



# GRACE COVENANT

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship January 25, 2026 9:30am

Third Sunday after Epiphany

### Gathering

SONG TO GATHER

“Build My Life”

All — see insert

as recorded by Pat Berrett

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: People of God, the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.  
Those who lived in the land of deep shadow — on them light has shined.

ALL: **Jesus walks along the shores of our ordinary lives and says,  
“Follow me.”**

ONE: He calls us from our nets, our routines, our fears, into the light of  
God’s reign.

ALL: **Come, let us worship the One who calls us by name, who leads us from  
darkness into life.**

\*SONG TO PRAISE

“May the Peoples Praise”

All — see insert

as recorded by

Keith & Kristyn Getty

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Emily Nelson Dixon

The same Jesus who calls disciples also calls us to repentance — to turn from the ways that bind us and toward the light of God’s kingdom. Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin together.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

**Holy and calling God, you shine light into our darkness, yet we confess that we often choose familiar shadows. You call us to follow, but we cling to what feels safe — to our nets of fear, habit, and control. You call us to share in your work of healing and hope, but we hesitate, unsure of where the path will lead. Forgive us when we resist your call. Free us from all that holds us back. Turn us again toward your light, that we may follow Jesus with trust and joy. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. Jesus comes proclaiming good news, calling sinners, healing the broken, and inviting us into new life. In Christ, we are forgiven. We are called again. We are set free to follow.

**ALL: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## 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.)*

## SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

ONE: May the peace of Christ be with you.

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

RESPONSE 583

“Gloria”

Equipping

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 9:1–4

Teresa Ilten

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness

    have seen a great light;  
    those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
        on them light has shined.  
    You have multiplied exultation

you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.  
For the yoke of their burden  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

#### SONG TO REFLECT

#### “Make Room”

as recorded by Meredith Andrews

*Praise Team*

*Here is where I lay it down, ev'ry burden, ev'ry crown. This is my surrender.*

*Here is where I lay it down, ev'ry lie and ev'ry doubt This is my surrender.*

*And I will make room for you to do whatever you want to.*

*Shake up the ground of all my tradition. Break down the walls of all my religion. Your way is better.*

*I will make room for you to do whatever you want to.*

#### SCRIPTURE LESSON

#### Matthew 4:12–23

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,  
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—  
the people who sat in darkness  
have seen a great light,  
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death  
light has dawned.”

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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

#### SERMON

#### “Two by Two”

Rev. Karen Wright

\*SONG OF PEACE

“Light of the World ”  
All — see insert

as recorded by Lauren Daigle

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

SONG FOR GIVING

“Start a Fire”  
Praise Team/All — see insert

by Mosley, Mattson & Lowry

*Sending*

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*SONG TO SEND

“My Lighthouse”  
All — see insert

as recorded by Rend Collective

*\*Stand in body or spirit*

GOD'S PEACE TO YOU



**GRACE COVENANT**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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