



**GRACE COVENANT**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship September 29, 2024 9:30am  
Nineteenth 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 “This Little Light” arr. Linda Dover  
Linda Dover, organist

WELCOME Rev. Karen Wright

INTROIT 658 (vs. 1) “God Is So Good” GOD IS SO GOOD  
**God is so good; God is so good;  
God is so good; God’s so good to me.**

SHARING OUR SONG “You Know My Name” by Carol Huffman Dickerson  
Joy! Singers (4s-1<sup>st</sup> grades) based on Psalm 139:13-15  
Emily Hussey & Hilary Schmidt, co-directors  
Drake Cabe, Rowan Cabe, Gilbert Dixon, Brody Frye, Henry Frye,  
Sophia Hearn, Abigail Schmidt, Wyatt Schendel, Bristol Sellers, & Zoey Wetzig

*God, you know my name, God, you know my name,  
ev’ry thought and ev’ry care, O God you know my name.*

*God, you hear my voice, God, you hear my voice,  
ev’ry song and ev’ry prayer, O God, you hear my voice.*

*God, you see my face, God you see my face,  
ev’ry smile and ev’ry tear, O God, you see my face.*

*God, I worship you, God, I worship you,  
ev’ry praise for all my days, O God, I worship you.*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: In the days of Noah, God placed a rainbow in the sky  
as the sign of a covenant of God's love for all the earth.

**ALL: In the colors of the rainbow, we see the sign of God's grace for all  
creation.**

ONE: In the days of Moses, the words of God were written on tablets of stone,  
as the sign of a covenant between God and all of God's people.

**ALL: In the tablets of stone, we see the sign of God's hope  
for each to live in peace with God and neighbor.**

ONE: In the days of the prophet,  
God promised to place a new covenant in our hearts.

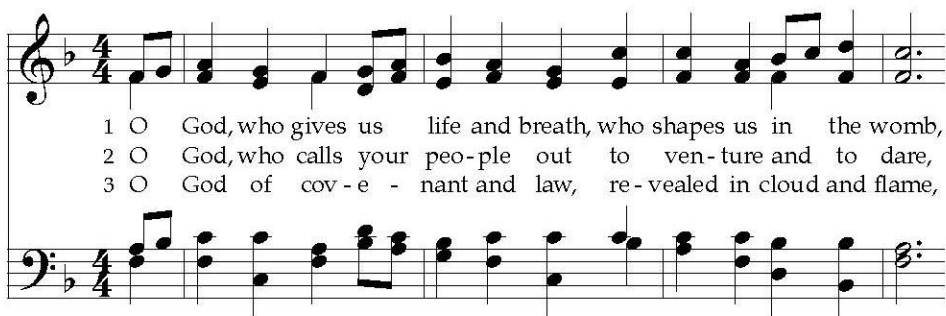
**All: As members of the living Body of Christ, we see the sign of God's  
promise among us.**

\*HYMN 53

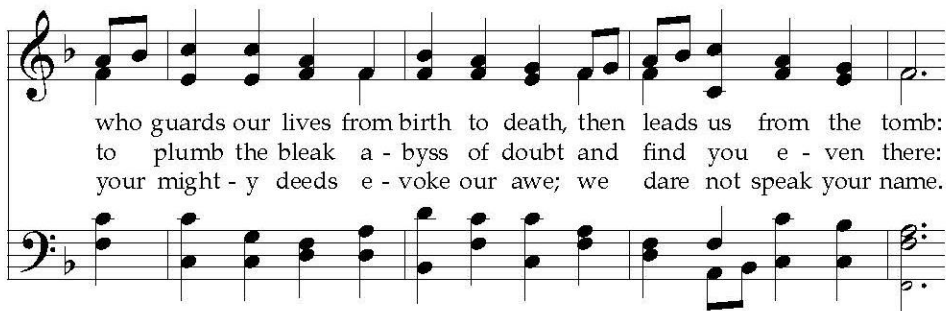
“O God, Who Gave Us Life”

NOEL

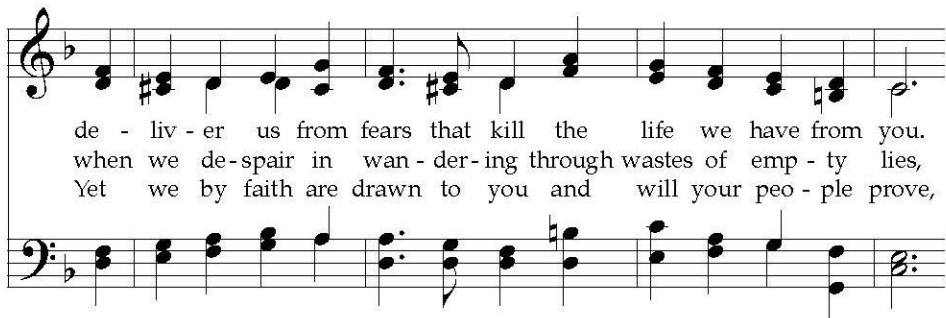
# 53 O God, Who Gives Us Life



1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,  
 2 O God, who calls your people out to venture and to dare,  
 3 O God of cov - e - nant and law, re - vealed in cloud and flame,



who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:  
 to plumb the bleak a - byss of doubt and find you e - ven there:  
 your might - y deeds e - voke our awe; we dare not speak your name.



de - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.  
 when we de - spair in wan - der - ing through wastes of emp - ty lies,  
 Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your peo - ple prove,



Help us to know your Spir - it still is mak - ing all things new.  
 re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that nev - er dies.  
 as on our hearts you write a - new the cov - e - nant of love.

Christians often fail to appreciate how much we can learn about God from the Hebrew Scriptures. This text draws on a variety of passages that call attention to God's faithfulness toward the Chosen People and the promise of a new covenant written on the heart (Jeremiah 31:31-34).

## SHARING OUR SONG

### “God’s Masterpiece”

by Ruth Elaine Schram

Celebration! Choir

Based on Jeremiah 18:6,

Pam Kelly, director

Romans 9:20-21, & Philippians 1:6

Katie Hearn, co-director & Linda Dover, accompanist

Eloise Dixon & Eloise Armbrecht, soli

Eloise Armbrecht, Eloise Dixon, Abel Frye, Kamden Frye, Charlotte Hearn, Mallory Hearn,

Nathan Hearn, Aidan Hussey, Liam Hussey, Brynnley Krug, Evie Schmidt, James Schmidt,

Magnolia Sellers, Max Soule, Grant Stromberg, Lucas Wright, & Sarah Wright

*God is working on me so I can be the masterpiece I was created to be.*

*God began it, God will complete it, this good work being done in me.*

*God will make me a masterpiece, the masterpiece I was created to be.*

## 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.)*

## CALL TO CONFESSION

The apostle Paul discovered he didn’t have to earn God’s love or God’s grace. He found he needed to accept God’s unconditional love. Let us open our hearts, confess our sins, and make space for God’s unconditional love.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

**Forgive us, O God, when we believe that righteous behavior is all that is needed to secure your love. We know that we can neither earn nor deserve all that you have done for us. Help us to surrender our worldly attitudes and values so that, like Paul, we can celebrate anew lives centered in Jesus Christ.**

**Forgive us, O God, when we lose sight of the goal of our lives as Christians—that of following Jesus; even when that means, and perhaps, especially when that means taking up our cross, and sharing in the suffering and struggle that Jesus shares with us. Merciful God, you have given your son for the sins of the world and you gave us rules of how to live with you and with our neighbors. Help us to follow where you lead. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The Lord has indeed done great things for us. The good news therefore is this: In Jesus Christ we are accepted, we are loved, 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 582      “Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me”      GLORY TO GOD

SERVICE MUSIC

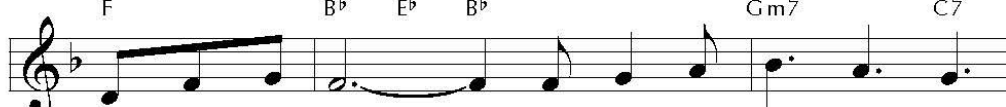
# 582      Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Capo 3: (G) (D) (G) (D) (G) (D) (Em) (D)  
B<sup>b</sup> F B<sup>b</sup> F B<sup>b</sup> F Gm F



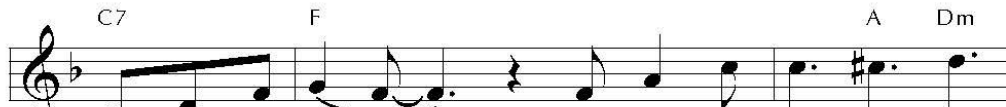
1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,  
2 World with - out end, with - out end. A - men.

(D) (G) (C) (G) (Em7) (A7)  
F B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> 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

Philippians 3:4b–14 (NRSVue)

Barbara Douglas

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

### ANTHEM

“O God Beyond All Praising”

arr. Dan Forrest

Chancel & Exaltation! Singers from Gustav Holst, *The Planets*

*O God beyond all praising, we worship you today  
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;  
for we can only wonder at ev'ry gift you send,  
at blessings without number and mercies without end:  
we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,  
we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.*

*For we can only wonder at ev'ry gift you send,  
at blessings without number and mercies without end:  
for Christ, your gift from heaven, from death has set us free,  
and we through him are given the final victory.*

*Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,  
that we who know your favor may serve you as our King;  
and whether our tomorrow be filled with good or ill,  
we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:  
to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,  
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.*

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

## Exodus 20:1–21(NRSVue)

Then God spoke all these words,

“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

“You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above or that is on the earth beneath or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

“You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

“Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and consecrated it.

“Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

“You shall not murder.

“You shall not commit adultery.

“You shall not steal.

“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, male or female slave, ox, donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance and said to Moses, “You speak to us, and we will listen, but do not let God speak to us, lest we die.” Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid, for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin.” Then the people stood at a distance, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words

**Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

“Awakening to Worship: 10 Rules to Live By”

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

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC

“As the Wind Song”

Linda Dover, organist  
by Michael Burkhardt

### Sending

\*HYMN 291

“Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”  
*All Sing Refrain – Soloist on vs. 1*  
*All Sing Thereafter*

SPIRIT



## 291 Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

## Spirit

Refrain



Spir - it, spir - it of gen - tle - ness, blow through the



wil - der - ness, call - ing and free. Spir - it,



spir - it of rest - less - ness, stir me from plac - id - ness,

wind, wind on the sea. *Fine*

1 You moved on the wa - ters; you called to the  
 2 You swept through the des - ert; you stung with the  
 3 You sang in a sta - ble; you cried from a  
 4 You call from to - mor - row; you break an - cient



deep; then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the  
 sand; and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a  
 hill; then you whis - pered in si - lence when the  
 schemes; from the bond - age of sor - row the

As the author / composer reminds us in the refrain, the Spirit is both gentle and restless. The stanzas reinforce a sense of the Spirit's activity through a wide range of verbs, initially in the past tense; but they become more urgent in the present tense of the fourth stanza.

GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

E A D G  
 val - leys of sleep; and o - ver the e -  
 law and a land. When they were con - found -  
 whole world was still. And down in the cit -  
 cap - tives dream dreams. Our wom - en see vi -  
  
 A G D  
 ons you called to each thing, "A -  
 ed with i - dols and lies, then you  
 y, you called once a - gain when you  
 sions; our men clear their eyes. With  
  
 Bm G  
 wake from your slum - bers and  
 spoke through your proph - ets to  
 blew through your peo - ple on the  
 bold new de - ci - sions your  
  
 A D G/A D A *to Refrain*  
 rise on your wings."  
 o - pen their eyes.  
 rush of the wind.  
 peo - ple a - rise.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHARGE AND BLESSING

Rev. Karen Wright

POSTLUDE "It's a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood"  
 Linda Dover, organist

*\*Stand in body or spirit*

GOD'S PEACE TO YOU

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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11100 College Boulevard ♦ Overland Park, KS 66210  
Phone (913) 345-1256 ♦ [www.gcpc.org](http://www.gcpc.org)