



GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship August 18, 2024 9:30am
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering

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.

PRELUDE	"Gigue" from <i>Suite #3 in D Major</i>	J.S. Bach
	"Pastorale"	D. Scarlatti
	"Invention #8"	J.S. Bach
	"Romanza" from <i>Eine Kleine Nachtmusik</i>	W.A. Mozart
	Lorraine Miller, flute ~ Bob Dover, clarinet	

WELCOME Rev. Karen Wright

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We have come together as one.

ALL: One people, gathered in the name of the one God.

ONE: We will worship together as one.

ALL: One community, giving praise and honor to the Righteous One.

ONE: We are being empowered as one by One.

ALL: One body and one Spirit, called to the hope of one calling,

ONE: one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

ALL: one God and Father of all who is above all and through all and in all.

ONE: Now, in the name of the Three-in-One, we act as one.

ALL: One people, giving witness to the power of One.

THE CHURCH

307 God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour thy power; crown thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry; bring its
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our
 thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in
 we de - plore. Let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our

bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss thy king - dom's goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

This stirring hymn used at the opening of Riverside Church in New York in 1930 was penned by its widely-known and influential pastor, and it has gained a firm place in English-language hymnals around the world. The Welsh tune name honors the Rhondda Valley in Glamorganshire.

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

(Awakening to Worship, our child-friendly worship time, begins today. 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

Come to me, all you who labor and are heavily burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. (Matt. 11:28–30) Let us confess our sins against God and neighbor.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

God of unity and love, place within each of us a spirit of hope and community. Have mercy upon us when we speak without love or act without humility. Cleanse us with the living water of your grace. Create in us willing hearts to live in patience and gentleness. Raise us up to be your children, growing toward maturity in faith and love. Strengthen this church, that we may be a model of ministry and unity for all the world to see. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

We are enabled to be kind to one another, to be tenderhearted, to forgive one another, and to be forgiven, because Jesus feeds us with his life. A life given to save us from sin. Hear, then, the good news: those who are in Christ are a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

ONE: May the peace of Christ be with you.

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

*HYMN 451

“Open My Eyes”

OPEN MY EYES

Open My Eyes, That I May See 451

1 O-pen my eyes, that I may see glimps-es of truth thou hast for me.
 2 O-pen my ears, that I may hear voic - es of truth thou send-est clear.
 3 O-pen my mouth, and let me bear glad - ly the warm truth ev-ery-where.

Place in my hands the won-der-ful key that shall un - clasp and
 And while the wave notes fall on my ear, ev - ery-thing false will
 O - pen my heart, and let me pre-pare love with thy chil - dren

set me free. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy
 dis - ap-pear. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy
 thus to share. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy

will to see. O - pen my eyes; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di-vine!
 will to see. O - pen my ears; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di-vine!
 will to see. O - pen my heart; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di-vine!

The first woman to publish a collection of her own anthems, this author/composer has created in this hymn a sung prayer for illumination. It not only asks God to help us understand Scripture but also prays for the strength and courage to make God's love known to others.

Equipping

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 41:6–10 (NRSVue)

Barbara Douglas

Each one helps the other,
saying to one another, “Take courage!”
The artisan encourages the goldsmith,
and the one who smooths with the hammer encourages the one who strikes the anvil,
saying of the soldering, “It is good,”
and they fasten it with nails so that it cannot be moved.
But you, Israel, my servant,
Jacob, whom I have chosen,
the offspring of Abraham, my friend;
you whom I took from the ends of the earth
and called from its farthest corners,
saying to you, “You are my servant;
I have chosen you and not cast you off”;
do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be afraid, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you; I will help you;
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

ANTHEM

“River in Judea”

Words by Linda Marcus

Summer Choir ~ Rebecca Prater, director arr. John Leavitt
Gay Lee Ludwig-Bonney, string bass ~ Keith Langabee, drum set

*Oftentimes I dream of music, of the river that freely flows.
And it sings a song sweeter than honey, one ev'rybody knows.
Late at night I hear it singing then again when I wake at dawn.
And it fills me up with hope and goodwill, the will to go on, go on.*

***(Refrain) There is a river in Judea that I heard of long ago.
And it's a singing, ringing river that my soul cries out to know.***

*I believe it keeps on trav'lin' but it rests on the Sabbath day.
And the time when it pauses in stillness, I almost hear it pray.
When I'm weary and downhearted, how I long for the song it sings,
for the calm within its gentle blue, the peace that it brings, it brings. **(Refrain)***

*May the time not be too distant when we meet by the river shore.
'Til then dream of that wonderful day as we sing once more, once more:*

***There is a river in Judea, Hallelu, that I heard of long ago. Hallelu.
It's a singing, ringing river that my soul cries out to know.
There is a river in Judea, Hallelu, that I heard of long ago. Hallelu.
It's a singing, ringing river that my soul cries out to the River in Judea, hallelujah!***

SCRIPTURE LESSON Ephesians 4:11–16 (NRSVue)

He himself granted that some are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Telling Our Story: Equip”

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.

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELDERS

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC

“Ballet of the Blessed Spirits”

C.W. Gluck

Lorraine Miller, flute ~ Bob Dover, clarinet ~ Linda Dover, piano

Sending

*HYMN 726

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

KELVINGROVE

726 Will You Come and Follow Me

The Summons

Capo 3: (D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (Asus) (A)
 F C7 Dm Gm7 Csus C

1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
 2 "Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
 4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
 5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)
 F C7 Dm Gm7 B^b F

Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
 Will you set the pris-oners free and nev - er be the same?
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.

(Em7) (G) (F#m7) (G) (Asus) (A)
 Gm7 B^b Am7 B^b Csus C

Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at-tract or scare?
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
 Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world a - round,
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)
 F C7 Dm Gm7 B^b F

will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
 Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"
 and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

The first four stanzas of this ballad-like hymn are understood to be in the voice of Christ, with the fifth reflecting the individual singer's response. Created for this traditional Scottish tune, the text was written to mark the conclusion of a youth volunteer's time of ministry.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Karen Wright

POSTLUDE

“Rag” from *Three American Miniatures*
Lorraine Miller, flute ~ Bob Dover, clarinet

John Rutter

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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