lord, our God!*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 6:17–26 (NRSVue)

He came down with them and stood on a level place with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases, and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And everyone in the crowd was trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

“Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

“Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

“But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

“Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Half a Bubble Off Plumb”

Rev. Karen Wright

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF DEACONS

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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINISTRY OF IHN

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC

“Adagio”
for the Glass Harmonica
Linda Dover, organist

by W.A. Mozart
arr. E. Power Biggs

Sending

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT

100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

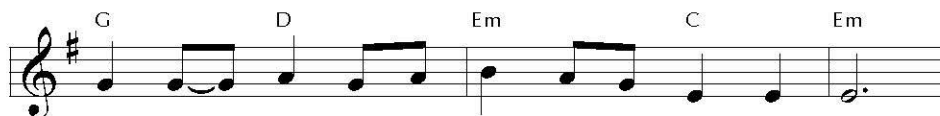
Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



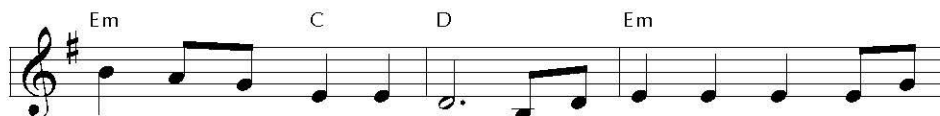
God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



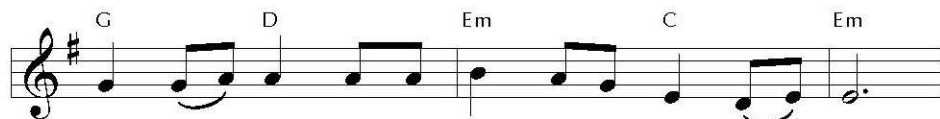
You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the *Magnificat*, Mary's song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46-55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT

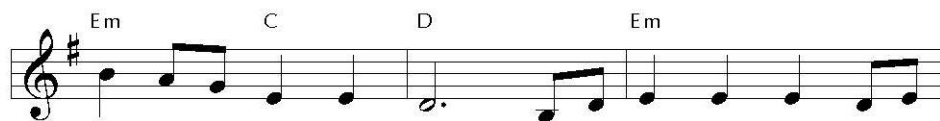


name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

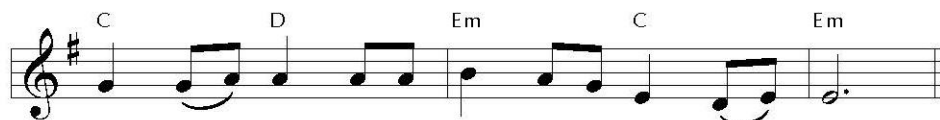
Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Karen Wright

POSTLUDE

“Prelude in F Major”

by J.S. Bach

Linda Dover, organist

**Stand in body or spirit*

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

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GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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