



GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship July 7, 2024 9:30am
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering

PRELUDE

“Beach Spring”
Linda Dover, organist

arr. Gilbert M. Martin

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: When we pass through the waters,

All: God is there with us.

One: When we suffer and feel hopeless,

All: God is there with us.

One: When we are joyful and celebratory,

All: God is there with us.

One: Whether we feel triumphant or defeated,

All: God is there with us, always.

Come, let us worship together!

*HYMN 664

“Morning Has Broken”

BUNESSAN

Morning Has Broken 664

1 Morn-ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing; black-bird has
 2 Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from heav - en, like the first
 3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing, born of the

spo - ken like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the
 dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet-ness of the wet
 one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion; praise ev - ery

morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
 gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.
 morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

This 20th-century text was created to provide words for this traditional tune named for a small village on the Isle of Mull, off the west coast of Scotland. Through repeated use of "new" and "first," each morning is treated as a re-creation of the promise of the original day.

TEXT: Eleanor Farjeon, 1931, alt.
 MUSIC: Gaelic melody; arr. Beverly A. Howard, 2012
 Text © David Higham Assoc., Ltd.
 Music Arr. © 2012 Beverly A. Howard

BUNESSAN
 5.5.5.4.D

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

(Awakening to Worship, our child-friendly worship time, is on summer hiatus. 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. Karen Wright

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But when we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

Comforting Spirit, it is all too easy for us to focus only on the negative things in life, instead of celebrating all that you provide that is positive and good. Redirect our wayward hearts, Lord. Refocus our wandering minds. Remind us of the hope we have in you, for your love and mercies are without end. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. 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!

*HYMN 624

“I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art”
vs. 1 and 5

TOULON

I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art 624

1 I greet thee, who my sure Re-deem-er art,
 2 Thou art the King of mer-cy and of grace,
 3 Thou art the life, by which a-lone we live,
 4 Thou hast the true and per-fect gen-tle-ness;
 5 Our hope is in no oth-er save in thee;

my on-ly trust and Sav-ior of my heart,
 reign-ing om-ni-po-tent in ev-ery place:
 and all our sub-stance and our strength re-ceive;
 no harsh-ness hast thou and no bit-ter-ness.
 our faith is built up-on thy prom-ise free;

who pain didst un-der-go for my poor sake;
 so come, O King, and our whole be-ing sway;
 sus-tain us by thy faith and by thy power,
 O grant to us the grace we find in thee,
 Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure,

I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.
 shine on us with the light of thy pure day.
 and give us strength in ev-ery try-ing hour.
 that we may dwell in per-fect u-ni-ty.
 that in thy strength we ev-er-more en-dure.

The original French text, sometimes attributed to John Calvin, seems to be a Protestant reworking of a Roman Catholic hymn, not a typical practice for him. Yet this text and tune (adapted from GENEVAN 124) clearly date from the early years of the Reformed tradition.

Equipping

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ecclesiastes 7:10–14 (NRSVue)

Tom Stroud

Do not say, “Why were the former days better than these?”

For it is not from wisdom that you ask this.

Wisdom is as good as an inheritance,
an advantage to those who see the sun.

For the protection of wisdom is like the protection of money,
and the advantage of knowledge is that wisdom gives life to the one who possesses it.

Consider the work of God;
who can make straight what he has made crooked?

In the day of prosperity, be joyful, and in the day of adversity, consider: God has made the one as well as the other, so that mortals may not find out anything that comes after them.

SOLO

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

Text by Lina Sandell

Barbara Douglas, soprano Swedish Melody, arr. Oskar Ahnfelt
Sung in Swedish and English

*Children of the heav’nly Father safely in his bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven such a refuge e’er was given.*

*Though he giveth or he taketh, God his children ne’er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely to preserve them pure and holy.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Lamentations 3:1–6;17–26 (NRSVue)

I am one who has seen affliction
under the rod of God’s wrath;
he has driven and brought me
into darkness without any light;
against me alone he turns his hand,
again and again, all day long.

He has made my flesh and my skin waste away;
he has broken my bones;
he has besieged and enveloped me
with bitterness and tribulation;
he has made me sit in darkness
like the dead of long ago.

my soul is bereft of peace;
I have forgotten what happiness is;
so I say, “Gone is my glory
and all that I had hoped for from the Lord.”

The thought of my affliction and my homelessness
is wormwood and gall!
My soul continually thinks of it
and is bowed down within me.
But this I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul,
“therefore I will hope in him.”

The Lord is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul that seeks him.
It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the Lord.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words
Thanks be to God!

SERMON “Telling Our Story: New Every Morning” Rev. Karen Wright

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC “Trio” by W.A. Mozart
from *The Quintet for Clarinet and Strings, KV581*
Bob Dover, clarinet

Sending

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION Rev. Karen Wright

Invitation to the Table

The Great Thanksgiving 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.**

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People – *partake of the bread first and then drink as instructed.*

Music During Communion “Christ, the Bread” by James Southbridge

Linda Dover, organist

Prayer after Communion

*HYMN 340

“This Is My Song”

FINLANDIA

This Is My Song

1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions,
 2 My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,
 3 This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's king - doms:

a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.
 and sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine.
 thy king - dom come; on earth thy will be done.

This is my home, the coun - try where my heart is;
 But oth - er lands have sun - light too, and clo - ver,
 Let Christ be lift - ed up till all shall serve him,

here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;
 and skies are ev - ery - where as blue as mine.
 and hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one.

The first two stanzas of this hymn were written between the 20th century's two world wars and focus on the theme of international peace. The third stanza, by another author and added later, uses the language of the Lord's Prayer to voice a distinctly Christian perspective.

TEXT: Stanzas 1-2, Lloyd Stone; stanza 3, Georgia Harkness, alt.

MUSIC: Jean Sibelius, 1899; arr. *The Hymnal*, 1933, alt.

Text Sts. 1-2 © 1934, ren. 1962 *The Lorenz Corp.*; St. 3 © 1964 *The Lorenz Corp.*

Music Arr. © 1933, ren. 1961 *The Presbyterian Board of Christian Education (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)*

FINLANDIA
 11.10.11.10.11.10

THE LIFE OF THE NATIONS

but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing
So hear my song, O God of all the na - tions,
So hear my prayer, O God of all the na - tions:

with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
a song of peace for their land and for mine.
my - self I give thee; let thy will be done.

The image shows two systems of musical notation. Each system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The first system includes lyrics: 'but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing', 'So hear my song, O God of all the na - tions,', and 'So hear my prayer, O God of all the na - tions:'. The second system includes lyrics: 'with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.', 'a song of peace for their land and for mine.', and 'my - self I give thee; let thy will be done.' The music is in a key with two flats and a common time signature.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Karen Wright

POSTLUDE

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

arr. Frank W. Breazeale

Linda Dover, organist

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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