



# GRACE COVENANT

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship September 17, 2023 9:30am  
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

### Gathering

PRELUDE

Prelude on WYE VALLEY  
“Like a River Glorious”  
Linda Dover, organist

arr. James Pethel

*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

Kathy Bures

INTROIT

“God Cares for Me”  
Joy! Singers (4s-1<sup>st</sup> graders)  
Emily Hussey & Hilary Schmidt, co-directors  
Caitlin Hussey, junior assistant  
Singers – Rowan Cabe, Brody Frye, Henry Frye, Charlotte Hearn,  
Nathan Hearn, Sophia Hearn, Aidan Hussey, Evie Schmidt,  
Bristol Sellers, & Magnolia Sellers

by Ruth Elaine Schram  
Based on Matthew 5:3

*God cares for me. God provides for me.  
God is always with me. God cares for me.*

*When I am glad, when I am sad,  
God is always with me. God cares for me.*

*God cares for me. God provides for me.  
God is always with me. God cares for me.*

*All through the night, all through the day,  
God is always with me.  
God cares for me.*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Kathy Bures

ONE: Children of God, it's time to take off your shoes,

**ALL: Step out of your comfort zone,  
and wade with trust into the stream of God's mercy.**

ONE: Stand still for a moment, barefoot, on holy ground.

**ALL: Let the healing waters wash your feet.**

ONE: Take a deep breath as love soaks into your soul

**ALL: Be silent and listen for God's word to us today.**

\*HYMN 664

"Morning Has Broken"

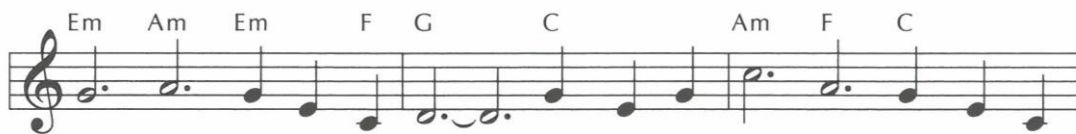
BUNESSAN

CELEBRATING TIME

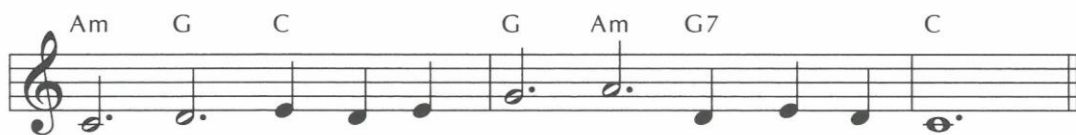
# Morning Has Broken 664



1 Morn-ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing; black-bird has  
 2 Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from heav - en, like the first  
 3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing, born of the



spo - ken like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the  
 dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet-ness of the wet  
 one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion; praise ev - ery



morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!  
 gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.  
 morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

This 20th-century text was created to provide words for this traditional tune named for a small village on the Isle of Mull, off the west coast of Scotland. Through repeated use of "new" and "first," each morning is treated as a re-creation of the promise of the original day.

TEXT: Eleanor Farjeon, 1931, alt.  
 MUSIC: Gaelic melody; arr. Beverly A. Howard, 2012  
 Text © David Higham Assoc., Ltd.  
 Music Arr. © 2012 Beverly A. Howard

BUNESSAN  
 5.5.5.4.D

MINUTE FOR MISSION

SowHope  
*Recipient of Today's Noisy Offering*

Beth Lillian

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Noisy Offering

Mikki Walker

Sharing Our Song

**"Spread a Little Kindness"**  
Celebration! Choir (2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders)  
Pam Kelly, director – Lara Schesser, worship director  
Angela Krug, accompanist

by Karen Crane &  
Jennifer Klein

Singers – Helen Blankers, Nini Golston-Circo, Abel Frye, Kamden Frye,  
Mallory Hearn, Liam Hussey, Brynnley Krug, & James Schmidt

*Sometimes our troubles get in the way, and we're feeling dreary and gray.*

*If we respond with a positive mind, we can share our love and be kind.*

***(Refrain) Spread a little kindness, share a little love, give a little comfort for today.***

***Soon you're gonna find that ev'ry caring touch brings a little happiness your way.***

***Spread a little kindness for today.***

*Things may not go the way that we planned, still we keep on lending a hand.*

*Let's spread God's love and kindness around, so that hope and joy will be found. (Refrain Twice)*

*(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.)*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

Kathy Bures

**Nurturing God, like a hen gathers her brood under her wings, you desire to gather your children. But division and disagreement plague us. We cling to rigid certainties, approach each other in arrogance, and fail to listen. We walk away from conflict, rather than working through it. Forgive us, Holy God. Help us grow in faith, mature in relationship, and be transformed through your steadfast love. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

ONE: May the peace of Christ be with you.

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

\*HYMN 71

**"Surely, It Is God Who Saves Me"**  
***All sing Refrain each time on cue***  
Lindsay Callender, solo on verses – Kathy Bures, handbells

FIRST SONG

# 71 Surely, It Is God Who Saves Me

Refrain



Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust and not be a -  
 afraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my sure de -  
 fense, and God will be my Sav - ior.

## Equipping

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 12:1–6 (NRSV)

Nancy Kalesz

You will say in that day: I will give thanks to you, O Lord, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, and you comforted me. Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

### ANTHEM

“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms” setting by Eric Nelson  
 (Incorporating “Amazing Grace” by John Newton) Words by E. A. Hoffman  
 Chancel & Exaltation! Singers

Katie Hearn, flute – Gay Lee Ludwig-Bonney, string bass

*“The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.”*

*Deuteronomy 33:27*

*What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms.*

*What a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.*

*Leaning, safe and secure from all alarms; leaning on the everlasting arms.*

*Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;*

*leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.*

*Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms;*

*oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms.*

*Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come.  
What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?  
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting...  
Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;  
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.*

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

## Micah 6:1–8 (NRSV)

Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. “O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words

**Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

“The Gospel According to Grace Covenant”

Melanie Townsend

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Kathy Bures

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC

“Amazing Grace”  
Linda Dover, organist

NEW BRITAIN  
arr. Wilbur Held

[Sending](#)

\*HYMN 749

“Come! Live in the Light!”

WE ARE CALLED

# 749 Come! Live in the Light!

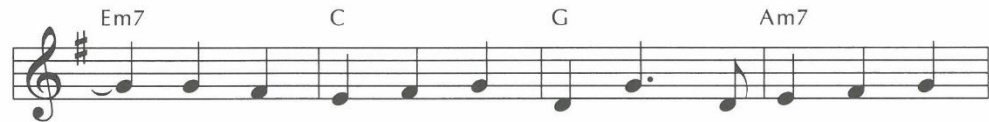
## We Are Called



1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the  
 2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your  
 3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that



joy and the love of the Lord! We are called  
 mer - cy to all those in fear! We are called  
 great day when all will be one! God will reign,



to be light for the king - dom, to live in the  
 to be hope for the hope - less so ha - tred and  
 and we'll walk with each oth - er as sis - ters and



free - dom of the cit - y of God.  
 vio - lence will be no more.  
 broth - ers u - nit - ed in love.

*Refrain*



We are called to act with jus - tice; we are called to



love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -



oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

The thematic and musical center of this hymn on the vocation of all believers is found in the refrain, which is based on the well-known challenge of Micah 6:8, "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kathy Bures

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Melanie Townsend

POSTLUDE

“Siyahamba”  
*We Are Marching in the Light of God*  
Linda Dover, organist

arr. John A. Behnke  
based on a South African  
Freedom Song

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

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