



GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship November 17, 2024 9:30am
Twenty Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering

SONG TO GATHER

“He Has Made Me Glad”

by Leona Von Brethorst

All

**I will enter his gates with thanksgiving in my heart;
I will enter his courts with praise.
I will say, “This is the day that the Lord has made!”
I will rejoice for he has made me glad.**

**He has made me glad! He has made me glad!
I will rejoice for he has made me glad. (2xs) Repeat All**

WELCOME

Emily Nelson Dixon

*SONG TO PRAISE

“God Is So Good”

GOD IS SO GOOD

(All Sing)

**God is so good; God is so good;
God is so good; God’s so good to me.**

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(Adapted from Lamentations 3:19–26)

ONE: We come with all of who we are—grief, joy, hope, and sorrow—
Trusting in the God who welcomes our whole selves.

**ALL: God’s steadfast love never ceases,
God’s mercies are renewed in us each day.**

ONE: In our lament and our thanksgiving, God’s grace is with us.

**ALL: With hope and with trust, we come to worship our Holy Parent who holds us
all.**

ONE: Let us give thanks for the God who meets us in our grief and transforms it into grace.

ALL: In joy and sorrow, we worship God together. Amen.

SONG TO REFLECT

“Let All Things Now Living ”

arr. by Cathy Moglebust

Charter Ringers

Chris Krug & Celia Nicholas, co-directors

*Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God our Creator triumphantly raise!*

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

Today we come with hearts that are full—full of questions, full of gratitude, full of hurt, and full of hope. Teach us to recognize your grace in the middle of life’s messiness and help us trust in your love when we struggle to feel thankful. Let us pray together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and Ever-Present God, we confess that we often resist the hard work of lament. We want to skip past the sadness to get to joy, to ignore pain instead of facing it. Forgive us for the ways we deny our own sorrow, and for the times we have failed to acknowledge the grief of others. Help us to remember that your love is big enough to hold it all — our joy and our tears. Grant us the courage to lean into lament, trusting that it will lead us to deeper connection, greater compassion, and more authentic gratitude. In Christ, our healer and guide, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: Hear this good news: God’s grace is not limited by our joy or constrained by our sorrow. In every season, God’s love is unending, and God’s mercy meets us where we are. In the name of Christ, know that you are forgiven, loved, and made whole.

ALL: Thanks be to God! Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

ONE: May the peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: **And also with you and all others!**

*SONG OF PEACE

“Come Thou Fount”

Words by Robert Robinson

All

**Come thou fount of ev’ry blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace.
Streams of mercy never ceasing call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount; I’m fixed upon it, mount of God’s unchanging love.**

**Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I’m come.
And I hope by thy good pleasure safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger wand’ring from the fold of God.
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.**

**O, to grace how great a debtor daily I’m constrained to be.
Let thy grace, now, like a fetter, bind my wand’ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.
Here’s my heart; O, take and seal it, seal it for the courts above.**

Equipping

SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Thessalonians 5:16–21 (NRSVue)

Jane Knoche

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast to what is good.

SONG TO REFLECT

“Blessings”

by Laura Story

Praise Team

*We pray for blessings. We pray for peace, comfort for family, protection while we sleep.
We pray for healing, for prosperity. We pray for your mighty hand to ease our suffering.
And all the while you hear each spoken need yet love us way too much to give us lesser things.*

*‘cause what if your blessings come through raindrops? What if your healing comes through tears?
What if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know you’re near?
What if trials of this life are your mercies in disguise?*

*We pray for wisdom, your voice to hear. We cry in anger when we cannot feel you near.
We doubt your goodness. We doubt your love, as if ev’ry promise from your word is not enough.
And all the while you hear each desp’rate plea, and long that we’d have faith to believe.*

*'cause what if your blessings come through raindrops? What if your healing comes through tears?
What if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know you're near?
What if trials of this life are your mercies in disguise?*

*When friends betray us, when darkness seems to win, we know that pain reminds this heart
that this is not, this is not our home.*

*'cause what if your blessings come through raindrops? What if your healing comes through tears?
What if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know you're near?
What if my greatest disappointments, or the aching of this life,
is a revealing of a greater thirst this world can't satisfy?
What if trials of this life
the rain, the storms, the hardest nights,
are your mercies in disguise?*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Lamentations 3:19–26

The thought of my affliction and my homelessness
is wormwood and gall!
My soul continually thinks of it
and is bowed down within me.
But this I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul,
“therefore I will hope in him.”

The Lord is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul that seeks him.
It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the Lord.

**Holy Wisdom, Holy Words
Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

Emily Nelson Dixon

“Good Grief: A Thanksgiving Reflection from Lamentations”

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

SONG FOR GIVING

"Give Thanks"

by Henry Smith

All

**Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the holy one;
Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his son. (2x)**

**And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich"
Because of what the Lord has done for us. (2xs)**

Give thanks.

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Karen Wright

*SONG TO SEND

"You Never Let Go"

by Matt & Beth Redman

All

**Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
your perfect love is casting out fear.
And even when I'm caught in the middle of the storms of this life,
I won't turn back, I know you are near.**

**And I will fear no evil, for my God is with me.
And if my God is with me, whom then shall I fear?
Whom then shall I fear?**

**Oh no, you never let go, through the calm and through the storm.
Oh no, you never let go in ev'ry high and ev'ry low.
Oh no, you never let go. Lord, you never let go of me.**

**And I can see a light that is coming for the heart that holds on,
a glorious light beyond all compare,
and there will be an end to these troubles, but until that day comes,
we'll live to know you here on the earth.**

**And I will fear no evil, for my God is with me.
And if my God is with me, whom then shall I fear?
Whom then shall I fear?**

**Oh no, you never let go, through the calm and through the storm.
Oh no, you never let go in ev'ry high and ev'ry low.
Oh no, you never let go. Lord, you never let go of me. (2xs)**

**Stand in body or spirit*

GOD'S PEACE TO YOU

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