



GRACE COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship January 11, 2026 9:30am

Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Gathering

SONG TO GATHER

"Here as in Heaven"

by Elevation Worship

All

see insert

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Karen Wright

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: God says, *"Here is my servant, whom I uphold."*

In the waters of the Jordan, heaven opens and the Spirit descends.

**ALL: We come to worship the God who names and claims us,
the God who calls us beloved.**

ONE: Come, all who have passed through the waters.

ALL: Come, all who seek renewal and new life. Let us worship the Lord.

*SONG TO PRAISE

"He Has Come for Us"
(God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen)

arr. by Meredith Andrews

All

see insert

CALL TO CONFESSION

Emily Nelson Dixon

In baptism, God calls us beloved and invites us to walk in the light, to bring justice, to open blind eye and to live as servants of grace. Yet we confess that we stray from this calling. Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Faithful God, you claim us as your own and call us beloved. Yet we confess that we forget who we are. We resist your justice, we turn from your ways, and we follow paths that lead away from your light. We confess our fear of change, our reluctance to serve, and our silence when love calls us to speak. Wash us again in your grace. Renew us by your Spirit. Restore in us the joy of living as your people, that we may follow Jesus with humility and trust. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news: The God who called Jesus "Beloved" calls you beloved as well. In Christ, we are forgiven, claimed by grace, and set free to live as God's people. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we are made new.

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 583

"Gloria"

Equipping

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 42:1–9

Anne Stroud

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

He will not cry out or lift up his voice
or make it heard in the street;
a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth,
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.
Thus says God, the Lord,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness;
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
I am the Lord; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

SONG TO REFLECT

“Because of Bethlehem”

by Matthew West

Praise Team

*Just a tiny nowhere town with a tiny no-room inn
This is where the greatest story ever told begins
Where just a tiny beating heart had all creation leaning in
That night the world forever changed, Because of Bethlehem.
It's where a star led to a stable~A baby's cry made angels sing
And the search to find a savior~Led to Heaven's humble King
Where the wise men found the answer, the shepherds found the lamb
And I found my Immanuel, Because of Bethlehem.*

*Love is born~Hope is here~Heaven's light has made the darkness disappear
Peace on earth~Good will to men~God with us all because of Bethlehem.*

*From a child in a cradle to a king upon a cross
He knew the road was leading Him to pay a crimson cost
And when no other arms could carry the weight of all our sin
He took the fall and it happened all Because of Bethlehem .*

*Love is born~Hope is here~Heaven's light has made the darkness disappear
Peace on earth~Good will to men~God with us all because of Bethlehem.*

*From a tomb that love left empty, to a Father's right hand throne
And a promise He's preparing us a place we'll soon call home
He who came to earth from heaven is coming back again
And our eyes will see eternity because of Bethlehem*

God with us all because of Bethlehem

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 3:13–17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God’s Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Claimed and Called”

Rev. Karen Wright

*SONG OF DEDICATION

“Come to Us”

by Greg Walton

All

see insert

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from A Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

INSTALLATION OF DEACONS

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

SONG FOR GIVING

“Light of the World”

by We the Kingdom

All

see insert

[Sending](#)

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*SONG TO SEND

“God With Us”

by Ingram & Jordan

All

see insert

**Stand in body or spirit*

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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