



# GRACE COVENANT

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship March 22, 2026 9:30am  
Fifth Sunday in Lent

### Gathering

SONG TO GATHER

“Step by Step”

by David Beaker Strasser

All

**Oh God, You are my God, and I will ever praise you.**

**Oh God, You are my God, and I will ever praise you.**

**I will seek You in the morning, and I will learn to walk in your ways,  
And step by step you'll lead me, and I will follow you all of my days**

**(Repeat all)**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Karen Wright

GREETINGS FROM HEARTLAND PRESBYTERY

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We come today carrying the weight of what feels finished — relationships we've grieved, hopes that have grown cold, questions that still have no answers.

**ALL: We come as we are. We come to listen for God.**

ONE: The God who spoke to dry bones in a barren valley is the God who calls us by name even in our tombs.

**ALL: Breathe on us, O God. We want to live.**

ONE: This is the day the Lord has made. Come — let us worship the One who raises the dead.

**ALL: We come with open hands. We come with willing hearts. Let us worship God.**

\*SONG TO PRAISE      “Great Is Thy Faithfulness (Beginning to End)”

by Thomas Obediah Chisholm  
arr. by Jason Ingram, Michael Weaver  
& William Marion

All

**Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee  
Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not  
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be**

**Summer and winter and springtime and harvest  
Sun moon and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love**

**Beginning to end, My life in Your hands  
Great, great is Your faithfulness  
You never let go, this one thing I know  
Great, great is Your faithfulness**

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow  
Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside**

**Beginning to end, My life in Your hands  
Great, great is Your faithfulness  
You never let go, this one thing I know  
Great, great is Your faithfulness**

*(Hymn refrain)*

**Great is Thy faithfulness ~ Great is Thy faithfulness  
Morning by morning ~ New mercies I see**

**All I have needed ~ Thy hand has provided  
Great is Thy Faithfulness, Lord unto me.**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Emily Nelson Dixon

Jesus stood at Lazarus's tomb and wept. He knew the grief of those he loved. He knows ours too. And yet — he also said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" We are invited, even now, to lay aside everything that keeps us from trusting that promise: our pride, our doubt, our tight-fisted control. With confidence that God's love makes space for honesty, let us confess together.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(Unison)*

**Merciful God, we confess that we have lived as though the stone could not be rolled away. We have given up on people you have not given up on. We have given up on ourselves. We have walked past the grief of our neighbors, afraid of what it would cost us to stop and weep. We have kept our faith tidy and our hearts guarded, when you have called us to trust you with what is most broken. Forgive us, Lord. Roll away what we have sealed off and called hopeless. Breathe your Spirit into us again. Call us by name — and give us the courage to come out. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is alive and at work in you. God does not leave us in the tomb of our failures. God is not finished with us. The One who commanded, "Lazarus, come out!" speaks that same word over you today. In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. You are free. Come out — and walk in the light.

**ALL: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**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.)*

**SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**ONE:** May the peace of Christ be with you.

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

RESPONSE 227

"Jesus Remember Me"

## Equipping

SONG FOR CENTERING

“Grazioso”

arr. Arnold Sherman

Jubilation! Ringers  
Kathy Bures, director

MINUTE FOR MISSION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ezekiel 37:1–14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord.”

So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ Therefore prophecy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.”

SONG TO REFLECT

“I Shall Not Want”

by Audrey Assad & Bryan Brown

Praise Team

*From the love of my own comfort ~ From the fear of having nothing  
From a life of worldly passions  
Deliver me, O God*

*From the need to be understood ~ From the need to be accepted  
From the fear of being lonely  
Deliver me, O God ~ Deliver me, O God*

*And I shall not want, I shall not want  
When I taste Your goodness, I shall not want  
When I taste Your goodness, I shall not want*

*From the fear of serving others ~ From the fear of death or trial  
From the fear of humility  
Deliver me, O God ~ Deliver me, O God*

*And I shall not want, I shall not want  
When I taste Your goodness, I shall not want  
When I taste Your goodness, I shall not want*

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

### John 11:1–45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them.” After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

### **Jesus the Resurrection and the Life**

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

## **Jesus Weeps**

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

## **Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life**

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

## **The Plot to Kill Jesus**

Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

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

SERMON

"Come Out!"

Rev. Karen Wright

\*SONG OF PRAYER

"I Need You More"

by Lindell Cooley & Bruce Haynes

All

**I need You more, more than yesterday.  
I need You more, more than words can say.  
I need You more than ever before.  
I need You, Lord; I need You, Lord.**

**More than the air I breathe; More than the song I sing**

**More than the next heartbeat; More than anything  
And Lord, as time goes by, I'll be by Your side  
'Cause I never want to go back to my old life**

**I need You more, more than yesterday.  
I need You more, more than words can say.  
I need You more than ever before.  
I need You, Lord; I need You, Lord.**

**Right here in your presence is where I belong;  
This old broken heart has fin'ly found a home  
And I'll never be alone.**

**I need You more, more than yesterday.  
I need You more, more than words can say.  
I need You more than ever before.  
I need You, Lord; I need You, Lord.**

#### ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF DEACONS

#### 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.**

#### A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

#### SONG FOR GIVING

**"Morning by Morning"**

by Pat Barrett, Ben Smith,  
Daniel Bashta & Mack Brock

Praise Team

*Daily, daily, I surrender ~ Grace for today is all that I need  
Surprised by a mercy that's new every morning  
Awaken my soul to sing ~ Oh, awaken my soul to sing*

*I will trust where you lead ~ I will trust when I can't see  
Morning by morning, great is your faithfulness to me*

*Breath by breath, overtaken by wonder. ~ One step at a time when I'm overwhelmed*

*Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow  
Awaken my soul to sing ~ Oh, awaken my soul to sing*

*I will trust where you lead ~ I will trust when I can't see  
Morning by morning, great is your faithfulness to me*

*I will trust with all my heart ~ You are good, you always are  
Morning by morning ~ Great is your faithfulness to me*

## Sending

### CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*SONG TO SEND

“Morning by Morning”

by Pat Barrett, Ben Smith,  
Daniel Bashta & Mack Brock

Praise Team/All

**Daily, daily, I surrender ~ Grace for today is all that I need**

**Surprised by a mercy that's new every morning**

**Awaken my soul to sing ~ Oh, awaken my soul to sing**

**I will trust where you lead ~ I will trust when I can't see**

**Morning by morning, great is your faithfulness to me**

**Breath by breath, overtaken by wonder. ~ One step at a time when I'm overwhelmed**

**Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow**

**Awaken my soul to sing ~ Oh, awaken my soul to sing**

**I will trust where you lead ~ I will trust when I can't see**

**Morning by morning, great is your faithfulness to me**

**I will trust with all my heart ~ You are good, you always are**

**Morning by morning ~ Great is your faithfulness to me**

*All fear be reminded ~ My future is secure*

*Oh, my father has spoken ~ And he keeps his every word  
All fear be reminded ~ My future is secure  
Oh, my father has spoken ~ And he keeps his every word*

**I will trust where you lead ~ I will trust when I can't see  
Morning by morning, great is your faithfulness to me  
I will trust with all my heart ~ You are good, you always are  
Morning by morning ~ Great is your faithfulness to me  
Morning by morning ~ Great is your faithfulness to me**

*\*Stand in body or spirit*

GOD'S PEACE TO YOU

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**GRACE COVENANT**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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