



GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship February 23, 2025 9:30am
Seventh Sunday After Epiphany

Gathering

SONG TO GATHER

“Abide”

by Dwell Songs

Praise Team

*For my waking breath, for my daily bread I depend on you. I depend on you.
For the sun to rise, for my sleep at night, I depend on you. I depend on you.*

*You’re the way, the truth, and the life. You’re the well that never runs dry.
I’m the bread and you are the vine. Draw me close and teach me to abide.*

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Karen Wright

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We come to worship seeking the love it takes to walk in the way of life.

ALL: We have come to follow Jesus.

ONE: Help us to love our enemies and bless those who have wronged us, for we cannot do it alone.

ALL: Teach us the joy of treating others with all the same respect and goodness with which we hope to be treated.

ONE: We have come to learn the way of life.

ALL: May our every word and deed make known that we are Your beloved children and vessels of Your love.

*SONG TO PRAISE

“May the Peoples Praise You”

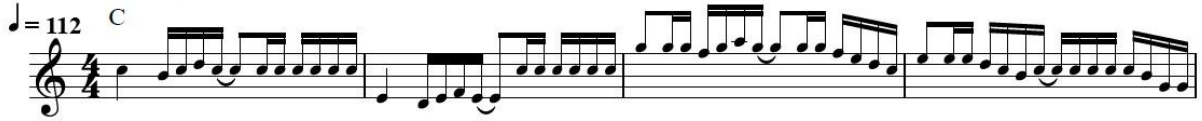
by Keith & Kristyn Getty

Praise Team/**All**

May The Peoples Praise You

Words and Music by
 Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty,
 Stuart Townend, Ed Cash
 and David Zimmer

INTRO



VERSE

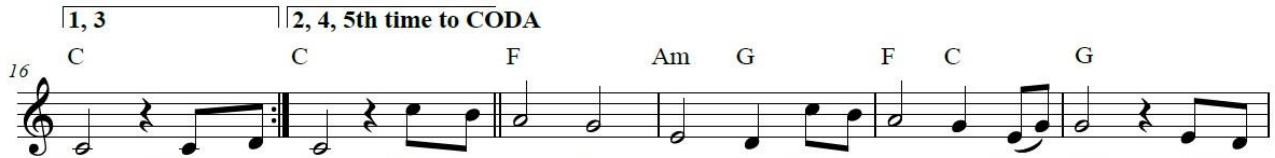


1. You have called us out of dark - est night, in -
 (2. May our) ev - 'ry breath re - tell the grace that
 (3. All the) earth is Yours and all with - in, each
 (4. May the) seeds of mer - cy grow in us for
 (5. This our) ho - ly priv - 'lege to de - clare Your



to Your glo - rious light, that we may sing the won - ders of the ris - en
 broke in - to our strife with bound - less love and deep - est joy, with end - less
 har - vest is Your own, and from Your hand we give to You, to make Christ
 those who have not heard, may songs of praise build lives of grace to spread Your
 prais - es and Your Name to ev - 'ry na - tion, tribe and tongue Your church pro

CHORUS 1a



Christ. 2. May our life. May the peo - ples praise You, let the na - tions be glad! All Your
 Word.
 known. 4. May the claim.

22 F/A G/B C C/E F C/E G

bless - ing comes that we may praise, may praise the Name of Je -

INSTRUMENTAL

C G/B Am7 F C G/B Am7 F D.S. G C

sus. 3. All the Je - - sus.
5. This our

BRIDGE

33 F G C/E F F/A

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, is the Lord Al - might - y. Wor - thy,
Ho - ly, Ho - ly, is the Lord Al - might - y. All cre -

39 G/B C Dm7 C F D.S. at CODA

wor - thy is the Lamb who was slain. praise Your glo - ri - ous Name. 5. This our
a - tion

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.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Emily Nelson Dixon

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Teacher of hard truths, it is difficult to let go of our anger toward those who prosper through deceit and unscrupulous ways; it is not easy to make ourselves believe that the meek will inherit the earth, when they are being crushed by the unjust systems stacked against them.

We long to see the vindication of the righteous and the prosperity of those who

work selflessly to bring your realm here on earth. We yearn for the day when all people will treat one another as they wish to be treated. Help us live into that day, Holy One, even when it is difficult, that your love might shine like the sun through our lives and our ministries. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Let us be known as children of the Most High by sharing our love with all. Let us be known as disciples of Christ and pray for all who wrong us. Let us be known as heirs of the Spirit and be known as full of mercy because God is full of mercy. Let us love others as we are loved by God.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

ONE: May the peace of Christ be with you.

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

*SONG OF PEACE

“His Mercy Is More”

by Papa & Boswell

All

His Mercy Is More

Words and Music by
Matt Papa and Matt Boswell

♩ = 40

VERSE

D D/F# G D



1. What love could re - mem - ber no wrongs we have done? Om -
 (2. What) pa - tience would wait as we con - stant - ly roam? What
 (3. What) rich - es of kind - ness He lav - ished on us. His

3 A Bm G A^{sus} D Em⁷ D/F#



-ni - cient, all know - ing. He counts not their sum. Thrown in - to a sea with - out bot - tom or
 Fa - ther, so ten - der, is call - ing us home? He wel - comes the weak - est, the vil - est, the
 blood was the pay - ment; His life was the cost. We stood 'neath a debt we could nev - er af -

7 G D/F# G D/A



shore, our sins, they are man - y; His mer - cy is more.
 poor. Our sins, they are man - y; His mer - cy is more.
 -ford. Our sins they are man - y; His

1, 2. **TURNAROUND**
 A^{sus} A⁶ A^{sus} D D/F# G D A Bm

13 G A^{sus} A^{sus} A⁶ A^{sus} D **CHORUS** G D Bm⁷ A^{sus}



2. What mer - cy is more. Praise the Lord, His mer - cy is
 3. What

18 G D A^{sus} A A^{sus} G D A Bm⁷



more. Strong - er than dark - ness, new ev - 'ry morn. Our

22 G D 1. A^{sus} D 2. A^{sus} D



sins, they are man - y; His mer - cy is more. Praise the mer - cy is more.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 45:3–11, 15 (NRSVUE)

Gay Lee Ludwig-Bonney

Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me; do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there, since there are five more years of famine to come, so that you and your household and all that you have will not come to poverty.’

And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

SONG TO REFLECT

“Forgiveness”

by Matthew West

Praise Team

It’s the hardest thing to give away and the last thing on your mind today.

It always goes to those who don’t deserve.

It’s the opposite of how you feel when the pain they caused is just too real.

It takes ev’rything you have to say the word: Forgiveness.

It flies in the face of all your pride. It moves away the mad inside.

It’s always anger’s own worst enemy.

Even when the jury and the judge say you’ve got a right to hold a grudge.

It’s the whisper in your ear sayin; “Set it free.” Forgiveness.

Show me how to love the unlovable. Show me how to reach the unreachable.

Help me now to do the impossible: Forgiveness.

It’ll clear the bitterness away; It can even set a pris’ner free.

There is no end to what its pow’r can do. So let it go and be amazed

By what you see through eyes of grace.

The pris’ner that it really frees is you. Forgiveness.

Show me how to love the unlovable. Show me how to reach the unreachable.

Help me now to do the impossible: Forgiveness.

I want to fin’ly set it free. Show me how to see what your mercy sees.

Help me now to give what you gave to me: Forgiveness.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 6:27–38 (NRSVUE)

“But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return.^[a] Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your God is merciful.

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Beyond Transactions”

Rev. Karen Wright

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

“O Come to the Altar”

by Furtick, Brown, Joye, Brock

All

O Come To The Altar

(as published by Elevation Worship)

Words and Music by
Steven Furtick, Chris Brown,
Wade Joye and Mack Brock

INTRO

♩ = 140

F B \flat F B \flat F

VERSE 1 & 2

1. Are you hurt-
2. Leave be - hind

6 B \flat F B \flat Dm

ing and bro - ken with - in, o - ver - whelmed by the weight of your sin? Je - sus is
your re - grets and mis - takes. Come to - day; there's no rea - son to wait. Je - sus is

10 B \flat F B \flat F

call - ing. Have you come to the end of your - self, do you thirst
call - ing. Bring your sor - rows and trade them for joy; From the ash -

CHORUS

14 B \flat Dm B \flat F (1st x only)

for a drink from the well? Je - sus is call - ing. O come to
es a new life is born. Je - sus is call - ing.

19 Gm Dm B \flat F Gm

the al - tar; the Fa - ther's arms are o - pen wide. For - give - ness was bought with

INSTRUMENTAL 1

24

the pre - cious blood of Je - sus Christ.

CHORUS

30

blood of Je - sus Christ. O come to the al - tar; the Fa - ther's arms are o - pen wide.

INSTRUMENTAL 2

35

For - give - ness was bought with the pre - cious blood of Je - sus Christ.

Sending

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Karen Wright

*SONG TO SEND

“Brother”
All

by Need to Breathe

Ramblers in the wilderness, we can't find what we need.

We get a little restless from the searching, get a little worn down in-between.

Like a bull chasing the matador is man left to his own schemes.

Well, everybody needs someone beside them shining like a lighthouse from the sea.

Brother let me be your shelter; never leave you all alone.

I can be the one you call when you're low.

Brother, let me be your fortress when the night winds are driving on,

Be the one to light the way, bring you home.

Face down in the desert now, there a cage locked around my heart.

I found a way to drop the keys where my failures were: Now my hands can't reach that far.

**I ain't made for a rivalry; I could never take the world alone.
I know that in my weakness I am strong, it's your love that brings me home.**

**Brother let me be your shelter; never leave you all alone.
I can be the one you call when you're low.
Brother, let me be your fortress when the night winds are driving on,
Be the one to light the way, bring you home.**

**Stand in body or spirit*

GOD'S PEACE TO YOU

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GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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