



GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship September 15, 2024 9:30am
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering

SONG TO GATHER

“Word of God Speak”

by Mercy Me

Praise Team

*I'm finding myself at a loss for words, and the funny thing is it's ok.
The last thing I need is to be heard, but to hear what you would say.
Word of God, speak. Would you pour down like rain,
washing my eyes to see, your majesty, to be still and know that you're in this place?
Please let me stay and rest in your holiness. Word of God, speak.*

*I'm finding myself in the midst of you, beyond the music, beyond the noise.
All that I need is to be with you, and in the quiet hear your voice.
Word of God, speak. Would you pour down like rain,
washing my eyes to see, your majesty, to be still and know that you're in this place?
Please let me stay and rest in your holiness. Word of God, speak.*

WELCOME

Rev. Karen Wright

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We are met in the presence of God
ALL: And we do not meet alone.
ONE: With the angels in the highest heaven
ALL: We gather to worship the Lord.
ONE: With Abraham and Sarah
ALL: We gather to worship the Lord.
ONE: With the saints of every age
ALL: We gather to worship the Lord.
ONE: We embark on our own journey of faith

ALL: God's Holy name be praised.

ONE: God makes of us a great people

ALL: God's Holy name be praised.

ONE: In the desert and in the den, in barrio and basilica

ALL: God's Holy name be praised.

ONE: We journey in the presence of God.

ALL: And we do not journey alone.

*SONG TO PRAISE "May the Peoples Praise You" by Keith & Kristyn Getty

All

**You have called us out of darkest night, into your glorious light,
that we may sing the wonders of the risen Christ.**

**May our ev'ry breath retell the grace that broke into our strife
with boundless love and deepest joy, with endless life.**

May the peoples praise you, let the nations be glad!

All your blessing comes that we may praise, may praise the name of Jesus!

**All the earth is yours and all within, each harvest is your own,
and from your hand we give to you to make Christ known.**

**May the seeds of mercy grow in us for those who have not heard,
may songs of praise build lives of grace to spread your Word.**

May the peoples praise you, let the nations be glad!

All your blessing comes that we may praise, may praise the name of Jesus!

**This our holy priv'lege to declare your praises
and your name to ev'ry nation, tribe, and tongue your church proclaims.**

May the peoples praise you, let the nations be glad!

All your blessing comes that we may praise, may praise the name of Jesus!

**Holy, Holy, is the Lord Almighty. Worthy, worthy is the Lamb who was slain.
Holy, Holy is the Lord almighty. All creation praise your glorious Name.**

May the peoples praise you, let the nations be glad!

All your blessing comes that we may praise, may praise the name of Jesus!

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.)

BAPTISM OF COEN AND SULLIVAN ARMBRECHT

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Karen Wright

We cannot come before God unless we are first honest with ourselves about who we are, about the mistakes we make, and about how well or poorly we care for others in this spirit, let us offer our prayers to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

Gracious God, you reached into Abraham and Sarah's lives and asked them to dream the impossible dream — that you would transform the barren and lifeless into abundance, promise and hope and through faith, they believed your promises. Paul speaks of how he grew stronger in faith and in your fulfilment of promises. Forgive us when we do not trust in you and forget to dream of the only possible with you. Forgive us when we let the world distract us from your promises. Forgive our lack of trust. Encourage us, transform us, strengthen us that we may have the courage to listen and follow you. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Faith was reckoned as righteousness...to us who believe in the One who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death because of our sins and was raised for the sake of our righteousness. (Romans 4:20-25) Hear and believe these words about

God's amazing grace, grace experienced through Jesus' sacrificial love, as forgiveness of sins. Thanks be to God!

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

“Build My Life”

by Pat Barrett

All

**Worthy of ev'ry song we could ever sing.
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring.
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe. We live for you.**

**Holy, there is no one like you, there is none beside you.
Open up my eyes in wonder
and show me who you are and fill me with your heart
and lead me in your love to those around me.**

**Jesus the name above ev'ry other name.
Jesus the only one who could ever save.
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe. We live for you, we live for you.**

**I will build my life upon your love; it is a firm foundation.
I will put my trust in you alone, and I will not be shaken.**

**Worthy of ev'ry song we could ever sing.
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring.
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe. We live for you. We live for you.**

Equipping

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Romans 4:13–25 (NRSVue)

Emily Nelson Dixon

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So shall your descendants be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), and the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore “it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

SONG TO REFLECT

“As for Me and My House”

by Keith & Kristyn Getty

Praise Team

Oh, choose you this day whom you will serve: the kingdom of heav’n or the powers of earth.

Has he not spoken? Have you not heard? There is a loving God.

The God of our fathers set us free. His son paid the price for our covenant peace.

Through generations his mercy speaks. We trust a loving God.

As for me and my house, we will serve, serve the Lord.

As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord our God.

This house is the Lord’s and all within. May it be pleasing and holy to him.

Joined by his Spirit, his people sing, “Great is the living God. Oh, great is the living God.”

As for me and my house, we will serve, serve the Lord.

As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord our God.

Oh, praise the Father, praise the Son, praise the Spirit now in us.

Let ev’ry heart and ev’ry tongue praise the living God.

As for me and my house, we will serve, serve the Lord.

As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord our God.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 12:1–9 (NRSVue)

Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless

you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother’s son Lot and all the possessions that they had gathered and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran, and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east, and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord. And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Awakening to Worship: Abram and Sarai”

Rev. Karen Wright

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

“Build My Life” *reprise*

by Pat Barrett

All

**Worthy of ev’ry song we could ever sing.
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring.
Worthy of ev’ry breath we could ever breathe. We live for you.**

**Holy, there is no one like you, there is none beside you.
Open up my eyes in wonder
and show me who you are and fill me with your heart
and lead me in your love to those around me.**

**Jesus the name above ev'ry other name.
Jesus the only one who could ever save.
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe. We live for you, we live for you.**

**I will build my life upon your love; it is a firm foundation.
I will put my trust in you alone, and I will not be shaken.**

**Worthy of ev'ry song we could ever sing.
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring.
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe. We live for you. We live for you.**

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Karen Wright

*SONG TO SEND

"Let Your Kingdom Come "

by Bob Kauflin

All

**Your glorious cause, O God, engages our hearts.
May Jesus Christ be known wherever we are.
We ask not for ourselves, but for your renown.
The cross has saved us, so we pray your kingdom come.**

**Let your kingdom come, let your will be done,
So that ev'ryone might know your name.
Let your song be heard ev'rywhere on earth,
till your sov'reign work on earth is done.
Let your kingdom come.**

**Give us your strength, O God, and courage to speak.
Perform your wondrous deeds through those who are weak.
Lord, use us as you want, whatever the test.
By grace we'll preach your gospel till our dying breath.**

**Let your kingdom come, let your will be done,
So that ev'ryone might know your name.
Let your song be heard ev'rywhere on earth,**

**till your sov'reign work on earth is done.
Let your kingdom come.**

GOD'S PEACE TO YOU

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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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