



GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship October 12, 2025 9:30am
Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

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

Linda Dover, organist

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: Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose hope is in God.

ALL: We are like trees planted by water, sending out roots by the stream.

ONE: Though heat comes, we shall not be scorched. Though drought lingers, we will not wither.

ALL: Our leaves stay green; we bear fruit in due season.

ONE: The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, small yet full of promise.

ALL: We come to worship the God who plants, who nurtures, and who brings the harvest.


*HYMN 771

“What Is the World Like”

NEW WORLD


What Is the World Like 771

Capo 1: (G) A^b (Em7) Fm7 (C) D^b (D) E^b




1 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 2 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 3 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 4 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 5 These are the sto - ries that Je - sus im - parts,

(Em) Fm (C) D^b (Am) B^bm (B7) C7




Mus - tard seeds grow more than we can con - ceive;
 Wit - ness the wan - der - ing child com - ing home;
 No more is neigh - bor just al - ly or friend;
 Read - y for feast - ing, we watch through the night,
 filled with the Spir - it who joins us as one.

(Em) Fm (Am) B^bm (D) E^b (G) A^b



roots thread the soil; branch - es reach for the sun.
 watch as the par - ent breaks in - to a run.
 peace thrives in plac - es where once there was none.
 tend - ing our lamps till the new day's be - gun.
 Born through our voic - es, our hands, and our hearts,

(C) D^b (Em7) Fm7 (Am7) B^bm7 (D) E^b (G) A^b



This is how God moves us each to be - lieve.
 This is how God longs for us when we roam.
 This is how God works when ri - val - ries end.
 This is how God read - ies us for the light.
 this is a new world where God's will is done.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This text and tune were written to conclude a hymn festival at the 2009 Annual Conference of The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada. Four parables framed both the festival and the hymn: the Mustard Seed, the Prodigal Son, the Good Samaritan, and the Ten Bridesmaids.

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 calls us to trust deeply, to plant generously, and to grow faithfully. But we confess that too often we cling to fear, withhold our gifts, and resist growth. Let us come before the God of mercy, who hears our prayers and renews our lives.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, You sow seeds of hope and life, but we confess that we do not always trust Your promise. We cling to what we know, afraid to risk new beginnings. We measure with scarcity instead of abundance. We withhold when You call us to plant, and we resist when You invite us to grow. Forgive us, Lord. Turn our hearts toward the streams of Your mercy. Plant in us the seeds of faith, that we might bear fruit for the sake of Your kingdom. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, hear the good news: Even when our trust falters, God's faithfulness does not. Like a tree planted by living water, we are nourished by God's grace. In Jesus Christ, the seed of new life has taken root, and by His love, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God! We are forgiven, renewed, and called to grow!

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

ONE: May the peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you and all others!

*HYMN 692

"Spirit, Open My Heart"

WILD MOUNTAIN THYME

692 Spirit, Open My Heart

Capo 3: (D) (G) (D) (G) (A7)
 Refrain F B^b F B^b C7

Spir - it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of

(Bm) (D/A) (G) (A7) (Bm) (D/A) (Em)
 Dm F/C B^b C7 Dm F/C Gm

liv - ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing

(D) (G) (Em7) (D) (G) (D)
 F B^b Gm7 F B^b F *Fine*

and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.

(D) (G) (D) (G)
 F B^b F B^b

1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's
 2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my
 3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of

(A7) (Bm) (D/A) (G) (A7)
 C7 Dm F/C B^b C7

kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and
 goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and
 sis - ter, broth - er. In the wel - come of

(Bm) (Em7) (D) (G2) (G)
 Dm Gm7 F B^b2 B^b *to Refrain*

fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.
 deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.
 Christ, may we wel - come one an - oth - er.

The pace and diversity of modern life often hinder us from remaining vulnerable to our emotions and to the humanness of other people. This prayerful text to be open to such joys and pains draws on Ezekiel 11:19 and 36:26 in stanza one and echoes Jeremiah 31:33 in stanza two.

TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1994

MUSIC: Irish melody; arr. Alfred V. Fedak, 2011

Text © 1996 The Pilgrim Press

Music Harm. © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak

WILD MOUNTAIN THYME

Irregular

Equipping

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 4:30–32 (CEB)

Tom Stroud

Jesus continued, “What’s a good image for God’s kingdom? What parable can I use to explain it? Consider a mustard seed. When scattered on the ground, it’s the smallest of all the seeds on the earth; but when it’s planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all vegetable plants. It produces such large branches that the birds in the sky are able to nest in its shade.”

ANTHEM

“With A Voice of Singing”

Martin Shaw

Chancel Choir – Patrick O’Halloran, director

With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia!

Utter it even unto the ends of the earth.

The Lord hath delivered His people, Alleluia!

O be joyful in God, all ye lands

O sing praises to the honor of His name,

make His praise to be glorious

With a voice of singing, declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia!

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Jeremiah 17:5–10 (CEB)

The Lord proclaims:

Cursed are those who trust in mere humans,
who depend on human strength
and turn their hearts from the Lord.

They will be like a desert shrub
that doesn’t know when relief comes.

They will live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in a barren land where no one survives.

Happy are those who trust in the Lord,
who rely on the Lord.

They will be like trees planted by the streams,
whose roots reach down to the water.

They won’t fear drought when it comes;
their leaves will remain green.

They won’t be stressed in the time of drought
or fail to bear fruit.

The most cunning heart—
it’s beyond help.

Who can figure it out?

I, the Lord, probe the heart
and discern hidden motives,
to give everyone what they deserve,
the consequences of their deeds.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Planted in Faith”

Rev. Karen Wright

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.

STEWARDSHIP MINUTE

Joy Slayton

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC

Linda Dover, organist

[Sending](#)


*HYMN 716

“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

BEACH SPRING


God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending 716

Capo 3: (D) F (Bm) Dm (G) B \flat




1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and
 2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of
 3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through powers your

(D) F (Bm) Dm




end - less store, na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly
 Christ, your Son: all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es
 grace con - ferred: ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to

(G) B \flat (D) F (A) C




cross, grave's shat - tered door: gift - ed by you, we turn
 joined, the church made one. Now di - rect our dai - ly
 spread the gos - pel word. O - pen wide our hands in

(Bm) Dm (F#m) Am (Bm) Dm (G) B \flat (A) C (D) F



to you, of - fer - ing up our - selves in praise; thank - ful song shall
 la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone. Born with tal - ents,
 shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call, heal - ing, teach - ing,

(Bm) Dm (G) B \flat (D) F



rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
 make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
 and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This text on stewardship was one of about 450 submissions in a search for such hymns conducted by the Hymn Society of America in 1961. These words are well grounded by their musical setting, an early American shape note tune named for a Baptist church in Harris County, Georgia.

TEXT: Robert L. Edwards, 1961, alt.
 MUSIC: *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; harm. James H. Wood, 1958
 Text © 1961, ren. 1989 *The Hymn Society* (admin. *Hope Publishing Company*)
 Music Harm. © 1958, ren. 1986 *Broadman Press* (admin. *Music Services*)

BEACH SPRING
 8.7.8.7.D

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Karen Wright

POSTLUDE

Linda Dover, organist

**Stand in body or spirit*

GOD'S PEACE TO YOU

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GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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