



GRACE COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship August 13, 2023 9:30am
11th Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering

PRELUDE

“Morning Has Broken”
Linda Dover, organist

Trad. Gaelic Melody
arr. Anne A. Davis

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

Barbara Douglas

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 96:1–2, CEB)

Rev. Don Wilson

ONE: Sing to the LORD a new song!

ALL: Sing to the LORD, all the earth!

ONE: Sing to the LORD! Bless God’s name!

ALL: Share the news of God’s saving work every single day!

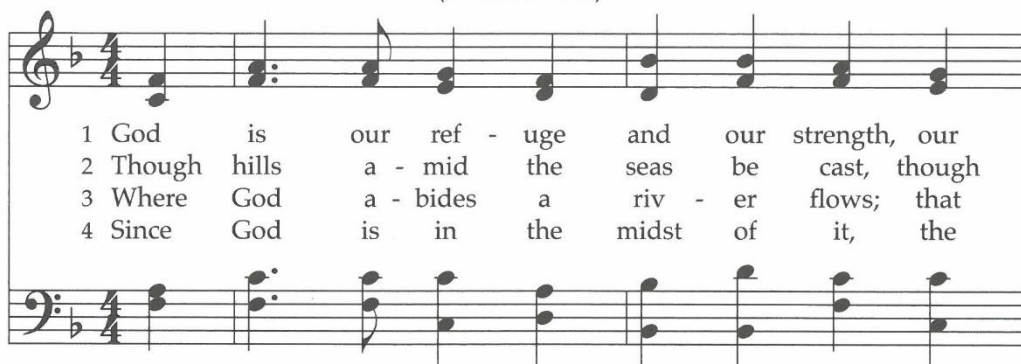
*HYMN 329

“God Is Our refuge and Our Strength”

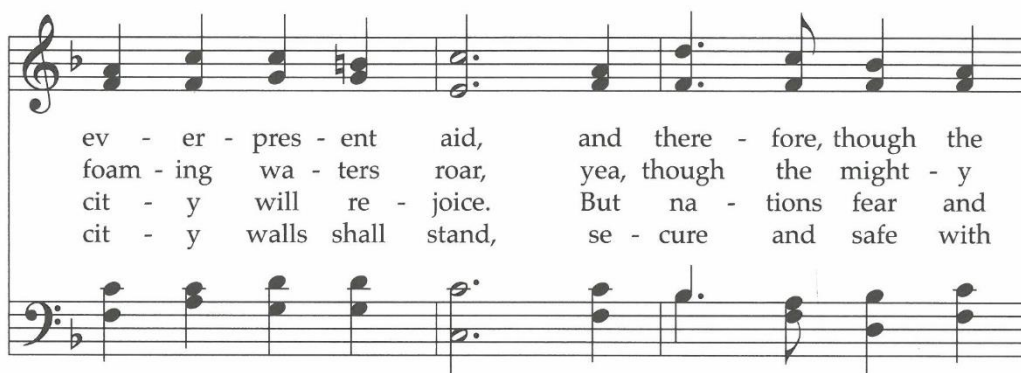
WINCHESTER OLD

329 God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength

(Psalm 46)



1 God is our ref - uge and our strength, our
 2 Though hills a - mid the seas be cast, though
 3 Where God a - bides a riv - er flows; that
 4 Since God is in the midst of it, the



ev - er - pres - ent aid, and there - fore, though the
 foam - ing wa - ters roar, yea, though the might - y
 cit - y will re - joice. But na - tions fear and
 cit - y walls shall stand, se - cure and safe with



earth be moved, we will not be a - fraid;
 bil - lows shake the moun - tains on the shore.
 king - doms shake be - fore God's thun - dering voice.
 God's sure help, when trou - ble is at hand.

The first two stanzas of this very condensed paraphrase of Psalm 46 were created early in the 20th century, and the last two stanzas were prepared near its end. The text is set to a late 16th-century psalm tune that comes from the first such collection to give tunes names.

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN Blessing of the Backpacks

Amy Sellers

(Awakening to Worship, our child-friendly worship time, is on summer hiatus. 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.)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

Rev. Don Wilson

O God of justice and mercy, through the voices of the prophets of old, you have called your people to be faithful to a covenant which includes the practice of steadfast love and righteousness. Through the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus you have again summoned your people to express our love of God by love of neighbor...and to even love enemies. We hear the words, we sing the hymns, but the living of the message is difficult. We feel frustrated, angry, and dismayed by strident voices around us spouting hate, kindling fear, and distrust. So, we come before you seeking your guiding spirit to strengthen our resolve. Forgive us when we are tempted to give up. We trust that you will gift to us renewed hope, strength, and courage to live the faith to which we are called. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: Forgiven and freed, let us declare the good news of the gospel.

ALL: In and through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

ONE: May the peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you and all others!

*HYMN 450, st. 1

“Be Thou My Vision”

SLANE

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

Equipping

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 107:23–32 (CEB)

Barbara Douglas

Some of the redeemed had gone out on the ocean in ships,
making their living on the high seas.

They saw what the LORD had made;
they saw his wondrous works in the depths of the sea.

God spoke and stirred up a storm
that brought the waves up high.

The waves went as high as the sky;
they crashed down to the depths.
The sailors' courage melted at this terrible situation.

They staggered and stumbled around like they were drunk.
None of their skill was of any help.

So they cried out to the LORD in their distress,
and God brought them out safe from their desperate circumstances.

God quieted the storm to a whisper;
the sea's waves were hushed.

So they rejoiced because the waves had calmed down;
then God led them to the harbor they were hoping for.

Let them thank the LORD for his faithful love
and his wondrous works for all people.

Let them exalt God in the congregation of the people
and praise God in the assembly of the elders.

SUNG ADORATION

“Jesus, Savior, Blessed Friend”
Terri Monrad, soprano

by Deborah Govenor

*Whom have I, O Lord, beside you? What have I except your love?
Where is home if not for heaven, there to dwell with you above?
Who are you if not my Savior? Who am I if not your own?
What are you if not my shelter, Christ, my rock and cornerstone?
Jesus, Savior, blessed friend, I will love you without end.*

*Who will share my earthly sorrow? Who will heal my broken heart?
Who will hold my life together when it seems to fall apart?
When the fears are far too many, and the joys are far too few,
who will comfort and defend me? Only you, Lord, only you.
Jesus, Savior, dearest friend, I will trust you without end.*

*Where, O Lord, when life is over, can I go, but home to you?
What have I except the promise where you are I shall be, too?
When at last I reach the comfort of that bright celestial place,
there with joy will I behold you, gaze upon your glorious face.
Jesus, Savior, heav'nly friend, I will praise you without end.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 14:22–33 (CEB)

Right then, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead to the other side of the lake while he dismissed the crowds. When he sent them away, he went up onto a mountain by himself to pray. Evening came and he was alone. Meanwhile, the boat, fighting a strong headwind, was being battered by the waves and was already far away from land. Very early in the morning he came to his disciples, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified and said, "It's a ghost!" They were so frightened they screamed.

Just then Jesus spoke to them, "Be encouraged! It's me. Don't be afraid."

Peter replied, "Lord, if it's you, order me to come to you on the water."

And Jesus said, "Come."

Then Peter got out of the boat and was walking on the water toward Jesus. But when Peter saw the strong wind, he became frightened. As he began to sink, he shouted, "Lord, rescue me!" Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him, saying, "You man of weak faith! Why did you begin to have doubts?" When they got into the boat, the wind settled down. Then those in the boat worshipped Jesus and said, "You must be God's Son!"

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Headwinds"

Rev. Don Wilson

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC

“The Lord’s My Shepherd”

Linda Dover, organist

Brother James’ Air

arr. Sarah Linn Drye

COMMISSIONING OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Angela Krug

Sending

*HYMN

“You Are Mine”

by David Haas

Katie Hearn, flute – Donna Heer, violin
Terri Monrad – Rebecca Prater, solo verses

All join on Refrain on cue

YOU ARE MINE
CONTIGO ESTOY

Spanish Trans. by Santiago Fernández Words and Music by David Haas

Do not be a - fraid, I am with you.
A - quíes - toy con - ti - go, no te - mas.

I have called you each by name.
Yo por nom - bre te lla - mé.

Come and fol - low me, I will bring you home; I
Ven y sí - gue - me. Yo te lle - va - ré. Te

love you and you are mine.
a - mo y con - ti - go es - toy.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Barbara Douglas

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Don Wilson

POSTLUDE

“Postlude in F Major”
Linda Dover, organist

by Duane Plash

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

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