



Service of Worship April 7, 2024 9:30am
Second Sunday of Easter

Bright Sunday

Gathering

SONG TO GATHER

"Amazing Grace"

Traditional

Grace Mountain

Christopher Callender & Donna Goeckler, directors

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Karen Wright

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We come to this place from all kinds of places.

All: We bring our hearts and our minds and our faces.

One: We've come from near and we've come from far.

All: We've come just the way that we are.

One: And while the words might be amusing. We know they will not be everyone's choosing. The style will be different and before we begin it. We have to make sure that we put our hearts in it.

All: And so we gather this gathering in a gatherly way. To sing and to laugh and to dance and to pray.

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!**

**The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.**

**Thro' many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath bro't me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun.**

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open wide. All of our want-wanting in you we confide and from you our secrets we just cannot hide. God we have wronged you, and we need to say boo-ho, for the things that we did and that we did not do. We are not content, we want to repent, one hundred percent. Oh so sorry we say, won't you forgive us this day, so that we can walk in the light of your way. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: All Powerful God have mercy on yous, And forget the sins of we Whos.
Keep you from and all strife, And lead you into new life.

**All: We are forgiven, we can all shout hooray.
As we gather together on this blessed day!**

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you and all others!

*SONG OF PEACE

“In the Sweet By and By”
Grace Mountain/**All**

by Joseph Webster

There's a land that is fairer than day
And by faith we can see it afar
For the Father waits over the way
To prepare us a dwelling place there

**In the sweet by and by
We shall meet on that beautiful shore
In the sweet by and by
We shall meet on that beautiful shore**

We shall sing on that beautiful shore
The melodious songs of the blessed
And our spirit shall sorrow no more
Not a sigh for the blessing of rest

**In the sweet by and by
We shall meet on that beautiful shore
In the sweet by and by
We shall meet on that beautiful shore**

To our bountiful Father above,
We will offer our tribute of praise
For the glorious gift of His love
And the blessings that hallow our days.

**In the sweet by and by
We shall meet on that beautiful shore
In the sweet by and by
We shall meet on that beautiful shore
(repeat chorus)**

Equipping

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 3:1–14 (NRSVue)

Gay Lee Ludwig-Bonney

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, “I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up.” When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then he said, “Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” He said further, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. Now go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.” But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” He said, “I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.”

But Moses said to God, “If I come to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” He said further, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

SONG TO REFLECT

“I’ll Fly Away”
Grace Mountain

by A. Brumley

EPISTLE READING

2 Corinthians 5:14–20 (NRSVue)

For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves but for the one who for their sake died and was raised.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“The Gospel According to Green Eggs and Ham”

Rev. Karen Wright

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Leader: In this place and on this day,

All: Hear our voices as we pray.

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.

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

SONG FOR GIVING

“Keep on the Sunny Side”

Grace Mountain

by A. P. Carter

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(Together)*

Everything that’s done through you, becomes refreshed and made anew. Take the gifts that we have brought, these simple things, or so we thought and do the things that you do to them, May your love be know through them. And remember, just the same, we bring ourselves in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Sending

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Karen Wright

*SONG TO SEND

**“Will the Circle be Unbroken”
Grace Mountain/All**

by Eddy Arnold

**I was standing by my window
on a cold and cloudy day,
When I saw that hearse come rolling
for to carry my mother away.**

**Will the circle be unbroken,
by and by, Lord, by and by.
There’s a better home a-waiting,
In the sky Lord, in the sky.**

**Well, I told that undertaker,
Undertaker please drive slow.
For this body you are hauling,
Lord I hate to see her go.**

**Will the circle be unbroken,
by and by, Lord, by and by.
There’s a better home a-waiting,
In the sky Lord, in the sky.**

**I went home, my home was lonely
since my mother, she had gone.
All my brothers, sisters crying,
what a home so sad and alone.**

**Will the circle be unbroken,
by and by, Lord, by and by.
There’s a better home a-waiting,
In the sky Lord, in the sky.**

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU



Liturgy adapted from the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh.

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GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11100 College Boulevard ♦ Overland Park, KS 66210
Phone (913) 345-1256 ♦ www.gcpc.org