



GRACE COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship February 1, 2026 9:30am
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Gathering

*The prelude, the first act of worship, sets the tone for what is to follow.
So, we invite you as worshipers to gather, to transition from your busy lives
into a sacred place of communion with God and with each other. – Dr. Kimo Smith, adapted*

SONG TO GATHER

“Build My Life”
All — see insert

as recorded by Pat Berrett

*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/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Karen Wright

RECOGNITION OF CAROLYN CHAFFIN

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Come, all who hunger and thirst for righteousness.
Come, all who long for mercy, justice, and peace.

ALL: **The Holy One calls us—not to grand gestures alone,
but to lives shaped by love.**

ONE: What does the Lord require of us?

ALL: **To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.**

ONE: Blessed are the poor in spirit, the meek, the merciful, the peacemakers.

ALL: **Come, let us worship the God whose blessing rests on lives of compassion
and courage, and whose peace is meant for the whole world.**

*SONG TO PRAISE

"May the Peoples Praise"
All — see insert

as recorded by
Keith & Kristyn Getty

CALL TO CONFESSON

Emily Nelson Dixon

Jesus calls blessed those the world often overlooks — the gentle, the grieving, the merciful, the peacemakers. Yet we confess that we chase other blessings: power over humility, comfort over compassion, being right over being reconciled. Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSON (*Unison*)

God of justice and mercy, you have shown us what is good, yet we confess that we resist your way. We neglect justice when it is inconvenient. We withhold kindness when it costs us something. We struggle to walk humbly, especially when pride and fear take hold. We turn away from the poor in spirit, from those who mourn, from voices that disturb our comfort. Forgive us when we seek blessing without embracing the way of love that leads to it. Restore in us the courage to live gently, the compassion to show mercy, and the humility to follow where you lead. By your Spirit, shape us into people of peace, that your blessing might flow through us into a hurting world. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news: God blesses us with grace beyond measure. In Jesus Christ, the merciful are shown mercy, the broken are restored, and the humble are lifted up. Know this: you are forgiven, you are beloved, and you are called anew to walk in the freedom of God's peace.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

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.)

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

ONE: May the peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you and all others!

*RESPONSE 583

"Gloria"

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Meredith Watson

Equipping

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Micah 6:1–8 (NRSVue)

Brandon Hearn

Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the Lord has a case against his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

“With what shall I come before the Lord
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

SONG TO REFLECT

“Make Room”

as recorded by Meredith Andrews

Praise Team

Here is where I lay it down, ev’ry burden, ev’ry crown. This is my surrender.

Here is where I lay it down, ev’ry lie and ev’ry doubt This is my surrender.

And I will make room for you to do whatever you want to.

Shake up the ground of all my tradition. Break down the walls of all my religion. Your way is better.

I will make room for you to do whatever you want to.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 5:1–12 (NRSVue)

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
“Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words

Thanks be to God!

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** from A Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

SONG FOR GIVING **“Start a Fire”** by Mosley, Mattson & Lowry
Praise Team/All — see insert

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

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.

The Words of Institution

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup – *partake of the bread first and then drink as instructed.*

Music During Communion

Prayer After Communion

Sending

*SONG TO SEND

“My Lighthouse”

as recorded by Rend Collective

All — see insert

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Karen Wright

POSTLUDE

**Stand in body or spirit*

GOD'S PEACE TO YOU

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