



GRACE COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship April 28, 2024 9:30am
Fifth Sunday of Easter

Gathering

PRELUDE

“In Thee Is Gladness”
Linda Dover, organist

by Paul Manz
Op. 21

In worship following reflective music, we are requesting a response of quiet or a contemplative “amen.” Any music that elicits a response of applause is to the glory of God.

WELCOME

Rev. Karen Wright

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: For waking our bodies from rest, and gifting us with a fresh morning —

ALL: Thanks be to God.

ONE: For the breath in our lungs, and the best of our hearts —

ALL: Thanks be to God.

ONE: For meeting us in the stress we carry, and not letting us hold it alone —

ALL: Thanks be to God.

ONE: For giving us one another to worship with —

ALL: Thanks be to God.

ONE: For the love of Jesus Christ, who frees our hearts for faith and praise —

ALL: Thanks be to God.

*HYMN 307

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

CWM RHONDDA

307 God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour thy power; crown thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry; bring its
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our
 thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in
 we de - plore. Let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our

bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss thy king - dom's goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

This stirring hymn used at the opening of Riverside Church in New York in 1930 was penned by its widely-known and influential pastor, and it has gained a firm place in English-language hymnals around the world. The Welsh tune name honors the Rhondda Valley in Glamorganshire.

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Rev. Gracie Hellweg Payne

(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

Rev. Gracie Hellweg Payne

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

God of Resurrection,

you can renew our strength,

raise us to new life,

and transform graveyards into gardens.

We want to lean close to tend to the cries of your children,

but the suffering takes our breath away and fills our hearts with fear.

Renew our trust that though suffering is strong, you are stronger.

We want your church to be a brave voice for justice that heralds a new day,

forgive us if our ceremonies are louder than our service.

Renew our faith so we might do the work you have given us to do.

We want to believe, help our unbelief.

Forgive us, God of mercy.

Fashion all our lives to be a testament to the strength of your love.

(Silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

ONE: May the peace of Christ be with you.

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

*HYMN 410

“God Is Calling Through the Whisper”

W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

410 God Is Calling through the Whisper

1 God is call-ing through the whis-per of the Spir - it's deep-est sighs,
 2 God is call-ing through the voic-es of our neigh-bors' ur-gent prayers,
 3 God is call-ing through the mu-sic of sub-lime and hu-man arts,

through the thrill of sud-den beau-ties that can catch us by sur-prise.
 through their long-ing for re-demp-tion and for res-cue from de-spair.
 through the hymns of earth and an-gels, and the car-ols of our hearts.

Flash of light-ning, crash of thun-der; hush of still-ness, rush of won-der:
 Place of hurt or face of need-ing; stri-dent cry or si-lent plead-ing:
 Lift of joy and gift of sing-ing; days and nights our prais-es bring-ing:

God is call - ing—can you hear? God is call - ing—can you hear?
 God is call - ing—can you hear? God is call - ing—can you hear?
 God is call - ing—and we hear! God is call - ing—and we hear!

This wide-ranging text reminds us of the many surprising and urgent ways God calls to us, both to draw us near and to send us forth. In the third line of music it is especially effective at harnessing the momentum of the phrases that are each a note higher than the one before.

Equipping

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 88:9–13 (NRSVue)

Sarah Evans

My eye grows dim through sorrow.
Every day I call on you, O Lord;
I spread out my hands to you.
Do you work wonders for the dead?
Do the shades rise up to praise you? *Selah*
Is your steadfast love declared in the grave
or your faithfulness in Abaddon?
Are your wonders known in the darkness
or your saving help in the land of forgetfulness?
But I, O Lord, cry out to you;
in the morning my prayer comes before you.

ANTHEM

“Abide With Me”

by Henry F. Lyte

Chancel & Exaltation! Singers

arr. Molly Ijames

*Abide with me, fast falls the eventide; the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee, help of the helpless, O abide with me.*

*I need thy presence ev'ry passing hour; what but thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who, like thy self, my guide and stay can be. Through cloud and sunshine O abide with me.*

*Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes; shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee, in life, in death, Lord abide, with me. Amen.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ezekiel 37:1–10 (NRSVue)

Rev. Gracie Hellweg Payne

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, prophesy, 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.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Can I Ask You a Question?”

Rev. Gracie Hellweg Payne

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

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC

“Adagio”

by Amadeus Mozart

Linda Dover, organist

arr. E. Power Biggs

Mozart wrote this short movement for the glass harmonica, an instrument consisting of a set of rotating musical glasses, improved and perfected by Benjamin Franklin.

Sending

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Gracie Hellweg Payne

*HYMN 301

“Let Us Build a House”

TWO OAKS

301

Let Us Build a House

All Are Welcome

Capo 3: (A7) (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (Bm)
 C7 F C F B^b C Dm



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
 2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and

(D) (A) (D) (Bm7) (Em) (A)
 F C F Dm7 Gm C



safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
 strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek
 wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground
 wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,
 vi - sions heard and loved and trea-sured, taught and claimed

(Em) (A7) (G) (D) (F#m) (Bm)
 Gm C7 B^b F Am Dm



how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

(Em) (A) (D) (G)
 Gm C F B^b



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we
 strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us
 laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this

Although it was written for a church dedication, this text is not about a physical structure but a spiritual one. The building is at best only a vessel for the essential love and hope, life and faith, peace and justice, hospitality and nurture that form the worshipping community.

THE CHURCH

Refrain

(D) (G) (F#7) (Bm) (Em) (Bm)
 F B^b A7 Dm Gm Dm

love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
 share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel - come;
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
 house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:

(F#m) (Em) (D) (Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D)
 Am Gm F Gm C7 F B^b F

all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Gracie Hellweg Payne

POSTLUDE (*seated*)

“This Joyful Eastertide”

Linda Dover, organist

VRUECHTEN

setting by John Leavitt

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

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GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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