



GRACE COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship March 20, 2022 9:30am
3rd Sunday in Lent

Gathering

SONG TO GATHER

“My Lord What a Morning ”
Carrie DeVries, piano

African American Spiritual

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Sue Trigger

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

ONE: Thirsty, our hearts crave living water.

ALL: Hungry, our souls ache to be satisfied.

ONE: Weary, our minds are tired by thoughts that do not come from God.

ALL: Thirsty, hungry, and weary, let us worship the God of love.

*SONGS TO PRAISE

“Do Lord, Remember Me”

African American Spirituals

I've got a home in glory land, that outshines the sun

I've got a home in glory land, that outshines the sun

I've got a home in glory land, that outshines the sun

Look away beyond the blue.

Do Lord, oh, do Lord, oh, do remember me,

Do Lord, oh, do Lord, oh, do remember me,

Do Lord, oh, do Lord, oh, do remember me,

Look away beyond the blue.

I took Jesus as my Savior, you take Him too,

I took Jesus as my Savior, you take Him too,

I took Jesus as my Savior, you take Him too,

Look away beyond the blue.

Do Lord, oh, do Lord, oh, do remember me,
Do Lord, oh, do Lord, oh, do remember me,
Do Lord, oh, do Lord, oh, do remember me,
Look away beyond the blue.

He'll take you to heaven and he's waiting for you~
He'll take you to heaven and he's waiting for you~
He'll take you to heaven and he's waiting for you~

Listen to his voice!

Do Lord, oh, do Lord, oh, do remember me,
Do Lord, oh, do Lord, oh, do remember me,
Do Lord, oh, do Lord, oh, do remember me,
Look away beyond the blue.

"Kum Ba Yah"

Kum ba yah, my Lord, Kum ba ya
Kum ba yah, my Lord, Kum ba ya
Kum ba yah, my Lord, Kum ba ya
O, Lord Kum ba yah

Someone's prayin' Lord, Kum ba ya
Someone's cryin' Lord, Kum ba ya
Someone needs you Lord, Kum ba ya
O, Lord Kum ba ya

We are singing Lord, Kum ba ya
We are praying Lord, Kum ba ya
We are waiting Lord, Kum ba ya
O, Lord Kum ba ya

TIME WITH STEWART

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Loving God, the words we speak all too often do not show you in our lives. We spend so much time boasting to others, they imagine we have no need for you. We grumble impatiently when you don't respond immediately to our requests, but are slow to sing your praises. We mutter under our breath about the behavior of those around us, when we could be asking them if there is some way we could serve them. On our journey to the empty tomb, fill us with the riches of your mercy. As we open our lives to receive your forgiveness, may we turn to the love which brings us life, following Jesus, our Savior, every step of the way.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE & SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: May the peace and love of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you and all others!

Equipping

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Numbers 21: 4–9

(Common English Bible)

They marched from Mount Hor on the Reed Sea road around the land of Edom. The people became impatient on the road. The people spoke against God and Moses: "Why did you bring us up from Egypt to kill us in the desert, where there is no food or water. And we detest this miserable bread!" So the LORD sent poisonous snakes among the people and they bit the people. Many of the Israelites died. The people went to Moses and said, "We've sinned, for we spoke against the LORD and you. Pray to the LORD so that he will send the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people. The LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous snake and place it on a pole. Whoever is bitten can look at it and live." Moses made a bronze snake and placed it on a pole. If a snake bit someone, that person could look at the bronze snake and live.

SONG TO REFLECT

"First"

by Lauren Daigle

Praise Team

Before I bring my need, I will bring my heart

Before I lift my cares, I will lift my arms

I wanna know You, I wanna find You

In every season, In every moment

Before I bring my need, I will bring my heart

And seek You First

I wanna seek You, I wanna seek You First

I wanna keep You, I wanna keep You First

More than anything I want, I want You First

Before I speak a word, Let me hear Your voice

And in the midst of pain, Let me feel Your joy, ooh

I wanna know You, I wanna find You

In every season, In every moment

Before I speak a word, I will bring my heart

And seek You First

I wanna seek You, I wanna seek You First

I wanna keep You, I wanna keep You First

More than anything I want, I want You First

You are my treasure and my reward
Let nothing ever come before
You are my treasure and my reward
Let nothing ever come before
I seek You First
I wanna seek You, I wanna seek You First
I wanna keep You, I wanna keep You First
More than anything I want, I want You First

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE LESSON John 3:14–21 (Common English Bible)

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so must the Human One be lifted up so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life. God didn't send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him isn't judged; whoever doesn't believe in him is already judged, because they don't believe in the name of God's only Son. "This is the basis for judgment: The light came into the world, and people loved darkness more than the light, for their actions are evil. All who do wicked things hate the light and don't come to the light for fear that their actions will be exposed to the light. Whoever does the truth comes to the light so that it can be seen that their actions were done in God."

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Living So God Can Use Us"

Rev. Sue Trigger

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sending

*SONG TO SEND

"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

African American Spiritual

Hymn 700

"Serving God was the fervent desire of Christian slaves. In spite of tremendous barriers to living holy lives, they wanted God to *guide their feet while they ran this race.*" (*In Their Own Words*, Eileen Guenther, Morning Star Publishers, p. 372)

700 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

1 I'm gon-na live so (live so)
 2 I'm gon-na work so (work so)
 3 I'm gon-na pray so (pray so)
 4 I'm gon-na sing so (sing so)

God can use me an - y -

where, Lord, an - y - time!
 (an - y - time!)
 I'm gon-na
 I'm gon-na
 I'm gon-na
 I'm gon-na

live so (live so)
 work so (work so)
 pray so (pray so)
 sing so (sing so)

God can use me an - y -

where, Lord, an - y - time!
 (my Lord,) (an - y - time!)

This African American spiritual has more depth than may at first appear: for people who are bound in slavery to sing about dedicating themselves to God's use shows a profound awareness of God-given self-worth despite circumstances that would deny their human or spiritual value.

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

GOD'S PEACE TO YOU

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