



GRACE COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship May 3, 2026 9:30am
Fifth Sunday of Easter

Gathering

*The prelude, the first act of worship, sets the tone for what is to follow.
So, we invite you as worshipers to gather, to transition from your busy lives
into a sacred place of communion with God and with each other. – Dr. Kimo Smith, adapted*

SONG TO GATHER

“Heart of Worship”

by Matt Redman

ALL

**When the music fades, all is stripped away, and I simply come.
Longing just to bring something that’s of worth that will bless your heart.
I’ll bring you more than a song, for a song in itself is not what you have required.
You search much deeper within through the way things appear; you’re looking into
my heart.**

**I’m coming back to the heart of worship, and it’s all about you, all about you Jesus.
I’m sorry, Lord, for the thing I’ve made it, when it’s all about you, all about you Jesus.**

*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 & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Karen Wright

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Come, all who hunger for what is true and lasting.

ALL: **We come to the living Christ, our cornerstone and our peace.**

ONE: In Christ, we are being built into a spiritual house, a people of hope.

ALL: We come to worship the One who calls us out of darkness into marvelous light.

ONE: Jesus says, "Do not let your hearts be troubled."

ALL: We trust in God. We trust also in Christ, the way, the truth, and the life.

ONE: Let us worship God.

ALL: With grateful hearts, we come to praise the Lord.

*SONG TO PRAISE

"God So Loved" by Ed Cash, Franni Cash, Martin Cash,
ALL Scott Cash & Andrew Bergthold

Come all you weary, come all you thirsty, come to the well that never runs dry.

Drink of the water, come and thirst no more.

Come all you sinners, come find his mercy. Come to the table, he will satisfy.

Taste of his goodness, find what you're looking for.

For God so loved the world that he gave us his one and only son to save us.

Whoever believes in him will live forever.

Bring all your failures, bring your addictions.

Come lay them down at the foot of the cross.

Jesus is waiting there with open arms.

For God so loved the world that he gave us his one and only son to save us.

Whoever believes in him will live forever.

The pow'r of hell, forever defeated. Now it is well, I'm walking in freedom.

For God so loved, God so loved the world.

Praise God, praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise him, praise him for the wonders of his love. (2X)

For God so loved the world that he gave us his one and only son to save us.

Whoever believes in him will live forever.

The pow'r of hell, forever defeated. Now it is well, I'm walking in freedom.

For God so loved, God so loved the world.

Bring all your failures, bring your addictions.

Come lay them down at the foot of the cross.

Jesus is waiting, God so loved the world.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Emily Nelson Dixon

Christ is our cornerstone, yet we often build our lives on lesser things. Jesus calls us not to troubled hearts, but to trusting hearts, yet we cling to fear. Still, God's mercy is sure. Trusting in grace, let us confess our sin together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Unison)*

Faithful God, you have called us to be a chosen people, yet we forget who we are and whose we are. You have made us living stones in your household, yet too often we live as if we stand alone. Forgive us when fear troubles our hearts, when doubt overshadows trust, when we seek our own way instead of following Christ, the way, the truth, and the life.

Forgive us when we stumble over pride, neglect justice, withhold mercy, or fail to proclaim your marvelous light in word and deed. Build us up again in grace. Shape us into a people of hope and hospitality, that our lives may bear witness to Christ our cornerstone. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news: Once we were not a people, but now we are God's people. Once we had not received mercy, but now we have received mercy. In Jesus Christ, the way to God is opened. Our sins are forgiven, our hearts are steadied, and we are made new by grace. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

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.)

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

ONE: May the peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you and all others!

*RESPONSE 243

"Be Not Afraid"

Equipping

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 14:1–14

Anne Stroud

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

SONG TO REFLECT

“You Say”

Praise Team

by Lauren Daigle, Jason Ingram,

Paul Mabury, Bebo Norman

& Mike Donehey

*I keep fighting voices in my mind that say I’m not enough,
Ev’ry single lie that tells me I will never measure up.
Am I more than just the sum of ev’ry high and ev’ry low?
Remind me once again just who I am, because I need to know.*

*You say I am loved, when I can’t feel a thing.
You say I am strong when I think I am weak.
You say I am held when I am falling short.
And when I don’t belong, you say I am yours.
I believe what you say of me.*

*The only thing that matters now is ev’rything you think of me.
In you I find my worth, in you I find my identity.*

*You say I am loved, when I can’t feel a thing.
You say I am strong when I think I am weak.
You say I am held when I am falling short.
And when I don’t belong, you say I am yours.
I believe what you say of me.*

*Taking all I have, and now I'm laying it at your feet.
You'll have ev'ry failure, God; You'll have ev'ry victory.*

*You say I am loved, when I can't feel a thing.
You say I am strong when I think I am weak.
You say I am held when I am falling short.
And when I don't belong, you say I am yours.
I believe what you say of me.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Peter 2:2–10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation — if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”
This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,
“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,”
and
“A stone that makes them stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Chosen”

Rev. Karen Wright

*SONG OF PEACE

“Sing”

by David Zimmer & Nathan Stiff

ALL

**Did you draw a breath as the dawn awoke and does your heart still beat?
Is the mighty word of the living God upholding you?
Then sing, O sing.**

**Has the father's love filled your longing heart with grace for ev'ry need?
Come and lay your burdens at Jesus' feet
and find new strength to sing, O sing.**

**Morning and evening, ev'rything breathing must sing, O sing.
All of creation, rise up and praise the king of kings and sing.**

**Has the son of God died to take away your sin and set you free?
Has the conqueror trampled over death?
Is Christ enthroned? Then sing, O sing.**

**Morning and evening, ev'rything breathing must sing, O sing.
All of creation, rise up and praise the king of kings and sing.**

**On the final day, when the lord on high returns in majesty,
We will bow in wonder before the lamb and evermore the saints will sing.
Yes evermore the saints will sing.**

**Morning and evening, ev'rything breathing must sing, O sing.
All of creation, rise up and praise the king of kings and sing. (2X)**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

SONG FOR GIVING

"Simple Kingdom"

by Cody Carnes, Hank Bently,
Katie Torwalt & Paul Duncan

ALL

**Your kingdom is simple, as simple as love.
You welcomed the children, you stopped for the one.
We want to see people the way Jesus does.
Your kingdom is simple, Lord, teach it to us.**

**Your kingdom is humble, as humble as death
His king is a savior who gave his last breath,
So may we die daily, our pride laid to rest.**

His kingdom is humble and the broken are blessed.

**Hallelujah, hallowed be your name,
May we live and breathe your praise.
Hallelujah, let all creation say, "Oh the king of heaven reigns."**

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

The Great Thanksgiving 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.

The Words of Institution

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Music During Communion "Simple Kingdom" *continued*

*Your kingdom is coming, your kingdom is here. Alive in our waiting at work in our tears.
So come to us quickly, forever our prayer. Your kingdom is coming, Lord Jesus come near.*

Hallelujah, hallowed be your name, May we live and breathe your praise.

Hallelujah, let all creation say, "Oh the king of heaven reigns."

*Your kingdom is moving, it flows in reverse. What you call a treasure this world calls a curse.
The small become great and the last become first. Your kingdom is moving, Lord, teach us to
serve.*

As it is with your kingdom, let it be with your church.

Hallelujah, hallowed be your name, May we live and breathe your praise.

Hallelujah, let all creation say, "Oh the king of heaven reigns."

Prayer After Communion

Sending

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Karen Wright

*SONG TO SEND

"God So Loved" *reprise*

**Come all you weary, come all you thirsty,
come to the well that never runs dry.**

**Drink of the water, come and thirst no more.
Come all you sinners, come find his mercy.
Come to the table, he will satisfy.
Taste of his goodness, find what you're looking for.**

**For God so loved the world that he gave us
his one and only son to save us.
Whoever believes in him will live forever.
The pow'r of hell, forever defeated.
Now it is well, I'm walking in freedom.
For God so loved, God so loved the world.**

**Stand in body or spirit*

GOD'S PEACE TO YOU

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