



## GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship September 28, 2025 9:30am  
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

### Gathering

SONG TO GATHER

“Step by Step”  
Praise Team

by David Strasser

### Step By Step

Words and Music by  
David (Beaker) Strasser

♩ = 104

D A G G/A D

O God, You are my God, and I will ev - er praise You. O

A G G/A D Bm

5 God, You are my God, and I will ev - er praise You. I will seek You in the morn-

A G Em D A

10 ing, and I will learn to walk in Your ways; And step by step You'll lead me, and I will

G G/A D

15 fol - low You all of my days.

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Those who dwell in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

**ALL: We will say of the Lord, "You are our refuge and our fortress, our God in whom we trust."**

ONE: Even in times of trial, when the world feels uncertain, God's promises endure.

**ALL: Like Jeremiah buying a field in hope, we come to trust in God's future. Let us worship the God who holds our lives and our world in steadfast love.**

### \*SONG TO PRAISE

"Your Love Awakens Me"

by Wickham & Quilala

All

**There were walls between us, by the cross You came and broke them down  
You broke them down**

**And there were chains around us, by Your grace we are no longer bound  
No longer bound**

**You called me out of the grave; You called me into the light  
You called my name and then my heart came alive**

**Your love is greater - Your love is stronger - Your love awakens awakens awakens me  
Your love is greater - Your love is stronger - Your love awakens awakens awakens me**

**Feel the darkness shaking, all the dead are coming back to life  
I'm back to life  
Hear the song awaken, All creation singing we're alive  
'Cause You're alive**

**You called me out of the grave; You called me into the light  
You called my name and then my heart came alive**

**Your love is greater - Your love is stronger - Your love awakens awakens awakens me  
Your love is greater - Your love is stronger - Your love awakens awakens awakens me**

**And what a love we've found - Death can't hold us down  
We shout it out; We're alive 'cause You're alive (2X)**

**Your love is greater - Your love is stronger - Your love awakens awakens awakens me  
Your love is greater - Your love is stronger - Your love awakens awakens awakens me**

#### **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**

Emily Nelson Dixon

Even as we trust God's promises, we confess how easily we cling to comfort, ignore our neighbors, or despair of hope. With honesty and faith, let us come before God in confession.

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Merciful God, You call us to live in hope, yet we confess that fear and doubt weigh us down. You call us to see our neighbors, yet too often we walk past those in need. You call us to trust your promises, yet we cling tightly to what we can control. Forgive us, Lord. Plant your Word deep within us, that we might live with generous hearts, courageous faith, and steadfast hope in your future. Through Christ we pray. Amen.**

#### **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Hear the good news: The One who promises is faithful. God is our refuge and our fortress, our God in whom we trust. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, freed, and restored to live in hope.

**People: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

#### **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**

**"Sweet Sweet Spirit"  
Praise Team/All**

by Doris Akers

# Sweet Sweet Spirit

Words and Music by  
Doris Akers

## VERSE

E E/G# A E/G# C#m B E E9/D C#7 C#7/E# F#m E/G# A6



1. There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, and I know that it's the  
2. There are bless - ings you can - not re - ceive till you know Him in His  
3. If you say He saved you from your sin; Now you're weak, you're bound and

E/B B7 E A/E E E/B B7 E E/G# A E/G# C#m B E E9/D C#7 C#7/E#



Spir - it of the Lord. There are sweet ex - pres - sions on each face, and I  
full - ness and be - lieve. You're the one to prof - it when you say, "I am  
can - not en - ter in. You can make it right if you will yield; You'll en -

## CHORUS

F#m E/G# A6 E/B B7 E A/E E E A/E E A/E



know they feel the pres - ence of the Lord. Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, sweet heav - en - ly  
going to walk with Je - sus all the way." \_\_\_\_\_  
joy the Ho - ly Spir - it that we feel. \_\_\_\_\_

E G#7/D# C#m F#7 B7 E A/E E E/B



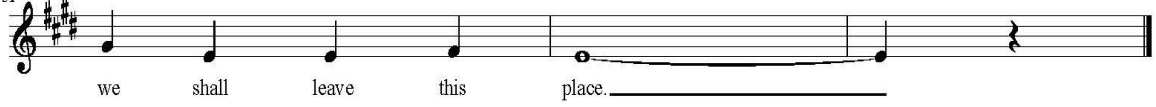
Dove, stay right here with us, fill - ing us with Your love. And for these bless - ings we

E G#7/D# C#m A F#7/A# E/B B# C#m C#m/B A F#7/A# E/B B# C#m F#m



lift our hearts in praise. With - out a doubt we'll know that we have been re - vived when

E/B E6/B A/B B7 E



we shall leave this place. \_\_\_\_\_

## Equipping

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 16:19–31 (NRSVue)

Nathan Littlejohn

“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.’ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ He said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house — for I have five brothers — that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ He said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’ He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’ ”

### SONG TO REFLECT

“Even If”

as recorded by MercyMe

Praise Team

*They say sometimes you win some, Sometimes you lose some  
And right now, right now I'm losing bad.  
I've stood on this stage night after night, Reminding the broken it'll be alright  
But right now oh right now I just can't*

*It's easy to sing  
When there's nothing to bring me down  
But what will I say when I'm held to the flame, like I am right now*

*I know You're able and I know You can save through the fire with Your mighty hand  
But even if You don't, my hope is You alone*

*They say it only takes a little faith to move a mountain  
Well good thing a little faith is all I have right now*

*But God when You choose to leave mountains unmovable  
Oh give me the strength to be able to sing, “It is well with my soul!”*

*I know the sorrow and I know the hurt would all go away if You just say the word*

*But even if You don't, my hope is You alone*

*You've been faithful, You've been good all of my days  
Jesus I will cling to You come what may  
'Cause I know You're able, I know You care*

*It is well with my soul - It is well it is well with my soul.*

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

Jeremiah 32:1–3a; 6–15 (NRSVue)

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord in the tenth year of King Zedekiah of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar. At that time the army of the king of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was confined in the court of the guard that was in the palace of the king of Judah, where King Zedekiah of Judah had confined him. Zedekiah had said, “Why do you prophesy and say: Thus says the Lord: I am going to give this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall take it;

Jeremiah said, “The word of the Lord came to me: Hanamel son of your uncle Shallum is going to come to you and say, ‘Buy my field that is at Anathoth, for the right of redemption by purchase is yours.’ ” Then my cousin Hanamel came to me in the court of the guard, in accordance with the word of the Lord, and said to me, “Buy my field that is at Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for the right of possession and redemption is yours; buy it for yourself.” Then I knew that this was the word of the Lord.

And I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel and weighed out the silver to him, seventeen shekels of silver. I signed the deed, sealed it, got witnesses, and weighed the silver on scales. Then I took the sealed deed of purchase containing the terms and conditions and the open copy, and I gave the deed of purchase to Baruch son of Neriah son of Mahseiah, in the presence of my cousin Hanamel, in the presence of the witnesses who signed the deed of purchase, and in the presence of all the Judeans who were sitting in the court of the guard. In their presence I charged Baruch, saying, “Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and this open deed, and put them in an earthenware jar, in order that they may last for a long time. For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land.”

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

SERMON

Kelly Scarborough

## 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

Praise Team

Sending

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*SONG TO SEND

“Less Like Me”

as recorded by Zach Williams

All

**I have days I lose the fight, try my best but just don't get it right,  
Where I talk a talk that I don't walk and miss the moments right before my eyes.  
Somebody with a hurt that I could have helped, somebody with a hand that I could  
have held,  
When I just can't see past myself, Lord, help me be.**

**A little more like mercy, a little more like grace.  
A little more like kindness, goodness, love and faith,  
A little more like patience, a little more like peace  
A little more like Jesus, a little less like me.**

**There's no denying I have changed. I've been saved from who I used to be.  
But even at my best, I must confess, I still need help to see the way you see.  
Somebody with a hurt that I could have helped, somebody with a hand that I could  
have held,  
When I just can't see past myself, Lord, help me be.**

**A little more like mercy, a little more like grace.  
A little more like kindness, goodness, love and faith,  
A little more like patience, a little more like peace  
A little more like Jesus, a little less like me.**

**To feed the beggar on the street, love to be your hands and feet,  
freely give what I receive, Lord, help me be.  
I want to put you first above all else, love my neighbor as myself.**

**In the moments no one sees, Lord, help me be.**

**A little more like mercy, a little more like grace.  
A little more like kindness, goodness, love and faith,  
A little more like patience, a little more like peace  
A little more like Jesus, a little less like me.**

*\*Stand in body or spirit*

## **GOD'S PEACE TO YOU**

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**GRACE COVENANT**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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