



# GRACE COVENANT

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship August 20, 2023 9:30am  
12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

### Gathering

SONG TO GATHER

“As the Deer”

by Martin Nystrom

Darryl Prater, flugelhorn/ALL

**As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you.  
You alone are my heart’s desire and I long to worship you.  
You alone are my strength and shield – to you alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart’s desire and I long to worship you.**

WELCOME

Kathy Bures

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 133

Donna Goeckler

ONE: Look at how good and pleasing it is when families live together as one!

**ALL: It is like expensive oil poured over the head, running down onto the beard—  
Aaron's beard! — which extended over the collar of his robes.**

ONE: It is like the dew on Mount Hermon streaming down onto the mountains of  
Zion,

**ALL: because it is there that the LORD has commanded the blessing: everlasting  
life.**

\*SONGS TO PRAISE

“Joy of the Lord”

by Rend Collective

Praise Team/ALL

**Though tears may fall, my song will rise, my song will rise to you.  
Though my heart may fail, my song will rise, my song will rise to you.  
While there's breath in my lungs, I will praise you, Lord.**

**In the dead of night, I'll lift my eyes, I'll lift my eyes to you.  
When the waters rise, I'll lift my eyes, I'll lift my eyes to you.  
While there's hope in my heart, I will praise you, Lord.**

**The joy of the Lord is my strength. The joy of the Lord is my strength.  
In the darkness I'll dance, in the shadows I'll sing.  
The joy of the Lord is my strength!**

**When I cannot see you with my eyes, let faith arise to you.  
When I cannot feel your hand in mine, let faith arise to you.  
God of mercy and love~ I will praise you, Lord.**

**Oh, you shine with glory Lord of light, I feel alive with you.  
In your presence now I come alive, I am alive with you.  
There is strength when I say, "I will praise you, Lord."**

**The joy of the Lord is my strength. The joy of the Lord is my strength.  
In the darkness I'll dance, in the shadows I'll sing.  
The joy of the Lord is my strength!**

**SONG TO PRAISE**

**"Goodness of God"**

**by Jenn Johnson**

**Praise Team/ALL**

**I love you, Lord, for your mercy never fails me.  
All my days, I've been held in your hands.  
From the moment that I wake up, until I lay my head  
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.**

**And all my life you have been faithful~ And all my life you have been so, so good.  
With every breath that I am able, I will sing of the goodness of God.**

**I love your voice~ you have led me through the fire.  
In the darkest night, you are close like no other.  
I've known you as a father, I've known you as a friend.  
And I have lived in the goodness of God.**

**And all my life you have been faithful~ And all my life you have been so, so good.  
With every breath that I am able, I will sing of the goodness of God.**

## A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Carrie DeVries

*(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.)*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Based on "Lord Have Mercy"

by Steve Merkel

Donna Goeckler/**ALL**

Lord, you have spoken such words of love and compassion over us.

Words of forgiveness and grace that burn us with conviction  
only to fade as we lose focus and begin to doubt, begin to worry,  
forget that you know all the hairs on our head, and the longings of our hearts.

We beg for grace and mercy once again  
as we come before you now asking for forgiveness.

**Lord have mercy~ Christ have mercy~ Lord have mercy on me. (2X)**

Lord, we long to worship you. Forgive us for the ways we have forsaken you,  
for the times that we have forgotten that you will light our path  
if we will simply walk in faith. As we turn to you,  
let your grace and mercy flow over us, covering us in your love.

**Lord have mercy~ Christ have mercy~ Lord have mercy on me. (2X)**

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS *(One)*

Lord, we give you thanks and praise for all the ways you show us your love and compassion. For the abundance of this life and the ways you have empowered us to join together and speak your truth. "Come to me all who are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." We give you thanks for the assurance of how you love us, for the way your compassion allows us to reach out in unity to those around us and show that same care, to show love, compassion, forgiveness, and healing.

## 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

"Running"

by Andy Wilson

Caitlin Hussey, soloist

*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound. I was lost but now I'm found.  
I was blind but now I see: you came and rescued me.  
Jesus, I'm running into your arms. I know that you're welcoming me to come home.  
I'm running to where I belong. Jesus, there's nowhere that I'd rather be than with you.  
Helpless as a wandering sheep, left 99 to come find me.  
When I was running from your love, you came and rescued me.  
Now you're the treasure that I seek. Jesus, you are all I need.  
Holy, righteous, Prince of Peace, you came and rescued me.  
Jesus, I'm running into your arms. I know that you're welcoming me to come home.  
I'm running to where I belong. Jesus, there's nowhere that I'd rather be,  
Jesus, there's nowhere that I'd rather be than with you.*

## Equipping

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 45:1–15 (CEB)

Cal Sweeten

#### Joseph Reveals His Identity

Joseph could no longer control himself in front of all his attendants, so he declared, "Everyone, leave now!" So no one stayed with him when he revealed his identity to his brothers. He wept so loudly that the Egyptians and Pharaoh's household heard him. Joseph said to his brothers, "I'm Joseph! Is my father really still alive?" His brothers couldn't respond because they were terrified before him. Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me," and they moved closer. He said, "I'm your brother Joseph! The one you sold to Egypt. Now, don't be upset and don't be angry with yourselves that you sold me here. Actually, God sent me before you to save lives. We've already had two years of famine in the land, and there are five years left without planting or harvesting. God sent me before you to make sure you'd survive and to rescue your lives in this amazing way. You didn't send me here; it was God who made me a father to Pharaoh, master of his entire household, and ruler of the whole land of Egypt. "Hurry! Go back to your father. Tell him this is what your son Joseph says: 'God has made me master of all of Egypt. Come down to me. Don't delay. You may live in the land of Goshen, so you will be near me, your children, your grandchildren, your flocks, your herds, and everyone with you. I will support you there, so you, your household, and everyone with you won't starve, since the famine will still last five years.' You and my brother Benjamin have seen with your own eyes that I'm speaking to you. Tell my father about my power in Egypt and about everything you've seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." He threw his arms around his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his shoulder. He kissed all of his brothers and wept, embracing them. After that, his brothers were finally able to talk to him.

### SONG TO REFLECT

"Less Like Me"

by Zach Williams

Praise Team

*I have days I lose the fight try my best but just don't get it right.  
Where I talk a talk that I don't walk and miss the moments right before my eyes.*

*Somebody with a hurt that I could have helped, somebody with a hand that I could have held  
When I just can't see past myself, Lord, help me be.*

*A little more like mercy, a little more like grace. A little more like kindness, goodness, love, and faith.  
A little more like patience, a little more like peace. A little more like Jesus, a little less like me.*

*Yeah, there's no denying I have changed 'cause I've been saved from who I used to be.  
But even at my best, I must confess, I still need help to see the way you see.  
Somebody with a hurt that I could have helped, somebody with a hand that I could have held  
When I just can't see past myself, Lord, help me be.*

*A little more like mercy, a little more like grace. A little more like kindness, goodness, love, and faith.  
A little more like patience, a little more like peace. A little more like Jesus, a little less like me.*

*Oh, I wanna feed the beggar on the street~ Learn to be your hands and feet  
Freely give what I receive~ Lord, help me be.*

*I want put you first above all else~ Love my neighbor as myself  
In the moments no one sees~ Lord, help me be.*

*A little more like mercy, a little more like grace. A little more like kindness, goodness, love, and faith.  
A little more like patience, a little more like peace. A little more like Jesus, a little less like me.*

*A little more of living everything I preach.  
A little more like Jesus, a little less like me.*

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

Romans 11:1–2a, 29-32

Stephen Wing

Israel and God's Faithfulness

So I ask you, has God rejected his people? Absolutely not! I'm an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. God hasn't rejected his people, whom he knew in advance. Or don't you know what the scripture says in the case of Elijah, when he pleads with God against Israel?

God's gifts and calling can't be taken back. Once you were disobedient to God, but now you have mercy because they were disobedient. In the same way, they have also been disobedient because of the mercy that you received, so now they can receive mercy too. God has locked up all people in disobedience, in order to have mercy on all of them.

## WORDS TO REFLECT

## SONG TO REFLECT

“Just Be Held”

by Casting Crowns

*Hold it all together, everybody needs you strong  
But life hits you out of nowhere and barely leaves you holding on.*

*And when you're tired of fighting, chained by your control,  
There's freedom in surrender, lay it down and let it go.  
So when you're on your knees and answers seem so far away  
You're not alone, stop holding on and just be held.  
Your world's not falling apart, it's falling into place.  
I'm on the throne, stop holding on and just be held  
Just be held.*

*If your eyes are on the storm, you'll wonder if I love you still.  
But if your eyes are on the cross, you'll know I always have and I always will.  
And not a tear is wasted. In time, you'll understand  
I'm painting beauty with the ashes, your life is in my hands.  
So when you're on your knees and answers seem so far away  
you're not alone, stop holding on and just be held.  
Your world's not falling apart, it's falling into place.  
I'm on the throne, stop holding on and just be held  
Just be held.*

*Lift your hands, lift your eyes. In the storm is where you'll find me.  
And where you are, I'll hold your heart, I'll hold your heart.  
Come to Me, find your rest in the arms of the God who won't let go.  
So when you're on your knees and answers seem so far away  
You're not alone, stop holding on and just be held.  
Your world's not falling apart, it's falling into place.  
I'm on the throne, stop holding on and just be held  
Just be held.*

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 15:10–20

Carrie DeVries

Jesus called the crowd near and said to them, " Listen and understand. It's not what goes into the mouth that contaminates a person in God's sight. It's what comes out of the mouth that contaminates the person." Then the disciples came and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended by what you just said?" Jesus replied, " Every plant that my heavenly Father didn't plant will be pulled up. Leave the Pharisees alone. They are blind people who are guides to blind people. But if a blind person leads another blind person, they will both fall into a ditch." Then Peter spoke up, "Explain this riddle to us." Jesus said, " Don't you understand yet? Don't you know that everything that goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? But what goes out of the mouth comes from the heart. And that's what contaminates a person in God's sight. Out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adultery, sexual sins, thefts, false testimonies, and insults. These contaminate a person in God's sight. But eating without washing hands doesn't contaminate in God's sight."

## WORDS TO REFLECT

SONG TO REFLECT

"Truth Be Told"

by Mathew West

*Lie number one you're supposed to have it all together  
And when they ask how you're doing, just smile and tell them, "Never better"  
Lie number 2 everybody's life is perfect except yours  
So keep your messes and your wounds and your secrets safe with you behind closed doors  
Truth be told~ The truth is rarely told.  
I say I'm fine, yeah I'm fine oh I'm fine, hey I'm fine but I'm not  
I'm broken  
And when it's out of control I say it's under control but it's not  
And you know it  
I don't know why it's so hard to admit it  
When being honest is the only way to fix it  
There's no failure, no fall, there's no sin you don't already know  
So let the truth be told.  
There's a sign on the door, says, "Come as you are" but I doubt it  
'Cause if we lived like it was true, every Sunday morning pew would be crowded  
But didn't you say the church should look more like a hospital  
A safe place for the sick, the sinner and the scarred and the prodigals  
Like me  
Well truth be told ~ The truth is rarely told.  
Oh am I the only one who says  
I'm fine, yeah I'm fine oh I'm fine, hey I'm fine but I'm not  
I'm broken  
And when it's out of control I say it's under control but it's not  
And you know it  
I don't know why it's so hard to admit it  
When being honest is the only way to fix it  
There's no failure, no fall  
There's no sin you don't already know  
So let the truth be told  
Can I really stand here unashamed, knowin' that your love for me won't change?  
Oh God if that's really true~then let the truth be told.  
I say I'm fine, yeah I'm fine oh I'm fine, hey I'm fine but I'm not  
I'm broken  
And when it's out of control I say it's under control but it's not  
And you know it  
I don't know why it's so hard to admit it  
When being honest is the only way to fix it  
There's no failure, no fall  
There's no sin you don't already know  
Yeah I know*

*There's no failure, no fall there's no sin you don't already know  
So let the truth be told*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 15:21–28

Jami Howe

Canaanite Woman

From there, Jesus went to the regions of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from those territories came out and shouted, "Show me mercy, Son of David. My daughter is suffering terribly from demon possession." But he didn't respond to her at all. His disciples came and urged him, "Send her away; she keeps shouting out after us." Jesus replied, "I've been sent only to the lost sheep, the people of Israel." But she knelt before him and said, "Lord, help me." He replied, "It is not good to take the children's bread and toss it to dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord. But even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall off their masters' table." Jesus answered, "Woman, you have great faith. It will be just as you wish." And right then her daughter was healed.

WORDS TO REFLECT

SONG TO REFLECT

"No Outsiders"

by Rend Collective

Praise Team

*You are our refuge ~ you have no borders.*

*When I was a stranger, knocking at your door, you took me in.*

*With no questions, and no conditions*

*When I was a sinner, running from your grace, you called me friend.*

*There are no outsiders, to your love. We are all welcome, there's grace enough.*

*When I have wondered, Lord, your cross is the open door.*

*There are no outsiders ~ I'm not an outsider ~ to your love.*

*You are the harbor in every tempest*

*When my soul was shipwrecked tossed upon the waves, you calm the storm.*

*You are the Father, there are no orphans.*

*Every tribe and nation gathered in your arms sings with one voice.*

*There are no outsiders, to your love. We are all welcome, there's grace enough.*

*When I have wondered, Lord, your cross is the open door.*

*There are no outsiders ~ I'm not an outsider ~ to your love.*

*I was tired, I was poor ~ I was thrown upon Your shores*

*I was homeless and afraid 'til I heard you call my name.*

*And now I'm ransomed, I'm restored, resurrected, I am Yours.*

*I am loved, yes I belong ~ Oh, my soul has found its home.*



*There are no outsiders, to your love. We are all welcome, there's grace enough.  
When I have wondered, Lord, your cross is the open door.  
There are no outsiders ~ I'm not an outsider ~ to your love.*

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words

**Thanks be to God!**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Harold Frye

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

SONG FOR GIVING

**"Blessed Assurance"**

Music by Phoebe Knapp

Darryl Prater, flugelhorn – Carrie DeVries, piano

Text by Fanny Crosby

*This is my story; this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.*

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kathy Bures

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Darryl Prater

SONG TO SEND

**"Less Like Me" reprise**

**ALL**

**I wanna feed the beggar on the street~ Learn to be your hands and feet**

**Freely give what I receive~ Lord, help me be**

**I want put you first above all else~ Love my neighbor as myself**

**In the moments no one sees~ Lord, help me be**

**A little more like mercy, a little more like grace.**

**A little more like kindness, goodness, love, and faith.**

**A little more like patience, a little more like peace.**

**A little more like Jesus, a little less like me.**

**A little more of living everything I preach**

**A little more like Jesus, a little less like me.**

GOD'S PEACE TO YOU

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