



GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship November 23 , 2025 9:30am
Christ the King Sunday

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

“Roscoe”

Traditional

Cal Sweeten, dulcimer & Miles McDonald, mandolin

*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 & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Karen Wright

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Come, people of God,
to worship the One who reigns in righteousness and truth.

**ALL: We come to honor Christ our King —
the shepherd who gathers the lost and heals the broken.**

ONE: On the cross, he wore a crown of thorns;
in his resurrection, he wears the crown of glory.

**ALL: His kingdom is not of this world, but his reign is over all creation.
Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our King and our Savior!**

*HYMN 367

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

ST. GEORGE’S WINDSOR

V1: GCPC Youth

V2: ALL

V3: Chancel Choir

V4: ALL

367 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har-vest home.
 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit in thank-ful praise to yield,
 3 For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take the har-vest home;
 4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har-vest home.

All is safe - ly gath - ered in, ere the win-ter storms be - gin.
 wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.
 from each field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;
 Gath - er thou thy peo - ple in, free from sor-row, free from sin,

God, our Mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.
 give the an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
 there for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy pres - ence to a - bide:

Come to God's own tem - ple, come; raise the song of har-vest home.
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole-some grain and pure may be.
 but the fruit - ful ears to store in God's gar - ner ev - er - more.
 come, with all thine an - gels, come; raise the glo - rious har-vest home!

Despite its familiar Thanksgiving associations, the real concern of this text is to recall the harvest imagery Jesus used to describe the fulfillment of God's sovereignty. The tune name commemorates the royal chapel where the composer was organist for forty-seven years.

TEXT: Henry Alford, 1844, alt.
 MUSIC: George Job Elvey, 1858

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR
 7.7.7.7.D

(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

Emily Nelson Dixon

Christ's kingdom is not built on power or pride, but on mercy, forgiveness, and peace. Yet we confess how often we serve lesser kings— our fears, our ambitions, our own desires. Trusting in the compassion of the crucified King, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

Merciful Savior, You are the King of love, yet we confess that we have not followed in Your ways. You reign from the cross, yet we long for thrones of our own. You forgive those who harm You, yet we struggle to forgive those who wrong us. You remember the forgotten, yet we pass by those in need. Forgive us, Lord. Reign in our hearts once more. Shape us into people who bear Your mercy, that Your kingdom may come on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news: Christ the King did not come to condemn the world, but to save it. From the cross, He spoke the words of grace — “Today you will be with me in paradise.” In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven, and His reign of mercy has begun.

ALL: 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 647

“Give Thanks”

V1: GCPC Youth

V2 & Refrain: ALL

ASHGROVE

Give Thanks

Words and Music by
Henry Smith

$\text{♩} = 80$ Coda

Am/C **F** **C/E** **Dm**

Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the

Am **B $\flat$** **F/A** **F**

Ho - ly One; Give thanks be - cause He's giv - en Je - sus

E $\flat$ **Gm7/C** **C7** **Am/C** **Gm7/C** **C** **C/B $\flat$**

Christ, His Son. Give Son. And

Am7 **Dm7** **C/D** **Dm7** **Gm7**

now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the

B $\flat$ /C **C** **B $\flat$ /D** **C/E** **Fmaj7** **Am/E** **Dm7** **C/D** **Dm7**

poor say, "I am rich" be - cause of what the Lord has

Last time to Coda

E $\flat$ **E $\flat$ /D** **Gm7/C** **C** **C/B $\flat$** **Gm7/C** **C** **Am/C**

done for us; And us. Give

D.S. al Coda

Coda **Gm7/C** **C7** **B $\flat$ /C** **F** **Fmaj7** **Gm7/F** **F**

us. Give thanks.

Equipping

MINUTE FOR MISSION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Jeremiah 23:1–6 (NRSVue)

Jane Knoche

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”

ANTHEM

“Appalachian Psalm”

Tom Lough

Chancel Choir with Grace Mountain

Arr. Jon Paige

Caitlin Hussey, solo

Based on Psalm 23

*The Lord of love, my Shepherd is. He makes me down to lie in pastures green;
He leads me on beside still waters by. My sinful soul He doth restore;
He stirs it to awake, and in the paths of righteousness, He leads for His name's sake.*

*Though I walk through the vale of the shadow of death, no evil will I fear.
Your rod and staff will comfort me, You ever hold me near.*

*You set a table there for me in the presence of my foes.
My head You will with oil anoint, my blessing cup o'erflows.
Oh, love and goodness, grace and mercy, all will crown my days,
and I will find my resting place in the house of God always.
I will sing His praise, my song I'll raise, in the house of God always.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 23:33–43 (NRSVue)

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!” The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering

him sour wine and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Proving Who You Are"

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

"By Grace"

Chancel Choir with Grace Mountain

Vicki Bedford

Arr. Jon Paige

*By the grace of God, we will sing together, lifting songs of joy and praise.
One in heart and voice, we have made our choice: We will sing together by grace.*

*By God's grace, we are home in His embrace.
What a gift divine to be one in Christ! We are bound together by grace.*

*By the grace of God, we will grow together, as we walk in faith each day.
As the truth is heard from His holy Word, we will grow together by grace.*

*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see*

*By the grace of God, we will serve together. We will go in Jesus' name.
Serving side by side, may the world see Christ as we serve together by grace.*

Sending

*HYMN 691

“Lord, When I Came Into This Life”

LAND OF REST

Lord, When I Came into This Life 691

1 Lord, when I came in - to this life you
2 With - in the cir - cle of the faith, as
3 In all the ten - sions of my life, be -
4 So help me in my un - be - lief and

called me by my name; to - day I come, com -
mem - ber of your cast, I take my place with
tween my faith and doubt, let your great Spir - it
let my life be true: feet firm - ly plant - ed

mit my - self, re - spond - ing to your claim.
all the saints of fu - ture, pres - ent, past.
give me hope, sus - tain me, lead me out.
on the earth, my sights set high on you.

Written for the confirmation of the author's son, this text of self-dedication also voices our recurring individual need to recommit ourselves in less formal ways. The familiar shape note tune enhances a sense of finding our place among God's people from all times and places.

TEXT: Fred Kaan, 1976

MUSIC: American folk melody; harm. Charles H. Webb, 1988

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Music Harm. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House (admin. The Copyright Company)

LAND OF REST

CM

(alternate harmonization, 545)

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Karen Wright

POSTLUDE

“I Will Arise”

Traditional

Cal Sweeten, dulcimer

**Stand in body or spirit*

Grace Mountain Ensemble

Miles McDonald — mandolin
David Matthews — guitar
Donna Heer — fiddle
Christopher Callender — banjo
David Svoren — bass

GOD'S PEACE TO YOU

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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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