



# GRACE COVENANT

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship March 1, 2026 9:30am  
Second Sunday in Lent

### 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*

SONG TO GATHER

“I Need You More”

by Cooley & Haynes

All

I need you more, more than yesterday,  
I need you more, more than words can say:  
I need you more than ever before I need you, Lord, I need you, Lord.

More than the air I breathe, more than the song I sing.  
More than the next heartbeat, more than anything.  
And Lord as time goes by, I'll be by your side:  
'Cause I never want to go back to my old life.

I need you more, more than yesterday,  
I need you more, more than words can say:  
I need you more than ever before I need you, Lord, I need you, Lord.

Right here in your presence is where I belong. This old broken heart has fin'ly found a home,  
and I'll never be alone.

I need you more, more than yesterday,  
I need you more, more than words can say:  
I need you more than ever before I need you, Lord, I need you, Lord.

*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: The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country... to the land that I will show you."

**ALL: We are called to journey in faith, trusting the One who leads us.**

ONE: In the night, Nicodemus came to Jesus seeking understanding.

**ALL: We come seeking new birth, new vision, new life.**

ONE: God calls us out of what is familiar and into promise.

**ALL: We gather to worship the God who makes all things new. Come, let us walk in faith and worship the Lord. Let us worship God.**

### \*SONG TO PRAISE

"Love the Lord"

by Brewster

All/Praise Team

**Love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. (2x)  
With all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, with all your strength.**

**Love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength.**

**I will serve the Lord with all my heart,  
with all my soul, with all my mind, and with all my strength (2x)  
With all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, with all your strength.**

**I will serve the Lord with all my heart,  
with all my soul, with all my mind, and with all my strength**

*I will love you ( I will love you) \* I will praise you ( I will praise you)  
I will serve you ( I will serve you) \* I will trust you (I will trust you)*  
**With all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, with all your strength.**

**Love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. (2x)**

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Emily Nelson Dixon

Lent reminds us that though we are called into new life, we often cling to the familiar. Like Abram, we hesitate to leave what is comfortable. Like Nicodemus, we struggle to understand what it means to be born anew. Yet the God who calls us also invites us to honesty and grace. Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Unison)*

**Gracious and holy God, You call us to step out in faith, yet we cling to what we know. You invite us into new birth, yet we resist transformation. We confess that we prefer certainty over trust. We rely on our own understanding rather than opening ourselves to your Spirit. Forgive us for the ways we limit your grace, for the times we shrink back from your call, for the moments we choose comfort over courage. Blow through our lives with your renewing Spirit. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and awaken us to the new life you offer in Christ. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. The God who called Abram blesses all families of the earth. The God who offers new birth offers it freely. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. In Jesus Christ, we are made new.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## 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 227

"Jesus, Remember Me"

## Equipping

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 12:1–4a (NRSVue)

Meredith Watson

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

SONG TO REFLECT

“Rescue Me”

as recorded by We the Kingdom

Praise Team

*Face down in the desert- My faith is weak  
The heat is high, hope is dry, can't understand it  
I've been climb'n the branches- But I still can't see.  
The higher I go, the less I know. I'm starting to panic.*

*When I - when I - when I'm low ~ All I - all I - all I know*

*He's gonna lift me up- He's gonna fight for me  
It only took a single stone to drop a philistine  
When I'm in the fire, He's next to me  
When the flame is high, I know He will  
Rescue me- Rescue me  
When the flame is high I know He will Rescue me*

*He's a faithful Companion - He walks with me  
All my life, by my side, never abandoned  
He's a mighty shepherd protecting me  
Whom shall I fear? When God is near? The deamons scatter*

*When I - when I - when I'm low ~ All I - all I - all I know*

*You come at me with sword and shield  
But I come at you in the name of the Lord of heavens armies  
I lift my hands on the battlefield  
I find my strength in the name of the Lord of heavens armies*

*He's gonna lift me up- He's gonna fight for me  
It only took a single stone To drop a philistine  
When I'm in the fire, He's next to me  
When the flame is high, I know He will  
Rescue me- Rescue me  
When the flame is high I know He will Rescue me*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 3:1–17 (NRSVue)

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the

mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

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

SERMON

"Come Out of the Dark"

Rev. Karen Wright

\*SONG OF PEACE

"Step by Step"

by Strasser

All

**O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you.**

**O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you.**

**I will seek you in the morning, and I will learn to walk in your ways;**

**And step by step you'll lead me and I will follow you all of my days.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

SONG FOR GIVING

"Indescribable"

by Laura Story & Jesse Reeves

Praise Team

*From the highest of heights to the depths of the sea,*

*Creation's revealing your majesty.*

*From the colors of Fall to the fragrance of Spring,*

*Ev'ry creature unique in the song that it sings.*

*All exclaiming: Indescribable, uncontainable;  
You placed the stars in the sky, and you know them by name.  
You are amazing, God.  
All powerful, untamable;  
awestruck, we fall to our knees as we humbly proclaim  
You are amazing, God.*

*Who has told ev'ry lightning bolt where it should go,  
Or seen heavenly storehouses laden with snow?  
Who imagined the sun and gives source to its light,  
Yet conceals it to bring us the coolness of night?  
None can fathom.*

*Indescribable, uncontainable;  
You placed the stars in the sky, and you know them by name.  
You are amazing, God.  
Incomparable, unchangeable;  
You see the depths of my heart and you love me the same.  
You are amazing, God.*

## THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

The Great Thanksgiving 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.**

The Words of Institution

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup – *partake of the bread first and drink as instructed.*

Music During Communion      "Come to the Table"      by Sidewalk Prophets  
Praise Team

*We all start on the outside, we're outside looking in  
This is where grace begins  
We were hungry, we were thirsty, With nothing left to give  
Oh, the shape that we were in.*

*And just when all hope seemed lost, Love opened the door for us  
He said, "Come to the table. Come join the sinners who have been redeemed"  
Take your place beside the Savior; Sit down and be set free  
Come to the table*

*Come meet this mighty crew of misfits, These liars and these thieves  
There's no one unwelcome here  
And that sin and shame that you brought with you, You can leave it at the door  
And let mercy draw you near*

*So, come to the table. Come join the sinners who have been redeemed  
Take your place beside the Savior; Sit down and be set free  
Come to the table- Come to the table*

*To the thief and to the doubter; To the hero and the coward  
To the prisoner and the soldier, To the young and to the older  
All who hunger, all who thirst, All the last and all the first  
All the paupers and the princess, All who fail, you've been forgiven  
All who dream and all who suffer, All who loved and lost another  
All the chained and all the free, All who follow, all who lead  
Anyone who's been let down, All the lost, you have been found  
All who've been labeled right or wrong, To everyone who hears this song, oh!*

*Come to the table. Come join the sinners, you have been redeemed  
Take your place beside the Savior; Sit down and be set free  
Come to the table*

Prayer After Communion

## Sending

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Karen Wright

\*SONG TO SEND

"Indescribable" *reprise*

by Laura Story & Jesse Reeves

**All**

**Indescribable, uncontainable;**

**You placed the stars in the sky, and you know them by name.**

**You are amazing, God.**

**Incomparable, unchangeable;**

**You see the depths of my heart and you love me the same.**

**You are amazing, God.**

**You see the depths of my heart and you love me the same.**

**You are amazing, God.**

*\*Stand in body or spirit*

## GOD'S PEACE TO YOU

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### **GRACE COVENANT**

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