



Service of Worship August 23, 2026 9:30am
Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

GATHERING THE SUPPLIES

SONG TO GATHER

"Create in Me"
Praise Team/All

by Rend Collective

**Create in me a clean, clean heart.
Create in me a work of art.
Create in me a miracle:
Something real, and something beautiful. (2X)**

**You're not finished with me yet.
You're not finished with me yet.
By your power, I can change, I can change,
'cause you're not finished with me yet. (2X)**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Karen Wright

*OPENING TO THE CREATIVE SPIRIT "Let Us Be Drawn In"

Leader: In the world of the driven
***People:* Let us be drawn in**
Leader: Let your love be a given
Let us be drawn in
Leader: To imagine, to dream, to create, to redeem
For the sake of the livin'
Let us be drawn in

Leader: God's act of creating all that is, God's act of entering our lives in the person of Jesus, God's everyday act of creating new life—all these are acts of bringing that which is not into being—all acts of originality. To create is to assert ourselves in a way that is risky, that invites stepping into the unknown. Jesus told a story about people who did different things with the "talents" given to them. The one who took a risk and utilized those talents multiplied his gift in the world. What can you do to risk what God has given you to expand love and grace in the world?

Leader: In the world of the driven

***People:* Let us be drawn in**

Leader: Let your love be a given

Let us be drawn in

Leader: To imagine, to dream, to create, to redeem

For the sake of the livin'

Let us be drawn in

Leader: Let us pray together:

Risking God, you created something from nothing. Open us to move into the unknown future with confidence so that we might live into your vision for this world you continue to create. Draw us into your possibilities. Give us the courage to act. Amen.

*SONG TO PRAISE

"Turn on the Light"

by Weaver, Brown & Bentley

Praise Team/**All**

When the light comes, darkness runs away,
And only what lives in the light can stay.
When the light comes, nothing left to hide.
So come out of the darkness & turn on the light.
Come out of the darkness and turn on the light.

There's a place in my heart only I have seen.
It's filled with my failures and broken dreams.
But there's nothing that's broken that you can't mend.
Let this be the day that I let you in.

**When the light comes, darkness runs away,
And only what lives in the light can stay.
When the light comes, nothing left to hide.
So come out of the darkness & turn on the light.
Come out of the darkness and turn on the light.**

**Turn on the light! Turn on the light.
Turn on the light! Turn on the light.**

There's a place in your heart only you have seen.
It's filled with compassion for someone like me.
Your love's not afraid of the mess I've been.
Help me open the door and let you in.

**When the light comes, darkness runs away,
And only what lives in the light can stay.
When the light comes, nothing left to hide.
So come out of the darkness & turn on the light.
Come out of the darkness and turn on the light.**

**Turn on the light! Turn on the light.
Turn on the light! Turn on the light.**

I throw open the door, I fall to my knees.
I lay down my pride, no secrets to keep.
The light of your love is shining on me.
The goodness of God is setting me free.

**When the light comes, darkness runs away,
And only what lives in the light can stay.
When the light comes, nothing left to hide.
So come out of the darkness & turn on the light.
Come out of the darkness and turn on the light.**

**Turn on the light! Turn on the light.
Turn on the light! Turn on the light.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Emily Nelson Dixon

What holds us back from the courage to make a move? Author Robert Gruden said, "Creativity is dangerous. Its pleasure is not the comfort of the safe harbor, but the thrill of the reaching sail." Sometimes what holds us back is that we are comfortable, even if not happy. We simply have gotten used to the way things are.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of creation, you are a God who takes risks, who brings something new from nothing and invites us to join you in the work of creation. Forgive us when fear keeps us in the safe harbor. When we cling to what is comfortable, even when it no longer brings us joy. When we bury the gifts you have given us because we are afraid of failure, change, or uncertainty. Give us courage to trust that your Spirit is still creating, still calling, still inviting us forward. Teach us to risk something for the sake of love. Help us remember that we are not finished, that your creation is still expanding, and that we are part of your creative work. Free us to imagine what is possible when we see ourselves as you see us— beloved, gifted, capable, and able to do far more than we can imagine. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the Good News! God has created an ever-expanding universe and you are part of it. You can expand your world and the world around you by seeing yourself as God sees you—able to do far more than you can imagine.

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

"Let Us Be Drawn In"

Leader: In the world of the driven

***People:* Let us be drawn in**

Leader: Let your love be a given

Let us be drawn in

Leader: To imagine, to dream, to create, to redeem

For the sake of the livin'

Let us be drawn in

"LET THERE BE ..."

AN IMAGINATIVE WORD

"Invocation"

by Cynthia Winton-Henry

Here's an idea.
Let us make something out of nothing. No not nothing.
Let us gather up everything that we ever were or are or will be.
Let us be Shapers, Creators, Makers,
of Some Thing. Some World, Some Living.
Let us dare to succeed at it, Dare to fail at it,
Dare to fly on the wings of this moment.
Let us improvise our dreams.
Let us leap boldly from the shoulders of our lives,
Our histories, Our loves, Our disasters.

Here's an idea.
Let us play ourselves out! (The real work)
Let us do nothing at all. It may not matter.
Let us run the risk of naked individuality.
Let us go out wildly Not just as one,
But as a union, an ensemble.

Here is an idea.
When we make our worlds let us commit to them,
hold still with them let them go when it is time.
Let us breathe, Let us sing, Let us laugh,
Let us dance, Let us see what will be when we invoke
1: God
2: Creativity
3: and Power.

SONG TO REFLECT

"Crazy People"

by Hall, West & Mosley

Praise Team

*Who builds a boat with no clouds in sight?
Who walks up to a giant and pics a fight?
Who turns a lion's den into a petting zoo?
Who can have church in a fiery furnace?
Well, I'll tell you who:*

*Crazy people trusting Jesus,
Following him wherever he lead us.*

*Kingdom seekers, walk by faith believers
Here's the church, here's the steeple,
Here's to all God's crazy people.*

*Who brings a bible into a public school?
Who shares the gospel, even when the world call them a fool?
Who's not afraid to go against the flow?
Well, cancel me and call one of those,
'cause I'm one of those...*

*Who sees the world as a mission field?
Who talks to Jesus like He's real?
Who believes the words in red?
Who says he's coming back again?*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 25:24–30

Cheryl Johnson

“Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Drawn In: Risks”

Rev. Karen Wright

GETTING OUR HANDS DIRTY

PRAYING FOR THE WORLD WE CO-CREATE

**Lord listen to Your children praying
Lord send Your Spirit in this place
Lord listen to Your children praying
Send us love send us pow'r send us grace**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER

**Lord listen to Your children praying
Lord send Your Spirit in this place
Lord listen to Your children praying
Send us love send us pow'r send us grace**

OFFERING OF THE CREATIVE SPIRIT

**"This is my creative spirit in the world, this is my offering.
May you see the things you do, no matter how small or mundane,
as the way that you contribute goodness to the world,
creating more life, more joy, more love."**

People: Praise be to God, the Creator of all that is!

SONG FOR GIVING

"Make Me Like You"

by Mark Busbee

All

**With mercy you've shown me your unfailing love.
Your holiness purges my sin.
Your blood has redeemed me, I'm washed in your grace,
With patience you cleanse me within.**

**Make me like you, take the pieces of my life and make it new.
Make me like you. Make me wholly, completely brand new.**

**To love the unloved ones, to count all but loss,
I take up my cross for you.
To picture you broken, to see you as king,
For you anything I will do.**

**Make me like you, take the pieces of my life and make it new.
Make me like you. Make me wholly, completely brand new.**

LIFTING THE SPIRIT

*SONG TO SEND

"All the People Said Amen"

by Maher, Morgan & Moak

All

**You are not alone if you are lonely,
When you feel afraid, you're not the only.**

**We are all the same, in need of mercy,
To be forgiven and be free.
It's all you got to lean on, but thank God it's all you need.**

**And all the people said, "Amen." Whoa.
And all the people said, "Amen"
Give thanks to the Lord, for his love never ends.
And all the people said, "Amen."**

**If you're rich or poor, well, it doesn't matter.
Weak or strong, you know love is what we're after.
We're all broken, but we're all in this together.
God knows we stumble and fall,
And he so loved the world, he sent his son to save us all.**

**And all the people said, "Amen." Whoa.
And all the people said, "Amen"
Give thanks to the Lord, for his love never ends.
And all the people said, "Amen."**

**Blessed are the poor in spirit who are torn apart.
Blessed are the persecuted and the pure in heart.
Blessed are the people hungry for another start,
for theirs is the kingdom, the kingdom of God.**

**And all the people said, "Amen." Whoa.
And all the people said, "Amen"
Give thanks to the Lord, for his love never ends.
And all the people said, "Amen."**

**Stand in body or spirit*

GOD'S PEACE TO YOU

Music and/or lyrics are reprinted by permission of CCLI 1154643 and OneLicense A-705105.
Our Church Streaming & Podcast Licenses are CSPL 048834 through CCLI & included in OneLicense A-705105.
Any videos are shown by permission of CVLI #504397326.

RECORD YOUR ATTENDANCE AT TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE WITH OUR VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE PAD:

Click this link: <https://bit.ly/GCPCattendance>, or scan the QR Code below, and it will take you to the link.



GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11100 College Boulevard ♦ Overland Park, KS 66210
Phone (913) 345-1256 ♦ www.gcpc.org