



GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship May 16, 2021 10:00am
Ascension of the Lord Sunday

Gathering

PRELUDE "Come Christians, Be Committed" arr. Roger Wischmeier
Linda Dover, organ

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT *"Hope in Me" by Terre Johnson
Chancel Singers I based on Isaiah 40:21–31

Donna Heer, violin & Bob Dover, clarinet

*Liz Chandler, Terri Monrad, Sue Trigger, Connie Richards,
Linda Bruns, Gene Wilson, Mitch Trigger, & Joe Hoffman – Singers*

*Have you not known me from the beginning? Have you not heard it since life began?
I am the everlasting Creator, heaven and earth sprang forth from my hand.*

***Hope in me and you will be strengthened; run ev'ry race and I will revive.
Walk without fainting, mount up as eagles; hope in me, for I am God.***

*Look at the sky and try to imagine who could have formed the stars and the sun.
All you can see, and more that is hidden, I chose their orbits, I named each one.*

*Although it seems your pathways are hidden, I will bring peace to the future you dread.
I made the earth, the seas, and the heavens; I can give strength for what lies ahead.
...hope in me, for I am God.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Love is God's language, let us learn to speak it fluently.

Love is God's culture, let us learn to live it joyfully.

Love is God's image, let us learn to mirror it faithfully.

ADORATION

628 Praise, I Will Praise You, Lord

Je louerai l'Éternel

1 Praise, I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart. O
 2 Love, I will love you, Lord, with all my heart. O
 3 Serve, I will serve you, Lord, with all my heart. O

God, I will tell the won-ders of your ways, and glo-ri - fy your name.

Praise, I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart. In
 Love, I will love you, Lord, with all my heart. In
 Serve, I will serve you, Lord, with all my heart. In

you I will find the source of all my joy. Al - le - lu - ia!

FRENCH

*Je louerai l'Éternel de tout mon coeur,
 je raconterai toutes tes merveilles,
 je chanterai ton nom.
 Je louerai l'Éternel de tout mon coeur,
 je ferai de toi le sujet de ma joie.
 Alleluia!*

This simple song based on Psalm 9:1-2 was created in the mid-1970s for a morning devotional of a group touring in the picturesque high Alps. Later it was incorporated into their programs and soon spread throughout Europe and the world, being translated into many languages.

A TIME WITH STEWART

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*video*)

Holy God, we pray for the power to be gentle;
the strength to be forgiving;
the patience to be understanding;
and the endurance to accept the consequences
of holding on to what we believe to be right.

May we put our trust in the power of good to overcome evil
and the power of love to overcome hatred.

We pray for the vision to see and the faith to believe
in a world emancipated from violence,
a new world where fear shall no longer lead men or women to commit injustice,
nor selfishness make them bring suffering to others.

Help us to devote our whole life and thought and energy
to the task of making peace,
praying always for the inspiration and the power
to fulfill the destiny for which we and all men and women were created. **Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE & SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you and all others!

HYMN 264

"At the Name of Jesus"

KING'S WESTON

At the Name of Jesus 264

Capo 5: (Am) (G) (Am) (C) (Am) (Dm) (Am)
 Dm C Dm F Dm Gm Dm

1 At the name of Je - sus ev - ery knee shall bow,
 2 Hum - bled for a sea - son to re - ceive a name
 3 Bore it up tri - um - phant, with its hu - man light,
 4 Chris - tians, this Lord Je - sus shall re - turn a - gain,

(C) (G) (Am) (C) (Dm)
 F C Dm F Gm

ev - ery tongue con - fess him King of glo - ry now;
 from the lips of sin - ners un - to whom he came,
 through all ranks of crea - tures, to the cen - tral height,
 with his Fa - ther's glo - ry o'er the earth to reign;

(G) (Em) (Am) (G) (D) (G)
 C Am Dm C G C

'tis the Fa - ther's plea - sure we should call him Lord,
 faith - ful - ly he bore it spot - less to the last,
 to the throne of God - head, to the Fa - ther's breast,
 for all wreaths of em - pire meet up - on his brow,

(Am) (G) (Em) (Dm) (C) (G) (Am)
 Dm C Am Gm F C Dm

who from the be - gin - ning was the might - y Word.
 brought it back vic - to - rious, when from death he passed;
 filled it with the glo - ry of that per - fect rest.
 and our hearts con - fess him King of glo - ry now.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This may well be a hymn based on a hymn, for scholars say that the passage behind it (Philippians 2:5–11), though not in the style of Greek poetry, shows traits of a communal creedal statement capable of being sung. It is set here to one of the composer's most sonorous tunes.

Equipping

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 24:44–53

(CEB)

The next day the leaders, elders, and legal experts gathered in Jerusalem, along with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and others from the high priest's family. They had Peter and John brought before them and asked, "By what power or in what name did you do this?" Then Peter, inspired by the Holy Spirit, answered, "Leaders of the people and elders, are we being examined today because something good was done for a sick person, a good deed that healed him? If so, then you and all the people of Israel need to know that this man stands healthy before you because of the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene—whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is the stone you builders rejected; he has become the cornerstone! Salvation can be found in no one else. Throughout the whole world, no other name has been given among humans through which we must be saved."

ANTHEM

"Shines the Light"

Words by Susan Naus Dengler

Chancel Singers II

Music by Lee Dengler

Donna Heer, violin – Ky Townsend, cello – Katie Hearn, flute – Cal Sweeten, dulcimer

Barbara Douglas, Kathy Williams, Terri Monrad, Pam Kelly, Susan Hayden,

Jim Kelly, Ellin Schoenfeld, Bob Dover, & Joe Hoffman – Singers

On the edge of a night lit with hope and promise, all the heavens are filled with the glory of God.

From a rough wooden bed in a stable in Bethlehem shines the light of the world. Alleluia.

For the child that is born here is sent from above to show us freedom and peace and love.

From the life that he lives as he walks among us shines the light for our pathways. Alleluia.

On the edge of a day dimmed with grief and sorrow, though the dark would consume

that radiance so bright, from a rough, wooden cross on a hillside called Calvary

shine the light that is Jesus. Alleluia!

For the man who hangs there is sent from above to bring us freedom and peace and love.

From the life that denied the grave its power shines our light, our salvation. Alleluia!

SERMON

"Up, Up, and Away"

Rev. Mitch Trigger

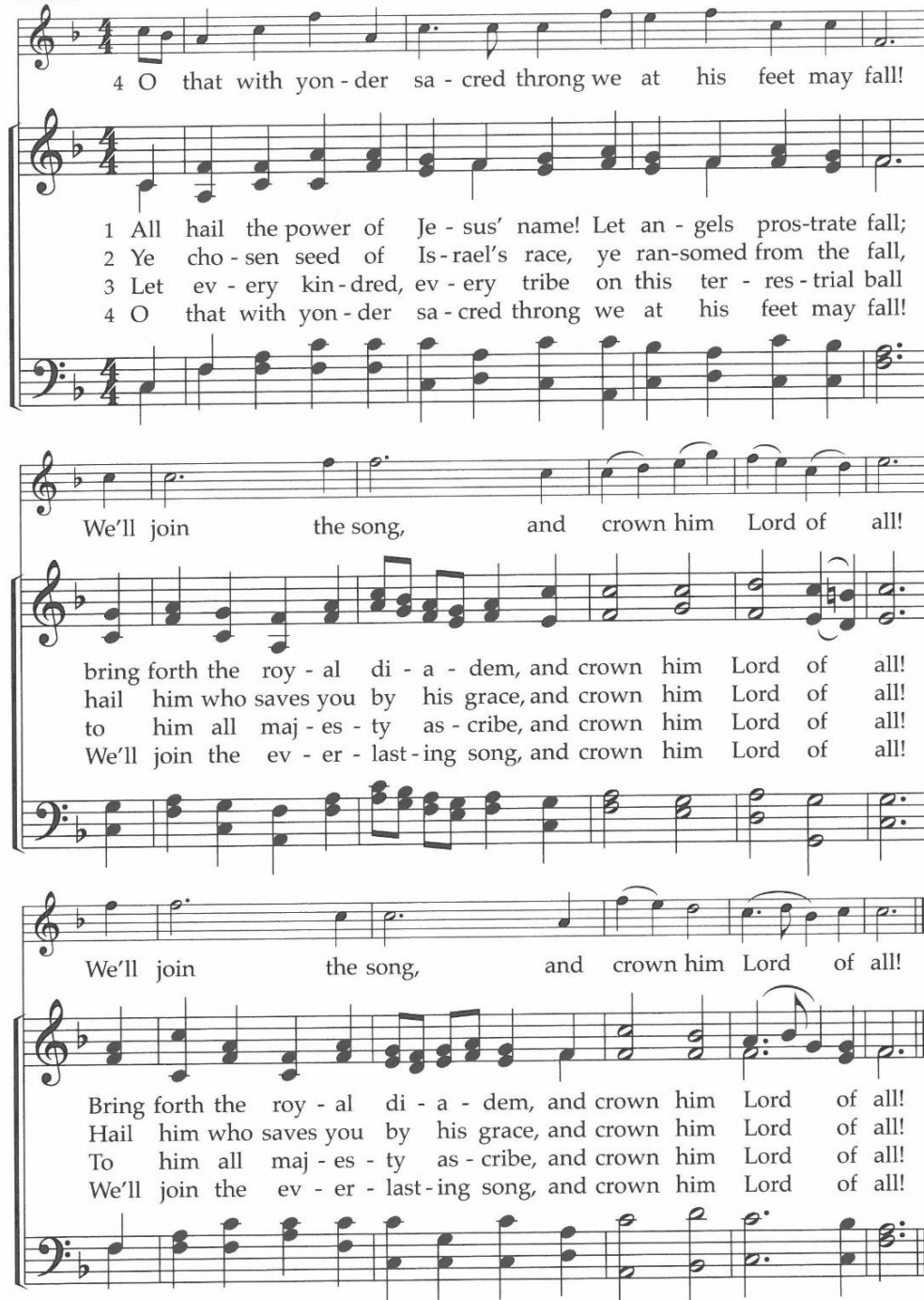
Sending

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

JESUS CHRIST: ASCENSION AND REIGN

263 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

Descant


4 O that with yon-der sa-cred throng we at his feet may fall!

1 All hail the power of Je-sus' name! Let an-gels pros-trate fall;
 2 Ye cho-sen seed of Is-rael's race, ye ran-somed from the fall,
 3 Let ev-ery kin-dred, ev-ery tribe on this ter-res-trial ball
 4 O that with yon-der sa-cred throng we at his feet may fall!

We'll join the song, and crown him Lord of all!
 bring forth the roy-al di-a-dem, and crown him Lord of all!
 hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!
 to him all maj-es-ty as-cribe, and crown him Lord of all!
 We'll join the ev-er-last-ing song, and crown him Lord of all!

We'll join the song, and crown him Lord of all!
 Bring forth the roy-al di-a-dem, and crown him Lord of all!
 Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!
 To him all maj-es-ty as-cribe, and crown him Lord of all!
 We'll join the ev-er-last-ing song, and crown him Lord of all!

This 18th-century text celebrating the sovereignty of Christ has been through several expansions and contractions before reaching its present form. It is set here to the oldest American hymn tune in continuous use since first published in 1793, which was written for it.

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”
Linda Dover, organ

arr. Frank W. Breazeale

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

**Today’s choral introit, “Hope in Me” by Terre Johnson was donated by
Jim & Pam Kelly and Bob & Linda Dover in memory of Lauren Bond’s father,
Dr. Norman E. Bednarczyk (October 12, 1938 – June 22, 2019).*

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