



GRACE COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship March 17, 2024 9:30am
Fifth Sunday in Lent

Gathering

PRELUDE

“Eternal Father”

by Claude T. Smith

GCPC Wind Ensemble

arr. Joseph Benjamin Earp

Pam Smith Kelly, director

*O Savior, whose almighty word the winds and waves submissive heard,
who walked upon the foaming deep, and calm amid its rage did sleep:
O hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.*

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 AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Karen Wright

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Each day is a gift from God,

ALL: each moment is that opportunity to reach out in service to all creation.

ONE: Each day is a reminder of the new covenant:

**ALL: not written on stone tablets easily broken,
but inscribed on our hearts willed with joy and hope.**

ONE: Each day we draw closer to God:

**ALL: who has forgotten more than we ever learn;
who has forgiven us more than we ever acknowledge.**

*HYMN 13

“The Mighty God with Power Speaks”

KINGSFOLD

13 The Mighty God with Power Speaks

(Psalm 50)

1 The Might-y God with pow-er speaks, and all the world o - beys;
 2 God comes not with a si-lent form, but rid-ing on the winds;
 3 The heavens de-clare your jus-tice, Lord, as end-less as the sky;

from dawn un - til the set-ting sun, God's won-der earth dis - plays.
 be - fore God's face, the rag-ing storm its blast of thun-der sends.
 a - gainst the taunts of dis-be-lief, our God will tes - ti - fy.

The per-fect beau - ty all a-round from Zi-on's height shines forth;
 All hail the Judge, in bold ar-ray, whose prom-ise is to bless;
 Re-ceive my heart-felt gift of thanks, as hon-or to your might;

and stars a - cross the fir - ma-ment so bright-ly beam their worth.
 who sees our sins, yet al - so feels our thirst for righ - teous-ness.
 re - fresh my faith with each new day; pro - tect me through the night.

This paraphrase, set to a familiar English folk melody, focuses on the opening narrative section of Psalm 50 without attempting to summarize God's speeches in the latter portion of the psalm. Both parts bear witness to God's sovereignty, God's justice, and God's providence.

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

Rev. Karen Wright

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

**We want to see you, Jesus ... but sometimes we are too afraid to ask for help.
We want to see you ... but we aren't sure if those people should be allowed to come too.
We want to see you ... but we don't love the way you talk about sacrifice and death, or about outcasts and sinners.
We want to see you ... but we also want to know how it'll go first.
Forgive us. Fill us with courage to step forward and seek, with openness to those around us, with vision to see your big picture, with trust to follow you. In Christ's name, and for his sake. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

ONE: May the peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you and all others!

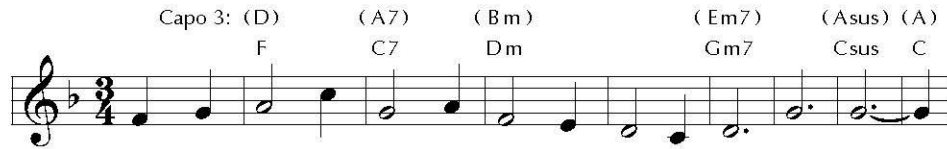
*HYMN 726

"Will You Come and Follow Me"
(Stanzas 1, 2, & 5)

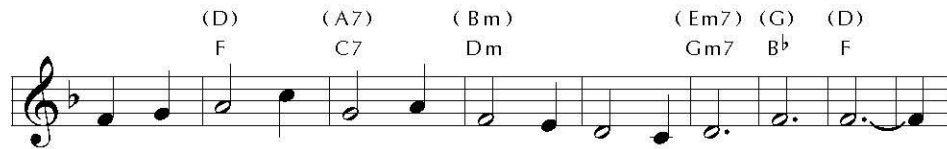
KELVINGROVE

726 Will You Come and Follow Me

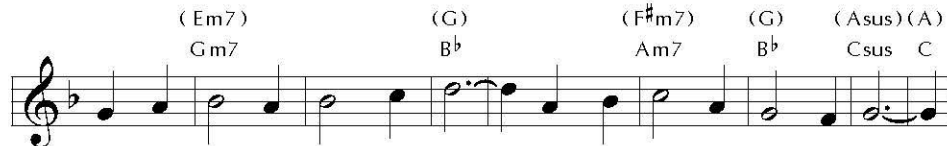
The Summons



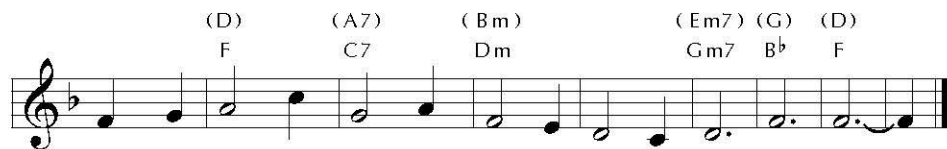
- 1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
 2 "Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
 4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
 5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
 Will you set the pris-oners free and nev - er be the same?
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at-tract or scare?
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un-seen,
 Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world a - round,
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.



will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
 Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"
 and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

The first four stanzas of this ballad-like hymn are understood to be in the voice of Christ, with the fifth reflecting the individual singer's response. Created for this traditional Scottish tune, the text was written to mark the conclusion of a youth volunteer's time of ministry.

Equipping

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Jeremiah 31:31–34 (NRSVue)

Joy Slayton

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

ANTHEM

“The Narrow Way”

Music by K. Lee Scott

Chancel Choir

Text by John Cennick, *alt.*

*Be near me, Lord, where-e’er I go; teach me what you would have me do;
direct what-e’er I think or say; and lead me in the narrow way.*

*Prevent me, lest I harbor pride, lest I in my own strength confide;
show me my weakness, let me see I have my pow’r, my all in thee.*

*Assist and teach me how to pray; incline my nature to obey;
what you abhor, oh, let me flee, and only love what pleases thee.*

*Be near me, Lord, where-e’er I go; teach me what you would have me do;
direct what-e’er I think or say; and lead me in the narrow way,
and lead me in the narrow way.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 12:20–33 (NRSVue)

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew, then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say: ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Broken Open”

Rev. Karen Wright

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Morgan Krug and Conor Schesser

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

by Percy Aldridge Grainger

“Irish Tune from County Derry”
GCPC Wind Ensemble – Pam Smith Kelly, director

[Sending](#)

*HYMN 833

“O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go”

ST. MARGARET

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go 833

1 O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my
 2 O Light that fol-lowest all my way, I yield my
 3 O Joy that seek - est me through pain, I can - not
 4 O Cross that lift - est up my head, I dare not

wea - ry soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that
 flick-ering torch to thee; my heart re - stores its bor - rowed ray, that
 close my heart to thee; I trace the rain - bow through the rain, and
 ask to fly from thee; I lay in dust life's glo - ry dead, and

in thine o - cean depths its flow may rich - er, full - er be.
 in thy sun - shine's blaze its day may bright - er, fair - er be.
 feel the prom - ise is not vain that morn shall tear - less be.
 from the ground there blos - soms red life that shall end - less be.

This intense hymn of commitment to God (addressed as Love, Light, and Joy) closes with an invocation of the ultimate testimony to those attributes (the Cross). The composer, a Scotsman, named this specially-composed tune for the 11th-century patroness of Scotland.

TEXT: George Matheson, 1881, alt.
 MUSIC: Albert Lister Peace, 1884, alt.

ST. MARGARET
 8.8.8.8.6

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Rev. Karen Wright

POSTLUDE (seated)

"Eternal Father" (Recap)

by Claude T. Smith

GCPC Wind Ensemble

arr. Joseph Benjamin Earp

Pam Smith Kelly, director

GOD'S PEACE TO YOU

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GCPC Wind Ensemble

Pam Smith Kelly, director

Bob Dover, Jani Scheppers, *flute*

Amy Jantz, Lauren Bond, Wanda Temm,

Edwin Fukunaga, *clarinet*

Lisa England, *bassoon*

Pat Setser, Natalie Walker, *bass clarinet*

Miles McDonald, *alto saxophone*

Phil Holmes, Russ Thompson, Jana Porter,

Darryl Prater, Kevin Schwartz, *trumpet*

Jim Kelly, *horn*

David Roth, David England, *trombone*

Mike Hockley, Lara Schesser, *euphonium*

Brent Herdman, Michael Watts, *tuba*

Gay Lee Ludwig-Bonney, *string bass*

Jill Endaya-Allen, Keith Langabee, *percussion*

Linda Dover, *piano and organ*



GRACE COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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