



# GRACE COVENANT

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship August 29, 2021 9:30am  
22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Gathering

PRELUDE

“Grace”

by Carolyn Hamlin

Linda Dover, organist

*Your will cannot lead me  
where Your grace will not keep me.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (*One*)

This day, Holy God, teach us how to love ourselves  
without selfishness, conceit, or disregard for our neighbors.

This day, Holy God, teach us what it means to stand up confidently for our faith  
without demeaning others in the process.

This day, Holy God, teach us how to forgive with humility and love.

This day and every day, Holy God, teach us your way.

HYMN 301

“Let Us Build a House (All Are Welcome)”

TWO OAKS

(Stanzas 1, 2, and 4)

# 301

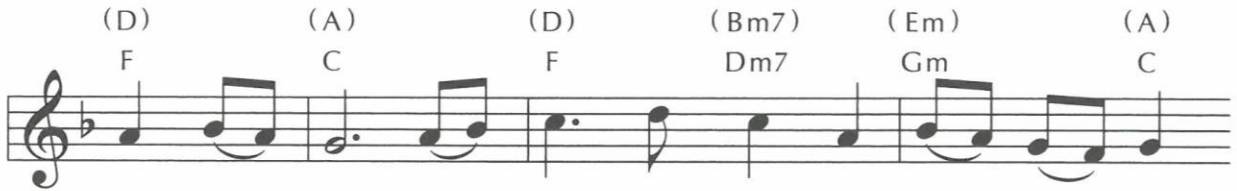
# Let Us Build a House

## All Are Welcome

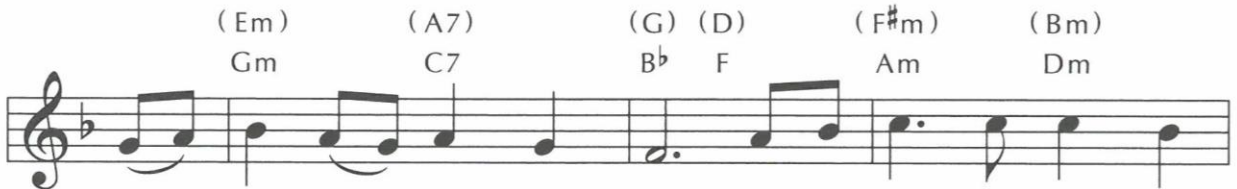
Capo 3: (A7) (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (Bm)  
 C7 F C F B<sup>b</sup> C Dm



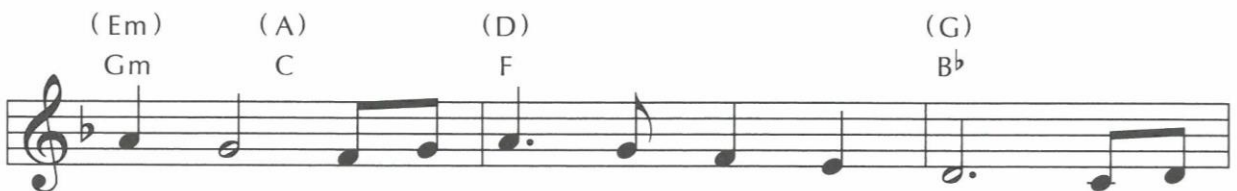
1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can  
 2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are  
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,  
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the  
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and



safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell  
 strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek  
 wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground  
 wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,  
 vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed



how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and  
 to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as  
 where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through  
 and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the  
 as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the  
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as  
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we  
 strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us  
 laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this

THE CHURCH

*Refrain*

(D) (G) (F#7) (Bm) (Em) (Bm)  
 F B<sup>b</sup> A7 Dm Gm Dm

love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:  
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:  
 share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel - come;  
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger:  
 house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:

(F#m) (Em) (D) (Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D) ((A7))  
 Am Gm F Gm C7 F B<sup>b</sup> F (C7)

all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

Although it was written for a church dedication, this text is not about a physical structure but a spiritual one. The building is at best only a vessel for the essential love and hope, life and faith, peace and justice, hospitality and nurture that form the worshiping community.

TEXT and MUSIC: Marty Haugen, 1994  
 Text and Music © 1994 GIA Publications, Inc.

TWO OAKS  
 9.6.8.6.8.7.10 with refrain

## TIME WITH STEWART

### PRAYER OF HOPE (*video*)

God who is far,

so far there is no yearning eye can see . . .  
 so far there is no praying voice can reach . . .  
 so far there is no longing arm can touch . . .

God who is near,

so near there is no leaf of color nor person you do not behold in delight . . .  
 so near there is no laughing creature nor mortal you do not heed in joy . . .  
 so near there is no stirring wind nor human spirit you do not feel in gladness,

listen carefully, we pray,  
 listen in all of your distance,  
 listen more in all of your presence.

We're praying for a vision . . .

not a fantasy . . .

not an illusion . . .

not an invention, but a vision:

A promised place where children do not throw stones;

A promised place where soldiers do not shoot children;

A promised place where tyrants sit in dark silence;

A promised place where airplanes do not fall from the sky;

A promised place where disease does not destroy;

A promised place where sons and fathers are not taken in the night;

A promised place where daughters and mothers walk in safety;<sup>20</sup>

A promised place where women and men stand side by side;

A promised place where the poor are seated at the banquet;

A promised place where the rich learn dignity from the poor;

A promised place where truth is spoken;

A promised place where there is no mourning,

nor crying,

nor pain,

nor despair, anymore for the former things shall have passed away.

Then, like a mother comforting her child,

wipe away every tear from their eye and ours;

and with this vision of divine promise,

give us grace to live in faithfulness and hope

as we face the tasks that are before us this day.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE & SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

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

## Equipping

### GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 7:1–8, 14–15, 21–23 (CEB)

Sarah Evans

The Pharisees and some legal experts from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus. They saw some of his disciples eating food with unclean hands. (They were eating without first ritually purifying their hands through washing. The Pharisees and all the Jews don't eat without first washing their hands carefully. This is a way of observing the rules handed down by the elders. Upon returning from the marketplace, they don't eat without first immersing themselves. They observe many other rules that have been handed down, such as the washing of cups, jugs, pans, and sleeping mats.) So the Pharisees and legal

experts asked Jesus, "Why are your disciples not living according to the rules handed down by the elders but instead eat food with ritually unclean hands?"

He replied, "Isaiah really knew what he was talking about when he prophesied about you hypocrites. He wrote,

*This people honors me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far away from me.  
Their worship of me is empty  
since they teach instructions that are human words.*

You ignore God's commandment while holding on to rules created by humans and handed down to you." Then Jesus called the crowd again and said, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing outside of a person can enter and contaminate a person in God's sight; rather, the things that come out of a person contaminate the person."

"It's from the inside, from the human heart, that evil thoughts come: sexual sins, thefts, murders, adultery, greed, evil actions, deceit, unrestrained immorality, envy, insults, arrogance, and foolishness. All these evil things come from the inside and contaminate a person in God's sight."

ANTHEM

"Come Build a Church"

by Ken Medema

Chancel Singers III

Lauren Bond, Karen Kesler, Susan Sutherland, Susan Hayden,  
David Sutherland, Linda Bruns, Paul Bruns, & Bob Dover

*God of creation, Maker of all things. We gather in this place to pray.  
We do invite you come now among us; Come and build your church today.*

**Come build a church with soul and spirit, come build a church of flesh and bone.  
We need no tower rising skyward; no house of wood, or glass, or stone.  
Come build a church with human frailty. Come build a church of flesh and blood.  
Jesus shall be its sure foundation. It shall be built by the hand of God. (Refrain)**

*Let us see the tongues of fire, let us hear the great wind roar.  
Let us know the awe and wonder, that we've only glimpsed before.  
Let us feel the strength of passion, which can make us laugh and weep.  
Let us know this great awakening. For so long we've been asleep.*

*Let us know the love unceasing, which alone can loose the bounds.  
Reaching out across the chasms, bringing walls of hatred down.  
Let us taste the sweet communion, where the circle never ends.  
Hold us in the sweet connection, turning strangers into friends. (Refrain)*

*Guide our feet in peaceful pathways. Teach us peace of heart and mind;  
peace with God and all God's children; till we leave our wars behind.*

*Surely joy will come and find us like a breeze that cools the night;  
like the rain upon the desert; like a candle's gentle light. (Refrain)*

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

James 1:17–27

Every good gift, every perfect gift, comes from above. These gifts come down from the Father, the creator of the heavenly lights, in whose character there is no change at all. He chose to give us birth by his true word, and here is the result: we are like the first crop from the harvest of everything he created.

Know this, my dear brothers and sisters: everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to grow angry. This is because an angry person doesn't produce God's righteousness. Therefore, with humility, set aside all moral filth and the growth of wickedness, and welcome the word planted deep inside you — the very word that is able to save you.

You must be doers of the word and not only hearers who mislead themselves. Those who hear but don't do the word are like those who look at their faces in a mirror. They look at themselves, walk away, and immediately forget what they were like. But there are those who study the perfect law, the law of freedom, and continue to do it. They don't listen and then forget, but they put it into practice in their lives. They will be blessed in whatever they do.

If those who claim devotion to God don't control what they say, they mislead themselves. Their devotion is worthless. True devotion, the kind that is pure and faultless before God the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their difficulties and to keep the world from contaminating us.

## SERMON

“Wait ... what was that?”

Rev. Mitch Trigger

## A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sending

## HYMN 717

“For the Life That You Have Given”

PLEADING SAVIOR

DEDICATION AND STEWARDSHIP

# 717 For the Life That You Have Given

For the life that you have giv - en, for the love in

Christ made known, with these fruits of time and la - bor, with these

gifts that are your own: here we of - fer, Lord, our prais - es;

heart and mind and strength we bring; give us grace to

love and serve you, liv - ing what we pray and sing.

The text was commissioned in 1987 by Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago, where it has continued to be used each Sunday as the offertory response. The triune activity of God as Creator (line 1), Savior (line 2), and Sustainer (line 7) enables and inspires our thanks and praise.

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“For All the Saints”  
Linda Dover, organist

arr. Charles Callahan

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

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