



GRACE COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship June 30, 2024 9:30am
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering

PRELUDE

"Prelude in F"
Linda Dover, organist

by Beethoven
arr. Kendall

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

Rev. Karen Wright

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Wait for the Lord, like those who hope in God's mercy.

All: God's steadfast love endures forever.

One: Watch for God, like those who eagerly await the morning.

All: We watch for God, whose power redeems us.

One: Hear God's hopeful word, like those who long for pardon.

All: Sing praise to God and rejoice in God's love.

*HYMN 620

"Praise My Soul the King of Heaven"

LAUDA ANIMA

ADORATION

620 Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

(Psalm 103)

1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; to his
 2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to his
 3 Fa - ther - like, he tends and spares us; well our
 4 An - gels, help us to a - dore him; you be -

feet your trib - ute bring; ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for -
 peo - ple in dis - tress; praise him still the same as
 fee - ble frame he knows; in his hands he gent - ly
 hold him face to face. Sun and moon, bow down be -

giv - en, ev - er - more his prais - es sing: Al - le - lu - ia!
 ev - er, slow to chide, and swift to bless: Al - le - lu - ia!
 bears us, res - cues us from all our foes. Al - le - lu - ia!
 fore him, dwell - ers all in time and space: Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly yet his mer - cy flows.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

This free paraphrase of Psalm 103 gains much energy and conviction by including the double "Alleluia!" before the final line of text. That repeated four-note figure descending from the tune's highest note gives voice to the praise that the rest of the hymn evokes.

TEXT: Henry Francis Lyte, 1834, alt.
 MUSIC: John Goss, 1869

LAUDA ANIMA
 8.7.8.7.8.7

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

(Awakening to Worship, our child-friendly worship time, is on summer hiatus. 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

Rev. Karen Wright

We do not stop enough to listen to the still-speaking God. And like the people of Jerusalem long ago, we often misunderstand the Spirit's movement among us. In the silence and stillness of this moment, let us draw near to God and listen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

We confess to you, Renewing Spirit, that we confuse unity with uniformity, and diversity with divisiveness. We speak and behave as if being a part of your family means assimilating others to our way of living. We deny and destroy the beauty you created in each person. We long to change these patterns, O Creator, but we do not know how. Teach us to value challenge. Help us to see strength in difference. And empower us to build your kingdom in creativity and love. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news! God's Spirit has been poured out upon all flesh, and we have been made one. We are no longer scattered or divided, but gathered together to build up the kingdom on this 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 796

"We Come to You for Healing, Lord"
(vs 1 and 5)

LAND OF REST

We Come to You for Healing, Lord 796

1 We come to you for heal - ing, Lord, of
 2 As once you walked through an - cient streets and
 3 You touch us through phy - si - cians' skills, through
 4 Through nights of pain and wake - ful - ness, through
 5 We come to you, O lov - ing Lord, in

bod - y, mind, and soul, and pray that by your
 reached toward those in pain, we know you come a -
 nurs - es' gifts of care, and through the love of
 days when strength runs low, grant us your gift of
 our dis - tress and pain, in trust that through our

Spir - it's touch we may a - gain be whole.
 mong us still with power to heal a - gain.
 faith - ful friends who lift our lives in prayer.
 pa - tience, Lord, your calm - ing peace to know.
 nights and days your grace will heal, sus - tain.

Unlike many hymns on the theme of healing, this text appropriately includes the ministry of medical personnel as instruments of God's healing activity. It also acknowledges that illness is not limited to physical symptoms, but involves mental, emotional, and spiritual dimensions.

TEXT: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 2002

MUSIC: American folk melody; arr. Annabel Morris Buchanan, 1938

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LAND OF REST

CM

(alternate harmonization, 691)

Equipping

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 130 (NRSVue)

Melanie Townsend

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.
Lord, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications!

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered.

I wait for the Lord; my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;
my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the Lord!
For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.
It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities.

ANTHEM

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

arr. Craig Courtney

Summer Choir – Bob Dover, director

Text by Thomas O. Chisholm

Donna Heer, violin

Sing on Cue from director

**Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not.
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.**

Refrain

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!**

Choir Only
Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars with their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Refrain – All

Choir Only to the End
Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:
blessings all mine with ten thousand beside!

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Great is thy faithfulness,
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!
Great is thy faithfulness!

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Joel 2:1–2; 13–26 (NRSVue)

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 sound the alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
 for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near—
a day of darkness and gloom,
 a day of clouds and thick darkness!
Like blackness spread upon the mountains,
 a great and powerful army comes;
their like has never been from of old,
 nor will be again after them
 in ages to come.

 rend your hearts and not your clothing.
Return to the Lord your God,
 for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love,
 and relenting from punishment.
Who knows whether he will not turn and relent
 and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
 for the Lord your God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
consecrate a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
gather the people.
Consecrate the congregation;
assemble the aged;
gather the children,
even infants at the breast.
Let the bridegroom leave his room
and the bride her canopy.

Between the vestibule and the altar,
let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep.
Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord,
and do not make your heritage a mockery,
a byword among the nations.
Why should it be said among the peoples,
'Where is their God?' "

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Telling Our Story: Rend Your Heart"

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

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC

"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"
Donna Heer, violin – Linda Dover, piano

by J.S. Bach
arr. Mickelson

Sending


*HYMN 821

"How Can I Keep from Singing" HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING



821

My Life Flows On


How Can I Keep from Singing?




1 My life flows on in end-less song, a-bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion.
 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? I know my Sav - ior liv - eth.
 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing!



I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
 What though the dark-ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?




Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.

Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?



In the *New York Observer* of August 7, 1868, this text was titled "Always Rejoicing," and was attributed to "Pauline T." This may well be where the Baptist pastor and musician to whom it is usually credited encountered the words that he later published with his tune.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Karen Wright

POSTLUDE

“Postlude in G Major”
Linda Dover, organist

by G.F. Handel
arr. Buszin

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

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