



## GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship May 21, 2023 9:30am  
Presbyterian Heritage Sunday

*As Christians, our faith began with the followers of Jesus. But the beginning of our Christian faith as Presbyterians is in the Reformation. The Reformation marks something significant for us in this part of the universal church: the merging of our focus on the Holy Spirit's ongoing reform of us as a church and as individuals. Martin Luther helps us to understand and acknowledge that the institution of the church is not equal to God. We are called to worship the triune God alone, to claim Jesus Christ as Lord of the church, and to seek the ongoing guidance of the Holy Spirit for how we are to respond to God's call. Five centuries on, it remains worthwhile to reflect on what we bring forward from the past that strengthens us and future generations for the next 500 years of ministry of the gospel of Christ.*

*from The Presbyterian Mission Agency*

### Gathering

*Worship begins as the people gather—greeting one another, praying in silence, sharing announcements, or offering music to the glory of God. The act of assembling in Jesus' name bears witness to the Church's identity and mission as Christ's body in the world.*

*Book of Order (BoO) W-3.02*

#### PRELUDE

"Largo" from *Guitar Concerto*  
Linda Dover, organist

Antonio Vivaldi  
arr. Kevin Norris

*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.*

#### CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF REUNIFICATION (video)

#### WELCOME

Rev. Sue Trigger

*A call to worship, typically drawn from sentences of Scripture, expresses God's invitation to gather as Christ's body in this place. A greeting in the name of Jesus Christ or the triune God*

*establishes the context for worship as an encounter with the Holy One who calls all things into being.*  
*BoO W-3.0202*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: We've come to worship God and celebrate the 234 years of Presbyterian ministry since the inaugural General Assembly meeting of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.

**Many: Thanks be to God for our witness to the United States and the world!**

One: We've come to give thanks for the gift of Christ and the Spirit in our lives.

**Many: We've come to praise God for the people who had the faith and vision to establish this congregation.**

One: We give thanks and praise for all the members, past and present, who have given their prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness to this congregation!

**Many: We give praise and thanks for all those who have led worship, preached and taught us!**

One: We are all disciples who are part of this witnessing body! Let us worship God Together.

**Many: Let us worship God together! Thanks be to God! Amen!**

*The singing of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs is a vital and ancient form of prayer. Singing engages the whole person and helps to unite the body of Christ in common worship. Music in worship is always to be an offering to God, not merely an artistic display, source of entertainment, or cover for silence.*  
*BoO W-2.02*

**\*HYMN 624**

**"I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art"**

**TOULON**

***Stanza 1 sung by Sue Trigger, soloist***

***All voices sing stanzas 2 – 5***

# I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art 624

1 I greet thee, who my sure Re-deem-er art,  
 2 Thou art the King of mer-cy and of grace,  
 3 Thou art the life, by which a-lone we live,  
 4 Thou hast the true and per-fect gen-tle-ness;  
 5 Our hope is in no oth-er save in thee;

my on-ly trust and Sav-ior of my heart,  
 reign-ing om-ni-po-tent in ev-ery place:  
 and all our sub-stance and our strength re-ceive;  
 no harsh-ness hast thou and no bit-ter-ness.  
 our faith is built up-on thy prom-ise free;

who pain didst un-der-go for my poor sake;  
 so come, O King, and our whole be-ing sway;  
 sus-tain us by thy faith and by thy power,  
 O grant to us the grace we find in thee,  
 Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure,

I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.  
 shine on us with the light of thy pure day.  
 and give us strength in ev-ery try-ing hour.  
 that we may dwell in per-fect u-ni-ty.  
 that in thy strength we ev-er-more en-dure.

The original French text, sometimes attributed to John Calvin, seems to be a Protestant reworking of a Roman Catholic hymn, not a typical practice for him. Yet this text and tune (adapted from GENEVAN 124) clearly date from the early years of the Reformed tradition.

## 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.)*

*John Calvin acknowledged that our prayers are fraught with weakness and failure. "No one has ever carried this out with the uprightness that was due," he writes. But God tolerates "even our stammering and pardons our ignorance," allowing us to gain familiarity with him in prayer, though it be in "a babbling manner." In short, we will never feel like worthy petitioners. Our checkered prayer life is often attacked by doubts, but such struggles show us our ongoing need for prayer itself as a "lifting up of the spirit."*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

*a prayer of John Calvin*

**Almighty God, since you delay with so much patience the punishments which we have deserved and daily draw on ourselves, grant that we may not indulge ourselves, but carefully consider how often and in how many different ways we have provoked your anger against us. May we learn humbly to present ourselves to you for forgiveness, and with true repentance implore your mercy. With all our heart we desire to submit ourselves to you, whether you reprimand us, or according to your infinite goodness, forgive us. Let our condition be ever blessed, not by flattering ourselves in our apathy, but by finding you to be our kind and bountiful Father, reconciled to us in your only begotten Son. 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 606

"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise Christ, all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

Equipping

*The Scriptures bear witness to the Word of God, revealed most fully in Jesus Christ, the Word who “became flesh and lived among us” (John 1:14). Where the Word is read and proclaimed, Jesus Christ the living Word is present by the power of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, reading, hearing, preaching, and affirming the Word are central to Christian worship and essential to the Service for the Lord’s Day.*

*BoO W.3-0301*

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 6:1–14 (NRSVUE)

Bond Faulwell

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.” Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

## ANTHEM

“One Faith, One Hope, One Lord”

by Craig Courtney

Chancel Choir – Darryl Prater, trumpet    based on Ephesians 4:4-6, 13

***(Refrain) One faith, one hope, one Lord, one church for which he died.***

***One voice, one song we lift in praise to him who was and is and shall be evermore.***

*There is one body, one spirit, as you were called to one hope.*

*One Lord, baptism, and faith, one God and Father of all, above all,*

*and through all, who is in you all. (Refrain)*

*Though we be many people, diverse with various gifts, we are given to each other for the unity of faith, that we grow in the knowledge of the Son of God, in the fullness of Christ. (Refrain)*

***One faith, one hope, one Lord, one God.***

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 17:1–11 (NRSVUE)

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because

they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words  
**Thanks be to God!**

*The Word proclaimed shall be based on the Word written in Scripture. Preaching requires diligence and discernment in the study of Scripture, listening for the voice of God through the discipline of daily prayer, theological reflection on the message of the gospel, sensitivity to the context of the congregation, attentiveness to what the Spirit is saying to the church, awareness of events in the world, and consistent and personal obedience to Jesus Christ. The sermon will present the gospel with clarity and simplicity, in language that all can understand.* BoO W-3.0202

SERMON

“My Prayer for You”

Rev. Sue Trigger

*For John Calvin, prayer cannot be accomplished without discipline. He writes,  
"Unless we fix certain hours in the day for prayer, it easily slips from our memory."*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*The Church's ordered ministries described in the New Testament and maintained by this church are deacons and presbyters (ministers of the Word and Sacrament and ruling elders). Ordered ministries are gifts to the church to order its life so that the ministry of the whole people of God may flourish. The existence of these ordered ministries in no way diminishes the importance of the commitment of all members to the total ministry of the church. The government of this church is representative, and the right of God's people to elect presbyters and deacons is inalienable. Therefore, no person can be placed in any ordered ministry in a congregation or council of the church except by election of that body.* BoO G-2.0102

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELDERS

Barbara Douglas, Kristy Shaw, Jaylee Soule, Mary Ann Weyforth, Mikki Walker

*The collection of tithes and offerings and the celebration of the Lord's Supper take place as a response to the Word. These actions are signs of our gratitude  
for the grace of God proclaimed in the gospel.*

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC

“Perfect Love”

arr. Alec Weyton

Linda Dover, organist

## Sending

\*HYMN 734

“Hope of the World”

DONNE SECOURS

*Stanza 1 All Voices ... Stanza 2 High Voices*  
*Stanza 3 Low Voices ... Stanzas 4 & 5 All Voices*

## Hope of the World

734



1 Hope of the world, thou Christ of great com - pas - sion:  
 2 Hope of the world, God's gift from high - est heav - en,  
 3 Hope of the world, a - foot on dust - y high - ways,  
 4 Hope of the world, who by thy cross didst save us  
 5 Hope of the world, O Christ, o'er death vic - to - rious,



speak to our fear - ful hearts by con - flict rent;  
 bring - ing to hun - gry souls the bread of life:  
 show - ing to wan - dering souls the path of light:  
 from death and deep de - spair, from sin and guilt:  
 who by this sign didst con - quer grief and pain:



save us, thy peo - ple, from con - sum - ing pas - sion,  
 still let thy Spir - it un - to us be giv - en  
 walk thou be - side us lest the tempt - ing by - ways  
 we ren - der back the love thy mer - cy gave us;  
 we would be faith - ful to thy gos - pel glo - rious;



who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.  
 to heal earth's wounds and end our bit - ter strife.  
 lure us a - way from thee to end - less night.  
 take thou our lives and use them as thou wilt.  
 thou art our Lord! Thou dost for - ev - er reign!

This winning entry by a groundbreaking woman theologian was selected from over five hundred others in a search for a hymn to be used at the Second Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Evanston, Illinois, in October 1954. The theme of the assembly was "Jesus Christ, Hope of the World."



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*We are blessed in order to be a blessing to others. The charge calls the church to go forth as agents of God's mission in the world.* *BoO W-3.0502*

## CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

"Postlude" from *Celebrate Life*  
Linda Dover, organist

by Buryl Red

## GOD'S PEACE TO YOU

Some music is reprinted by permission of CCLI 1154643 and OneLicense A-705105.  
Our Church Streaming & Podcast Licenses are CSPL 048834 through CCLI & included in OneLicense A-705105.  
Any videos are shown by permission of CVLI #504397326.

Comments about our Reformed Tradition are published in the following resources:

- Presbyterian Mission Agency, [presbyterianmission.org](http://presbyterianmission.org)
- Parsons, Burk; John Calvin A Heart for Devotion, Doctrine, & Doxology; Ligonier Ministries; 2008; Used by permission of Ligonier Ministries. All rights reserved.
- The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA), The Book of Order, 2021-2023.

### **RECORD YOUR ATTENDANCE AT TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE WITH OUR VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE PAD:**

Click this link: <https://bit.ly/GCPCattendance>, or scan the QR Code below, and it will take you to the link.



# We Celebrate our Children's Ministry Leaders

Whether it be Sunday school, Awakening to Worship, SMASH, Vacation Bible School or the Children's Team, our children's education leaders share their love for the children in many wonderful ways. They give so much time, let's thank them. Here are the 2022-23 Children's Ministry leaders:

## **Preschool**

Sarah Byrd  
Christine Caseres  
Joy Circo  
Jean Nelson

## **Grace Makers**

Andrew Frye  
Harold Frye  
Jean Hampton  
Emily Hussey  
Ryan Hussey  
Pam Kelly  
Angela Krug  
Chris Krug  
Lara Schesser  
Jerel Williams  
Ginny Wirtz

## **VBS Planning Team**

Andrew Frye  
Erin Frye  
Angela Krug  
Natalie Lautt  
Lara Schesser  
Amy Sellers  
Kristy Shaw  
Christy Soule  
Sue Trigger,  
staff/director

## **Awakening To Worship**

Erin Frye  
Katie Hearn  
Emily Hussey  
Cheryl Johnson  
Morgan Krug  
Conor Schesser  
Kristy Shaw -  
coordinator  
Maggie Shaw  
Christy Soule  
Jaylee Soule

## **SMASH**

Katie Hearn  
Emily Hussey  
Amy Sellers  
Aaron Soule  
Christy Soule,  
coordinator  
Sue Trigger, staff  
Mary Ann Weyforth

## **Substitute List**

Lisa Cox  
Danielle Dalton  
Doug Faught  
Erin Frye  
Andrew Frye  
Jane Knoche  
Jenny Stromberg  
Christy Soule

## **Children's Ministry Team**

Erin Frye,  
co-moderator  
Emily Hussey  
Angela Krug,  
co-moderator  
Amy Sellers  
Kristy Shaw  
Christy Soule  
Rev. Sue Trigger, staff

## **Nursery Staff**

Carolyn Chaffin, staff

## **Youth Ministry Team**

Bill Turner  
Danielle Dalton  
Pat Kowalczewski  
Lara Schesser

## **Youth Ministry Volunteers**

Emily Baker  
Brandon Hearn  
Charlie Trigger