



# GRACE COVENANT

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship September 5, 2021 9:30am  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in The Season of Peace  
Peace Through the Written and Spoken Word

### Gathering

PRELUDE "As the Wind Song" arr. Michael Burkhardt  
"Will You Let Me Be Your Servant"  
Linda Dover, organist

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Sue Trigger

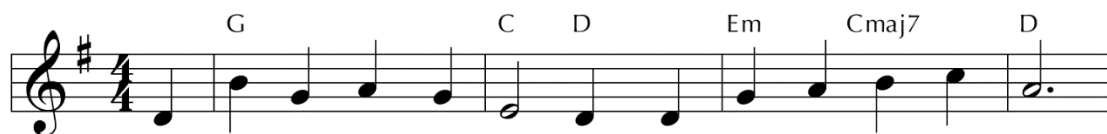
INTROIT (*Video*) "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" arr. Jason Krug  
Charter Ringers I – Celia Nicholas, director  
Kathy Bures, Jim Kelly, Pam Kelly, Angela Krug, and Lara Schesser  
*"Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace."*

### CALL TO WORSHIP (*Video*)

Almighty God, we ask you to bless the church in this place.  
Here may the weary find rest and the strong be renewed.  
Here may the doubting find faith and the content be awakened.  
Here may the tempted find help and the sorrowful find comfort.  
Here may the believer be encouraged and the lost find salvation.  
Forgive our sins and cleanse our hearts.  
Inhabit our praises as we worship and speak to us through your word.  
All in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN 378 "We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom" MERLE'S TUNE

# We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom 378



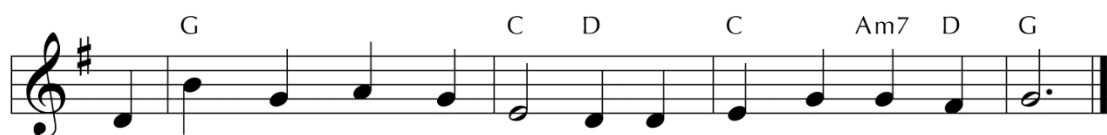
1 We wait the peace-ful king-dom, when wolf and lamb shall lie  
 2 Where is the peace-ful king-dom? When will this new day start?  
 3 When wars of des-o-la-tion and hate come to an end,  
 4 That lit-tle child shall lead us to walk the cho-sen way,



in gen-tle-ness and friend-ship with-out a fear or sigh,  
 We long for peace and com-fort to reign with-in each heart.  
 when na-tion meets with na-tion and calls the oth-er "friend,"  
 to share the peace-ful king-dom, to greet God's new-born day.



when li-on shall be graz-ing, when snake shall nev-er strike;  
 Yet not in our lives on-ly, nor sim-ply in our home:  
 still peace in all its full-ness will on-ly have be-gun:  
 The child born in a sta-ble is sent to break our chains,



a lit-tle child shall lead us both strong and weak a-like.  
 we pray that all cre-a-tion will one day find sha-lom.  
*sha-lom* for all cre-a-tion be-gins with jus-tice done.  
 to bring through word and ta-ble the day when jus-tice reigns.

This text paraphrases Isaiah 11:6–9 in the first stanza, then reflects on that passage in widening frames of reference from self to all creation and identifies its "little child" with one born at Bethlehem. The tune is named for the composer's sister, his first piano teacher.

TEXT: Kathleen R. Moore, 2010  
 MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1983  
 Text © 2010 The Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing Company)  
 Music © 1983 Hope Publishing Company

MERLE'S TUNE  
 7.6.7.6.D

## PRAYER FOR PEACE (*One*)

O Lord, you love justice and you establish peace on earth through your covenant relationship with us. We bring before you the disunity of today's world; the absurd violence, and the many wars, which are breaking the courage of the peoples of the world; human greed and injustice, which breed hatred and strife. Send your Holy Spirit and renew the face of the earth; teach us to be compassionate towards the whole human family; strengthen the will of all those who fight for justice and for peace, and give us that peace which the world cannot give. 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!**

## OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Proverbs 18:4, 20 (NRSV)

Harold Frye

The words of a person's mouth are deep waters, a bubbling stream, a fountain of wisdom. Words satisfy the soul as food satisfies the stomach; the right words on a person's lips bring satisfaction.

## OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalms 19 (CEB)

Heaven is declaring God's glory; the sky is proclaiming his handiwork. One day gushes the news to the next, and one night informs another what needs to be known. Of course, there's no speech, no words— their voices can't be heard— but their sound extends throughout the world; their words reach the ends of the earth. God has made a tent in heaven for the sun.

The sun is like a groom coming out of his honeymoon suite; like a warrior, it thrills at running its course. It rises in one end of the sky; its circuit is complete at the other. Nothing escapes its heat.

The Lord's Instruction is perfect, reviving one's very being. The Lord's laws are faithful, making naive people wise. The Lord's regulations are right, gladdening the heart. The Lord's commands are pure, giving light to the eyes. Honoring the Lord is correct, lasting forever. The Lord's judgments are true. All of these are righteous! They are more desirable than gold—than tons of pure gold! They are sweeter than honey—even dripping off the honeycomb! No doubt about it: your servant is enlightened by them; there is great reward in keeping them.

But can anyone know what they've accidentally done wrong? Clear me of any unknown sin and save your servant from willful sins. Don't let them rule me. Then I'll be completely blameless; I'll be innocent of great wrongdoing. Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be pleasing to you, Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

**Holy wisdom, holy words,  
Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

"This Is My Word"

by Pepper Choplin

Chancel Quartet

*As the snow falls from heaven as it comes in swirling showers from the sky, so is my word.*

*As the rains bring the water to the earth that is thirsty and dry, so is my word.*

***And the word of my mouth, it shall not return empty;  
it will bless the earth wherever it is heard. This is my word.***

*As the rains bring renewal and the tender buds begin to come alive, so is my word.*

*Giving seed to the sower, and the bread to the hungry till they thrive, so is my word. (Refrain)*

*O Lord, when I am weary, when I feel the days I'm living are in vain,  
my God, help me be faithful to the word you have given to proclaim.  
Proclaim the word, and you will go out in joy and be led forth in peace,  
and the hills will break before you into song.*

*So be faithful, brave, and true, for I will go before you.*

*And when your earthly journey here is done, I say well done!*

*As the snow falls from heaven as it comes in swirling showers from the sky, this is my word.*

SERMON

"Three Lines in a Circle"

Rev. Sue Trigger

A Storybook Sermon

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER *(to be prayed silently)*

...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.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Great Thanksgiving

Breaking of the Bread

Communion

Prayer after Communion

## Sending

HYMN

“The Peace That We Share”

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

The peace that we share when we turn and shake hands  
Is simply the peace that our Savior commands.  
As Christ reigns in heaven, he calls us to live  
As people forgiven, with God's peace to give.

*(Refrain)*

**May the peace that we share be for more than our friends;  
As we risk and we dare so God's kingdom extends.  
Remind us again, Lord, that seeds will increase —  
That you'll give the harvest when we work for peace!**

Peace grows through the dreamers who seek a new way,  
Through workers who struggle to build God's new day.  
It grows through the soldiers who once fought in wars  
Yet now seek a new way that heals and restores. *(Refrain)*

When all use their talents so conflicts will cease,  
Imagining, working, and risking for peace.  
When nations negotiate rather than fight  
Then justice is possible! Peace is in sight! *(Refrain)*

Tune: William Howard Doane, 1875

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## CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Old Hundredth”  
Linda Dover, organist

attributed to Louis Bourgeois  
setting by Hal Hopson

## GOD'S PEACE TO YOU

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