



**GRACE COVENANT**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship November 24, 2024 9:30am  
Christ the King Sunday

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

“Voluntary on ‘Kremser’”  
Linda Dover, organist

arr. by Gordon Young

*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

Emily Nelson Dixon

\*INTROIT

“God Is So Good”

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

Barbara Douglas

ONE: O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

**ALL: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise! For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.**

ONE: In God's hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains also.

**ALL: The sea is God’s, for God made it, and the dry land, which God’s hands have formed. O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!**

THE LIFE OF THE NATIONS

# We Gather Together 336

1 We gath - er to - geth - er to ask the Lord's bless - ing;  
 2 Be - side us to guide us, our God with us join - ing,  
 3 We all do ex - tol thee, thou lead - er tri - um - phant,

he chas - tens and has - tens his will to make known;  
 or - dain - ing, main - tain - ing his king - dom di - vine;  
 and pray that thou still our de - fend - er wilt be.

the wick - ed op - press - ing now cease from dis - tress - ing.  
 so from the be - gin - ning the fight we were win - ning;  
 Let thy con - gre - ga - tion es - cape trib - u - la - tion;

Sing prais - es to his name; he for - gets not his own.  
 thou, Lord, wast at our side; all glo - ry be thine!  
 thy name be ev - er praised! O Lord, make us free!

First published among songs celebrating the end of Spanish control of the Netherlands, this text's blend of patriotism and piety has made it popular at (often ecumenical) Thanksgiving Day services. The tune is named for the Viennese arranger whose male chorus popularized it.

## SONG OF REFLECTION

## “Celtic Thanksgiving”

by Linda R. Lamb

Lindsay Callender, handbell soloist ~ Katie Hearn, flute  
Christopher Callender, acoustic guitar ~ Miles McDonald, bass guitar  
*“Let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God  
an acceptable worship with reverence and awe.” Hebrews 12:28b (NRSVue)*

## A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Emily Nelson Dixon

*(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

As we gather now for worship, grant us gratitude as we remember your goodness, penitence as we remember our sins, and joy as we remember your love. Enable us to lift up our hearts in humble prayer. Let us pray...

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

**Righteous God, you have crowned Jesus Christ as Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him and are slow to acknowledge his rule. We give allegiance to the powers of this world and fail to be governed by justice and love. In your mercy, forgive us. Raise us to acclaim him as ruler of all, that we may be loyal ambassadors, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. With his blood he has purchased people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. He has made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth. 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 647

“Give Thanks”

by Henry Smith

THANKSGIVING

647

Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart; give thanks to the Ho-ly One;

give thanks be-cause we're giv-en Je-sus Christ, the Son. Give

Son. And now let the weak say, "We are strong"; let the

poor say, "We are rich be-cause of what the Lord has done for

us!" And us!" Give thanks. Give thanks.

Drawing on language from 2 Corinthians 6:10 and 12:10 as well as Psalm 126:3, this short and repetitive song can be easily memorized. The simple vocabulary makes it suitable for multigenerational use, reminding all ages how gratitude for God's goodness changes our perspective.

## Equipping

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Barbara Douglas

**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.**

### SCRIPTURE LESSON Jeremiah 32:17–19; Jeremiah 33:11 (NRSVue)

Joy Slayton

“Ah Lord God! It is you who made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you. You show steadfast love to the thousandth generation but repay the guilt of parents into the laps of their children after them, O great and mighty God whose name is the Lord of hosts, great in counsel and mighty in deed, whose eyes are open to all the ways of mortals, rewarding all according to their ways and according to the fruit of their doings.

... the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voices of those who sing as they bring thank offerings to the house of the Lord:

‘Give thanks to the Lord of hosts,  
for the Lord is good,  
for his steadfast love endures forever!’

For I will restore the fortunes of the land as at first, says the Lord.”

### FIRST READING

“His Love Endures Forever”

by Eddie James

Emily Nelson Dixon, Esme Nelson Dixon,  
Barbara Douglas, and Keith Langabee

### ANTHEM

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

Words by St. Francis of Assisi

Chancel & Exaltation! Singers

arr. Molly Ijames

Linda Dover & Edwin Fukunaga, piano 4-hands

*All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing, Alleluia.*

*Thou burning sun with golden beam, thou silver moon with softer gleam, O praise him, Alleluia.*

*Thou rushing wind that art so strong, ye clouds that sail in heav'n along, O praise him.*

*Thou rising morn in praise rejoice; ye lights of evening find a voice, O praise him, Alleluia.*

*Let all things their Creator bless, and worship him in humbleness, O praise him.*

*Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit three in One, O praise him, Alleluia!*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Deuteronomy 31:6 (NRSVue)

“Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread of them, because it is the Lord your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you.”

SECOND READING

“Must I Be Grateful?”

by Paul R. Neil

HYMN *(choir only)*

“Bless the Lord, O My Soul”

BLESS THE LORD

THIRD READING

“A Thanksgiving Responsive Reading”

by Eddie James

**ALL:** *(when cued)* **Bless the Lord, O my soul.**

ONE: We are here, Heavenly Father, to give thanks to you as one body.  
To give thanks to you. To shout, “Your love endures forever!”

**ALL: His love endures forever!**

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC “Crowded Table”

by The Highwomen

Emily & Esme Dixon, vocals – Miles McDonald, guitar

*You can hold my hand, When you need to let go  
I can be your mountain, When you're feeling valley-low  
I can be your streetlight, Showing you the way home  
You can hold my hand, When you need to let go  
I want a house with a crowded table  
And a place by the fire for everyone  
Let us take on the world while we're young and able  
And bring us back together when the day is done  
If we want a garden, We're gonna have to sow the seed,  
Plant a little happiness, Let the roots run deep  
If it's love that we give, Then it's love that we reap  
If we want a garden, We're gonna have to sow the seed  
The door is always open. Your picture's on my wall  
Everyone's a little broken, And everyone belongs  
Yeah, everyone belongs*

Sending

\*HYMN 363

“Rejoice, the Lord Is King!”

DARWALL'S 148TH

## Rejoice, the Lord Is King! 363

Descant

4 Re-joyce in glo - rious hope! For Christ, the Judge, shall come

1 Re - joyce, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King a - dore!  
 2 Our Sav - ior, Je - sus, reigns, the God of truth and love;  
 3 His king - dom can - not fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven;  
 4 Re - joyce in glo - rious hope! For Christ, the Judge, shall come

and gath - er all the saints to their e - ter - nal home.

Re - joyce, give thanks, and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more.  
 when he had purged our stains, he took his seat a - bove.  
 the keys of death and hell are to our Je - sus given.  
 and gath - er all the saints to their e - ter - nal home.

Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Re-joyce, a - gain I say, re - joyce!

Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Re-joyce, a - gain I say, re - joyce!

Each stanza of this enthronement text prepares for the final line of the refrain, based on Philippians 4:4. "Lord" is here a title of Christ rather than a reference to the undivided Trinity. The late 18th-century tune (first used with Psalm 148) captures the mood well.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Emily Nelson Dixon

POSTLUDE

“Now Thank We All Our God”  
Linda Dover, organist

arr. by Matthew H. Corl

*\*Stand in body or spirit*

## GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

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