



# GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship April 12, 2026 9:30am

## YOUTH SUNDAY!

This service is designed, written, and presented by the youth group of GCPC.

### 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*

**\*SONG TO GATHER #300**                      “We Are One in the Spirit”                      Peter Scholtes

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**                      Emily Nelson Dixon  
and GCPC Youth

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (based on Romans 12)

ONE: We, who are many, are one body in Christ.

**ALL: *We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us.***

ONE: Together, let us strive for love that is genuine.

**ALL: *We will hold fast to what is good and love with mutual affection.***

ONE: In joy and in sorrow, and in every season of life—

**ALL: *We belong to one another. Let us worship God.***

**\*SONG TO PRAISE # 749**                      “Come, Live in the Light”                      WE ARE CALLED

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Today, we will learn from Ruth and Naomi about a love that refuses to walk away...a love that listens, that stays, that binds lives together across generations. But we know that kind of love does not always come easily. Too often, we rush past one another, dismiss voices that are not like our own, or assume we have nothing to learn from those younger or older than us. We forget that we belong to one another.

So let us come before God—not in shame, but in honesty — trusting that the One who calls us into community also meets us here with grace.

Let us pray, together ...

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(Together)*

**God of every generation,**

**You created us to care about each other, but we don't always do that very well. Sometimes we don't really listen — especially to people who are different than we are. We ignore wisdom from people who have lived longer than us, and we underestimate the young. We act like we don't need each other. We check out when we don't understand. Teach us how to love like Ruth and Naomi — to stay, to listen, to care for each other, even when it's hard or awkward or uncertain. Help us to forgive and to cheer for each other.**

**Help us grow in our community where everyone matters, where every voice is heard, and where we show up for each other, no-matter-what.**

**Amen.**

### **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Friends, hear the good news! God's love does not leave us where we are. The same God who walked with Ruth and Naomi walks with us—in our failures, in our relationships, and in our longing to be a more compassionate community across all generations. In Jesus Christ, we are restored, and we are invited again into lives of courage, connection, and care. This is the good news of the gospel: We are forgiven. We are loved. And we belong.

***ALL: Thanks be to God!***

### **A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

*(We will not have Awakening To Worship today, as we'd like all ages to enjoy Youth Sunday. ATW is our child-friendly worship experience that happens during worship for our 4 year olds-1<sup>st</sup> graders. ATW will be back next week! 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.)*

### **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:**

**"I Will Follow"**

Chris Tomlin

**ALL**

**Where You go, I'll go, Where You stay, I'll stay,  
When You move, I'll move, I will follow**

**All Your ways are good, All Your ways are sure.  
I will trust in You alone. Higher than my side, High above my life  
I will trust in You alone.**

**Where You go, I'll go. Where You stay, I'll stay.  
When You move, I'll move, I will follow You.  
Who You love, I'll love. How You serve I'll serve. If this life I lose,  
I will follow You. I will follow You**

**Light unto the world. Light unto my life. I will live for You alone. You're the one I seek.  
Knowing I will find. All I need in You alone, in You alone**

**Chorus**

**In You there's life everlasting. In You there's freedom for my soul. In You there's joy,  
unending joy. And I will follow**

**Chorus (repeat)**

**Equipping**

## **SCRIPTURE LESSON**

**Ruth 1:3–19a (NRSVue)**

But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had considered his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters. Why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even

if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me.” Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.

So she said, “Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” But Ruth said, “Do not press me to leave you, to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people and your God my God. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!” When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her. So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem.

## ANTHEM

### “Crowded Table” GCPC Youth with Praise Team

The Highwomen

*Ruth chose to stay with Naomi, and together, they built a life where neither of them was alone. This song reminds us of the kind of community we’re called to be — a crowded table, where there’s always room, and everyone belongs. So as you hear the words, imagine the table we’re setting together — one where every person of every generation is welcome, and no one is left out.*

*You can hold my hand, when you need to let go. I can be your mountain, when you're feeling valley-low.  
I can be your streetlight, showing you the way home.  
You can hold my hand, when you need to let go.*

*I want a house with a crowded table. And a place by the fire for everyone.  
Let us take on the world while we're young and able, and bring us back together when the day is done.*

*If we want a garden, we're gonna have to sow the seed. Plant a little happiness, let the roots run deep.  
If it's love that we give, then it's love that we reap.  
If we want a garden, we're gonna have to sow the seed.*

*The door is always open, your picture's on my wall. Everyone's a little broken, and everyone belongs.*

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

### 1 Corinthians 12:12–26 (NRSVue)

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing,

where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect, whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

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

**SERMON**

"Intergenerational Compassion"

GCPC Youth

**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**

Praise Team

"They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love"

Sending

Ruth stayed with Naomi, even when the path ahead was uncertain. And we know that feeling — not always knowing where we're going next. But we believe we are not alone. God is our light — steady, present, and guiding us forward. And today, we're not just singing that — we're going to dance it! Our youth are going to lead us in some simple movements, and we invite everyone — every age — to join in as you are able. So, let's sing, let's move, and let's follow the light together, trusting that God is leading us and that we are walking this journey side by side.

**\*SONG TO SEND**

“My Lighthouse”

Chris Llewellyn/Gareth Gilkeson

**In my wrestling, and in my doubts, in my failures, you won't walk out.  
Your great love will lead me through; you are the peace in my troubled sea.  
You are the peace in my troubled sea.**

**In the silence, you won't let go. In the questions, your truth will hold.  
Your great love will lead me through; you are the peace in my troubled sea.  
You are the peace in my troubled sea.**

**My lighthouse, my lighthouse shining in the darkness,  
I will follow you!  
My lighthouse, my lighthouse, I will trust the promise:  
You will carry me safe to shore, safe to shore, safe to shore.**

**I won't fear what tomorrow brings. With each morning, I'll rise and sing.  
My God's love will lead me through; You are the peace in my troubled sea.  
You are the peace in my troubled sea.**

**Fire before us, you're the brightest.  
You will lead us through the storms. (3X)**

**My lighthouse, my lighthouse shining in the darkness,  
I will follow you!  
My lighthouse, my lighthouse, I will trust the promise:  
You will carry me safe to shore, safe to shore, safe to shore.**

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

GCPC Youth

**POSTLUDE**

“My Lighthouse” (Reprise)

**Fire before us, you're the brightest.  
You will lead us through the storms. (3X)**

**My lighthouse, my lighthouse shining in the darkness,  
I will follow you!  
My lighthouse, my lighthouse, I will trust the promise:  
You will carry me safe to shore, safe to shore, safe to shore.**

*\*Stand in body or spirit*

## GOD'S PEACE TO YOU

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