



GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship February 9, 2025 9:30am
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

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*

PRELUDE

“Be Still My Soul”
GCPC Wind Ensemble

James Swearingen

*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: We have come to worship God, the living God,

All: Who calls prophets and teachers to bear witness.

One: We have come to praise God, the almighty God,

All: Who answers the forces of hatred and hurt with the power of grace.

One: We have come to worship God, all-gracious God,

**All: Who chooses even you and me, to receive and carry the Word of life and
hope. All glory to God!**

GOD’S COVENANT WITH ISRAEL

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah 65

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y. Hold me
 stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
 fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell’s de - struc - tion, land me

with thy power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
 safe on Ca - naan’s side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.
 be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

Few Welsh hymns are as well known or loved as this 18th-century text that did not gain its popular tune until the early 20th century. In both its original text and in English translation, it is a stirring hymn of pilgrimage filled with vivid imagery from Hebrew Scripture.

TEXT: William Williams, 1762; stanza 1, trans. Peter Williams, 1771; stanzas 2–3, trans. William Williams, 1772
MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907

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.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Emily Nelson-Dixon

God you call us, and we listen to the voices in the world. You call us, and we walk a different path of our choosing. We often fail to be your hands and feet and choose ease and comfort. Hear us as we pray.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

Almighty God, the world is filled with voices that distract us. Distractions that lead us away from you or cloud our sense of purpose. We are at times frightened and overwhelmed by the volume of the world, and we shrink from all the noise. Forgive us when we fail to respond to your call; forgive us when we lose our way; forgive us when we are frightened. Send your Spirit to renew our faith. Send your Spirit that we may see your hand guiding us in the past and in the present so we may trust in your guidance in the days to come. In Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

We have been made clean in the waters of baptism. Open our ears to hear your call. Open our hearts to sense the nudges of the Holy Spirit. Help us stand as your disciples and reach out to the world around us in love. Remind us that we are loved, and we are forgiven.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

ONE: May the peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you and all others!

*HYMN 155

“Raise a Song of Gladness”

JUBILATE DEO

Equipping

SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Corinthians 15:1–11 (NRSVue)

Melanie Townsend

Now I want you to understand, brothers and sisters, the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures and that he was buried and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you believed.

ANTHEM

"Lord, Here Am I"

John Ness Beck

Chancel & Exaltation! Singers

*Master, Thou callest, I gladly obey; Only direct me, and I'll find Thy way.
Teach me the mission appointed for me, What is my labor, and where it shall be.
Master, Thou callest, and this I reply, "Ready and willing, Lord, here am I."*

*Willing, my Savior, to take up the cross; willing to suffer reproaches and loss;
Willing to follow, if Thou will but lead; only support me with grace in my need.
Master, Thou callest, and this I reply, "Ready and willing, Lord, here am I."*

*Living or dying, I still would be thine, yet I am mortal while thou art divine.
Pardon, whenever I turn from the right; Pity, and bring me again to the light.
Master, Thou callest, and this I reply, "Ready and willing, Lord, here am I."*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 5:1–11 (NRSVue)

Once while Jesus was standing beside the Lake of Gennesaret and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to burst. So they signaled their

partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus's knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and all who were with him were astounded at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Followers Not Fish"

Rev. Karen Wright

RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS

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

by David R. Holsinger

"On a Hymnsong of Philip Bliss" (It is Well With My Soul)

GCPC Wind Ensemble

[Sending](#)

CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

39 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1 *Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;
2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee.
sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide,

Thou chang - est not; thy com - pas - sions they fail not.
join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row:

As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.
to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

*Or "Great is thy faithfulness, O God, Creator."

Written as a meditation on Lamentations 3:22-23, this text is one of the few hymns among the 1200 poems by this Methodist writer and pastor that has gained much currency. The tune that appears here was composed especially for these words, and the pairing has proved enduring.

CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

Refrain

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!
 오 신 실 하 신 주 오 신 실 하 신 주

Morn - ing by morn - ing, new mer - cies I see.
 날 마 다 자 비 를 베푸 시 며

All I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed.
 일 용 할 모 든 것 내 려 주 시 니

Great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!
 오 신 실 하 신 주 나 의 구 주

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Karen Wright

POSTLUDE

**Stand in body or spirit*

GOD'S PEACE TO YOU

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GCPC Wind Ensemble

Flutes: *Susan Culp, Katie Hearn, Jani Scheppers, Debbie Stewart*

Clarinets: *Bob Dover, Edwin Fukunaga, Amy Jantz*

Bass Clarinet: *Natalie Walker*

Tenor Saxophone: *Richard Rogers*

Trumpets: *Charlie Graves, Russ Thompson, Darryl Prater, Kevin Schwartz*

Antiphonal Trumpets: *Tim Ross, Mary Russell, Jim Kelly*

Horns: *Jim Kelly, Wendy Kenemer, Ellin Schoenfeld*

Trombones: *David Roth, David England*

Baritone: *Lara Schesser*

String Bass: *Gay Lee Ludwig-Bonney*

Percussion: *Chris Culp, Jill Endaya-Allen*

Organ: *Linda Dover*



GRACE COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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