



GRACE COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship July 19, 2026 9:30am
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

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*

PRELUDE

“Praise God’s Greatness”
Allen York, piano

arr. Mark Hayes

*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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

ALL: We come to love God with all our heart, soul, and strength.

ONE: God's Word is to be written upon our hearts and shared from generation
to generation.

**ALL: We gather to learn, to grow, and to be formed as disciples, and to be sent
into the world. Let us worship God!**

*HYMN 730

“I Sing a Song of the Saints of God”

GRAND ISLE

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God 730

1 I sing a song of the saints of God, pa - tient and
 2 They loved their Lord so dear, so dear, and God's love
 3 They lived not on - ly in a - ges past; there are hun - dreds of

brave and true, who toiled and fought and lived and
 made them strong; and they fol - lowed the right, for Je - sus'
 thou - sands still; the world is bright with the joy - ous

died for the Lord they loved and knew. And one was a
 sake, the whole of their good lives long. And one was a
 saints who love to do Je - sus' will. You can meet them in

doc - tor, and one was a queen, and one was a shep - herd - ess
 sol - dier, and one was a priest, and one was slain by a
 school, or in lanes, or at sea, in church, or in trains, or in

on the green: they were all of them saints of
 fierce wild beast: and there's not an - y rea - son,
 shops, or at tea; for the saints of God are just

God, and I mean, God help - ing, to be one too.
 no, not the least, why I should - n't be one too.
 folk like me, and I mean to be one too.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Despite the quaintness of some of the language in this text, it has an important message to communicate about the down-to-earth ordinariness of the holy people of God at all times and places. The tune name honors the island in Vermont's Lake Champlain where the composer lived.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Emily Nelson Dixon

As we gather before God, we remember that discipleship is a lifelong journey. We confess the ways we have neglected to grow in faith and to encourage one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

Gracious and faithful God, you call us to love you with all our heart, soul, and strength, yet our attention is divided and our devotion incomplete. We confess that we have not always made time to grow in faith. We have neglected your Word, forgotten to pray, and failed to encourage one another in the life of discipleship.

Forgive us when we expect faith to grow without tending it. Forgive us when we leave the work of teaching and nurturing faith to someone else. By your Holy Spirit, build us into a community devoted to worship, learning, fellowship, generosity, and prayer, so that our lives may bear witness to Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The God who calls us to discipleship also gives us grace for the journey. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and made new. Through the Holy Spirit, God continues to teach us, shape us, and gather us into a community of faith. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven

ALL: Thanks be to God.

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.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

ONE: May the peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you and all others!

***RESPONSE 582 "Glory to God Whose Goodness Shines on Me"**

GLORY TO GOD

582

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Capo 3: (G) (D) (G) (D) (G) (D) (Em) (D)
B $\flat$ F B $\flat$ F B $\flat$ F Gm F



1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,
2 World with - out end, ♪ with - out end. A - men.

(D) (G) (C) (G) (Em7) (A7)
F B $\flat$ E $\flat$ B $\flat$ Gm7 C7



and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,
World with - out end, ♪ with - out end. A - men.

(A7) (D) (F#) (Bm)
C7 F A Dm



and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.
World with - out end, ♪ with - out end. A - men.

(Bm7) (D) (Bdim7) (Em7) (Dm)(A7) (D)
Dm7 F Ddim7 Gm7 Fm C7 F



As it was in the be - gin-ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

Equipping

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Deuteronomy 6:1–9

Gene Wilson

“Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the ordinances—that the Lord your God charged me to teach you to observe in the land that you are about to cross into and occupy, so that you and your children and your children’s children may fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and keep all his decrees and his commandments that I am commanding you, so that your days may be long. Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe them diligently, so that it may go well with you and so that you may multiply greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, has promised you.

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

ANTHEM

“River in Judea”

arr. John Leavitt

Summer Choir with Allen York, piano
Miles McDonald, bass & Keith Langabee, drums

*Often times I dream of music, of the river that freely flows.
And it sings a song sweeter than honey, one every body knows.
Late at night I hear it singing then again when I wake at dawn.
And it fills me up with hope and goodwill, the will to go on, go on.*

*There is a river in Judea, that I heard of long ago.
And it’s a singing, ringing river that my soul cries out (my soul cries out) to know.*

*I believe it keeps on travelin’ but it rests on the Sabbath day.
And the time when it pauses in stillness, I almost hear it pray.
When I’m weary and downhearted, how I long for the song it sings,
For the calm within its gentle blue, the peace that it brings, it brings.*

*May the time not be too distant when we meet by the river (meet by the) shore.
‘Til then dream of that wonderful day as we sing once more (once more):*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 2:42–47

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done

through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Reports from the Field: Forming Faith ”

Rev. Don Wilson

HYMN 729

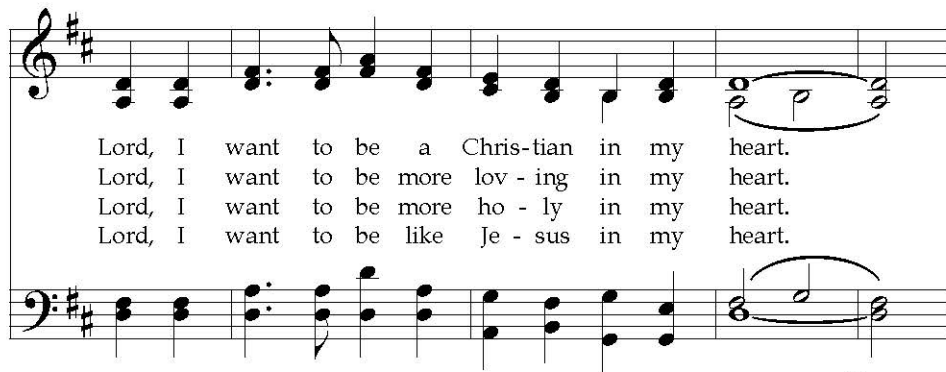
“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”

I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

729 Lord, I Want to Be a Christian



1 Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart, in my heart;
 2 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart, in my heart;
 3 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart, in my heart;
 4 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart, in my heart;



Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.



In my heart, in my heart,
 In my heart, in my heart,



Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

Through its recurring phrase, "in my heart," this poignant African American spiritual expresses the desire that our professed faith will not be superficial or hypocritical but will permeate the very center of our being, so that we may truly be the people God calls us to be.

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

"As Water to the Thirsty"
Allen York with Chris Culp, oboe

David Hass

*As water to the thirsty, as beauty to the eyes,
As strength that follows weakness, as truth instead of lies,
As songtime and springtime and summertime to be,
So is my Lord, my living Lord, so is my Lord to me.*

*Like calm in place of clamour, like peace that follows pain,
Like meeting after parting, like sunshine after rain,
Like moonlight and starlight and sunlight on the sea,
So is my Lord, my living Lord, so is my Lord to me.
As sleep that follows fever, as gold instead of gray,
As freedom after bondage, as sunrise to the day,
As home to the traveller and all we long to see,
So is my Lord, my living Lord, so is my Lord to me.*

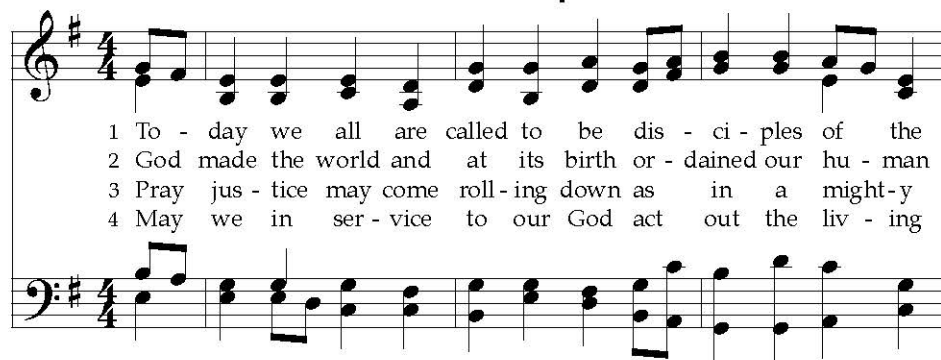
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*HYMN 757

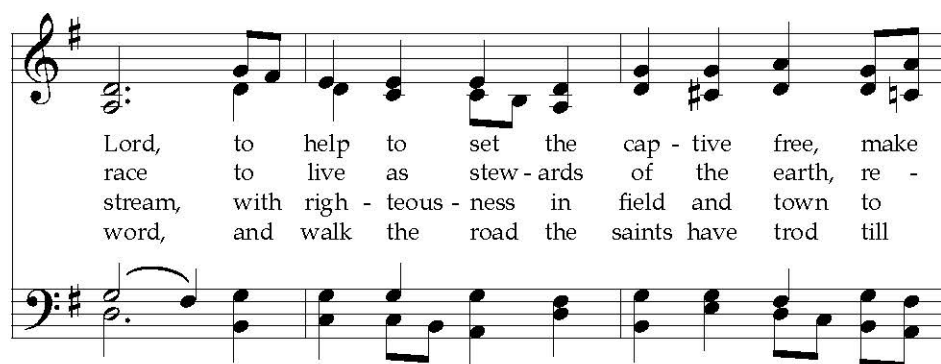
"Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples"

KINGSFOLD

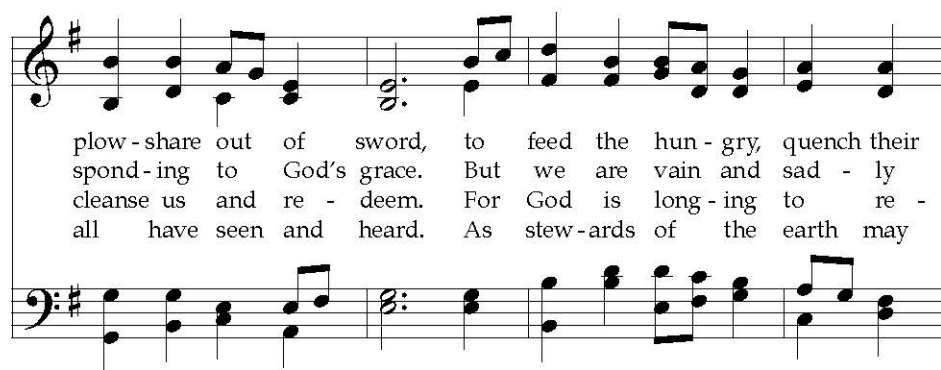
757 Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples



1 To - day we all are called to be dis - ci - ples of the
2 God made the world and at its birth or - dained our hu - man
3 Pray jus - tice may come roll - ing down as in a might - y
4 May we in ser - vice to our God act out the liv - ing



Lord, to help to set the cap - tive free, make
race to live as stew - ards of the earth, re -
stream, with righ - teous - ness in field and town to
word, and walk the road the saints have trod till



plow - share out of sword, to feed the hun - gry, quench their
spond - ing to God's grace. But we are vain and sad - ly
cleanse us and re - deem. For God is long - ing to re -
all have seen and heard. As stew - ards of the earth may

This text placing stewardship in the context of faithful witness was written by a retired Presbyterian minister to be part of the 1986 stewardship campaign titled "Called to Be Disciples." The tune name recalls the Sussex village where the arranger first heard the melody.

JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

thirst, make love and peace our fast, to serve the
proud; we sow not peace but strife. Our dis - cord
store an earth where con - flicts cease, a world that
we give thanks in one ac - cord to God who

poor and home - less first, our ease and com - fort last.
spreads a dead - ly cloud that threat - ens all of life.
was cre - at - ed for a har - mo - ny of peace.
calls us all to be dis - ci - ples of the Lord.

The musical score is written for a piano and voice. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with the bass clef providing harmonic support. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“It Is Well with My Soul”
Allen York, piano

arr. Mark Hayes

**Stand in body or spirit*

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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