



GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Service of Worship January 30, 2022, 9:30am
4th Sunday After Epiphany

Gathering

PRELUDE

“Gymnopedie No. 1”

Erik Satie
arr. Alan Ridout

“To a Wild Rose”

Edward McDowell
arr. Anthea Smith

Linda Dover, piano

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Thank you, God, for gathering us in body and in spirit. Remind us again of your love.
The good news of the gospel is this: the God of all creation came to dwell among us,
but we crucified this revelation of sacrificial love.

God goes to the depths of our pain and separation to gather us all.
In Christ’s resurrection we are drawn again to the presence of God.

This is good news for all who hear and believe.

*HYMN 652

“A Grateful Heart”

ROCKINGHAM

A Grateful Heart

652

(Psalm 111)

1 A grate - ful heart is what I bring, a song of
 2 Your name is known in all the lands. You feed the
 3 With sav - ing love you set us free, and still you

praise, my of - fer - ing. A - mong the saints I
 poor with gen - tle hands. Your word is true, your
 dwell in mys - ter - y with wis - dom none can

lift my voice: in you, O God, I will re - jice.
 works are just; in you, O God, the faith - ful trust.
 com - pre - hend. Your praise, O God, will nev - er end.

This paraphrase of Psalm 111 preserves the psalm's quality of providing a general list of God's praiseworthy characteristics rather than giving thanks for a particular act of deliverance. In the original text these attributes are organized as an acrostic on the Hebrew alphabet.

A TIME WITH STEWART

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

This is a moment given by God to confess our sins against each other, all that God has created, and God. Let us take this moment to account for the ways in which we have not embodied what it means to be created in the image of God.

Holy God, we confess that too often we have not been open to the rhythms of life you offer to us.

We let ourselves be put off your pace and allow ourselves to wander off into our own songs.

Too often the melodies of the world confuse us.

We have led ourselves and others to paths that are not according to your loving pace and direction.

Help us pay attention with all of our senses.

Make our dancing faithful; help us take the risks that are part of letting you lead.

Pull us back into your rhythms. Clean our hearts, purify our hands and steady our feet that we might know and share your blessings.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE & SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The God of Hosts assures us that if we trust God's Word, we will be led back to the songs that God would have us sing. God is eager to show us the path home. Accept the offer of the new song we have been given through Jesus the Christ and may the peace of Christ be with you and all others.

Equipping

EPISTLE LESSON

1 Corinthians 13:1–13 (CEB)

Jane Knoche

If I speak in tongues of human beings and of angels but I don't have love, I'm a clanging gong or a clashing cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and I know all the mysteries and everything else, and if I have such complete faith that I can move mountains, but I don't have love, I'm nothing. If I give away everything that I have and hand over my own body to feel good about what I've done but I don't have love, I receive no benefit whatsoever. Love is patient, love is kind, it isn't jealous, it doesn't brag, it isn't arrogant, it isn't rude, it doesn't seek its own advantage, it isn't irritable, it doesn't keep a record of complaints, it isn't happy with injustice, but it is happy with the truth. Love puts up with all things,

trusts in all things, hopes for all things, endures all things. Love never fails. As for prophecies, they will be brought to an end. As for tongues, they will stop. As for knowledge, it will be brought to an end. We know in part and we prophesy in part; but when the perfect comes, what is partial will be brought to an end. When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, reason like a child, think like a child. But now that I have become a man, I've put an end to childish things. Now we see a reflection in a mirror; then we will see face-to-face. Now I know partially, but then I will know completely in the same way that I have been completely known. Now faith, hope, and love remain—these three things—and the greatest of these is love.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words
Thanks be to God

ANTHEM

“Many Gifts, One Spirit”

by Allen Pote

Chancel Quartet

Many gifts, one spirit, many songs, one voice.

Many reasons, one promise, many questions, one choice.

O, God, we pray for unity, give guidance from above.

In our differences unite us in the circle of your love.

O, God, remind us we are not alone.

Though we move on different pathways, we are walking to your throne.

Help us learn to love each other, show us ways to understand.

We are members of one family, growing strong by joining hands.

*Take our many ways of working, blend the colors of each soul
into the beauty of a rainbow. Give us life, Lord, make us whole.*

SERMON

“God Is...”

Revs. Mitch & Sue Trigger

[Sending](#)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We are God's.

We belong to The One who creates all things, in whose image all people are made.

We are Christ's.

He has loved us, healed us, called us and anointed us with his Spirit.

We belong to his death and resurrection and ministry.

We are the Spirit's.

We belong to the church, the Body of Christ.

God gives us the gifts of forgiveness, resurrection, and eternal life,
and the gift of participating in the healing of the world by God's grace.

As God's beloved, we devote ourselves to God and to God's will,
wholly, joyfully and with the help of Christ. Amen.

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*HYMN 434

“Restore In Us, O God”

BAYLOR

Restore in Us, O God 434

Capo 1: (Em) (Bm7) (Em)(Bm7) (Em) (C) (Bm)
 Fm Cm7 Fm Cm7 Fm D^b Cm

1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love;
 2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your power;
 3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy;
 4 Three - per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace,

(Am7) (Em) (Am) (Bm) (Em) (Bm7) (Em)
 B^bm7 Fm B^bm Cm Fm Cm7 Fm

re - new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.
 from fruit - less fear un - furl our lives like spring - time bud and flower.
 bap - tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.
 that we, when all our search - ing ends, may see you face to face.

This text reflects the historic understanding of Lent as a time to prepare catechumens for Baptism and penitents for reconciliation at the Easter Vigil. The first three stanzas address one of the three divine Persons, while the fourth stanza implores the help of the full Trinity.

TEXT: Carl P. Daw Jr., 1987
 MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1985
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BAYLOR
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*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Fuga in F”
 Linda Dover, organ

J.S. Bach

GOD'S PEACE TO YOU

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