



GRACE COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship November 19, 2023 9:30am
Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering

SONG TO GATHER "On the Carpenter's Porch" by Princess Harris
Cal Sweetin, dulcimer; Stephen Wing, guitar

WELCOME Rev. Karen Wright

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Show us your ways, O Lord!
Lead us in your truth, and teach us.

**All: Open our eyes, minds, and hearts
to know your will and to follow it.**

One: Reveal your vision for us,
and keep us focused and faithful to what you would have us do.

**All: Bring us together to worship and work for your purpose,
and move us forward into your future. Amen.**

*SONG TO PRAISE "We Are" by Kari Jobe
All

**Every secret, every shame ~Every fear, every pain
Live inside the dark, but that's who we are ~We are children of the day.**

**So wake up sleeper, Lift your head ~We were meant for more than this
Fight the shadows, conquer death ~Make the most of time we have left**

**We are the light of the world ~We are the city on the hill
We are the light of the world
We gotta, we gotta, We gotta let the light shine (2x)**

**We are called to spread the news ~Tell the world the simple truth
Jesus came to save ~There's freedom in his name
So let it all break through**

**We are the light of the world ~We are the city on the hill
We are the light of the world
We gotta, we gotta, we gotta let the light shine (2x)**

**We are the light, we are the light, We are the light
So let your light shine brighter
We are the light, we are the light, We are the light, Jesus**

**You are the light, you are the light, you are the light
We will lift you high and Shine, shine, shine**

**We are the light of the world ~We are the city on the hill
We are the light of the world
We gotta, we gotta, We gotta let the light shine (2x)**

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)*

Merciful God, forgive us when we invest our energies into increasing our personal prosperity rather than enriching people's lives with the good news of Jesus Christ and when we squander our gifts by failing to use them to build people up. Forgive us when we conceal the wideness of your mercy by our lack of compassionate behavior. Forgive us when we fail to be adventurous in spreading the gospel around. Increase our capacity to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed even if this means taking risks and expending whatever energy we may have.

Help us to hear Jesus' words addressed to us about being eager to share the spiritual treasure that we have, knowing that as we do, more, much more, will be given. This we pray in Jesus' name. 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!**

***SONG OF PEACE**

"Lord, I Need You"

by Matt Maher

All

**Lord I come, I confess ~Bowing here, I find my rest
Without you, I fall apart ~You're the one that guides my heart**

**Lord, I need you, oh, I need you ~Every hour, I need you
My one defense, my righteousness ~Oh God, how I need you**

**Where sin runs deep, your grace is more ~Where grace is found is where you are
And where you are, Lord, I am free ~Holiness is Christ in me**

**Lord, I need you, oh, I need you ~Every hour, I need you
My one defense, my righteousness ~Oh God, how I need you**

**So teach my song to rise to you ~When temptation comes my way
And when I cannot stand, I'll fall on you ~Jesus, you're my hope and stay
Lord, I need you, oh, I need you ~Every hour, I need you
My one defense, my righteousness ~Oh God, how I need you
My one defense, my righteousness ~Oh God, how I need you**

Equipping

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 90 (NRSVue)

Harold Frye

**Lord, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations.**

**Before the mountains were brought forth
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

You turn us back to dust
and say, "Turn back, you mortals."

For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past
or like a watch in the night.

You sweep them away; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning;
in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.

For we are consumed by your anger;
by your wrath we are overwhelmed.

You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

For all our days pass away under your wrath;
our years come to an end like a sigh.

The days of our life are seventy years
or perhaps eighty, if we are strong;
even then their span is only toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we fly away.

Who considers the power of your anger?
Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you.

So teach us to count our days
that we may gain a wise heart.

Turn, O Lord! How long?
Have compassion on your servants!

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us
and as many years as we have seen evil.
Let your work be manifest to your servants
and your glorious power to their children.

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us
and prosper for us the work of our hands—
O prosper the work of our hands!

SONG TO REFLECT

“Build a Boat”

by Colton Dixon

Praise Team

*I've been wandering through the desert; Ain't seen a cloud in forever over me
But I believe your rain is coming.
I've been hanging onto high hopes; 'Cause you're the one who's making dry bones come to life
You're the light I put my trust in.*

*Every word you say is gonna come true; you will lead me to the promised land
Everything you say is gonna happen, even though I haven't seen it yet*

*I will build a boat in the sand where they say it never rains ~ I will stand up in faith,
I'll do anything it takes
With your wind in my sails, your love never fails or fades ~ I'll build a boat in the desert place
And when the flood and the water starts to rise, I'll ride the storm 'cause I got you by my side
With your wind in my sails, your love never fails or fades ~ I'll build a boat, so let it rain.*

*You're the map, you're my compass ~ you help me navigate the currents underneath
Take the lead, I surrender
Every word you say is gonna come true ~ you will lead me to the promised land
Everything you say is gonna happen ~ Even though I haven't seen it yet.*

*I will build a boat in the sand where they say it never rains ~ I will stand up in faith,
I'll do anything it takes
With your wind in my sails, your love never fails or fades ~ I'll build a boat in the desert place
And when the flood and the water starts to rise, I'll ride the storm 'cause I got you by my side
With your wind in my sails, your love never fails or fades ~ I'll build a boat, so let it rain.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 25:14–20 (NRSVue)

“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’”

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Making Use of Our Gifts”

Rev. Karen Wright

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

SONG FOR GIVING

“Your Love Awakens Me”

by Phil Wickham

Praise Team

There were walls between us
By the cross, you came and broke them down; you broke them down
And there were chains around us
By your grace, we are no longer bound, no longer bound

You called me out of the grave ~You called me into the light
You called my name and then my heart came alive

Your love is greater, your love is stronger ~Your love awakens, awakens, awakens me
Your love is greater, your love is stronger ~Your love awakens, awakens, awakens me

Feel the darkness shaking
All the dead are coming back to life, oh, back to life
Hear the song awaken
All creation singing, "We're alive, 'cause you're alive"
You called me out of the grave ~You called me into the light
You called my name and then my heart came alive

Your love is greater, your love is stronger ~Your love awakens, awakens, awakens me
Your love is greater, your love is stronger ~Your love awakens, awakens, awakens me

[Sending](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Karen Wright

*SONG TO SEND

“Less Like Me”

by Zach Williams

All

**Oh, I have days I lose the fight, try my best but just don't get it right
Where I talk a talk that I don't walk, and miss the moments right before my eyes**

Somebody with a hurt that I could have helped,
Somebody with a hand that I could have held
When I just can't see past myself, Lord, help me be

A little more like mercy, a little more like grace
A little more like kindness, goodness, love, and faith
A little more like patience, a little more like peace
A little more like Jesus, a little less like me.

Yeah, there's no denying I have changed
'Cause I've been saved from who I used to be
But even at my best, I must confess
I still need help to see the way you see
Somebody with a hurt that I could have helped
Somebody with a hand that I could have held
When I just can't see past myself, Lord, help me be

A little more like mercy, a little more like grace
A little more like kindness, goodness, love, and faith
A little more like patience, a little more like peace
A little more like Jesus, a little less like me
Oh, I wanna feed the beggar on the street, learn to be your hands and feet
Freely give what I receive, Lord, help me be
I want put you first above all else, love my neighbor as myself
In the moments no one sees, Lord, help me be

A little more like mercy, a little more like grace
A little more like kindness, goodness, love, and faith
A little more like patience, a little more like peace
A little more like Jesus, oh, a little less like me

A little more of living everything I preach
A little more like Jesus, a little less like me
Oh, a little less like me

GOD'S PEACE TO YOU

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