



**GRACE COVENANT**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship May 18, 2025 9:30am  
Fifth Sunday in Easter

### Gathering

SONG TO GATHER

“Open Our Eyes”

by Bob Cull

Darryl Prater, trumpet/**All**

**Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.  
To reach out and touch him, and say that we love him.  
Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen.  
Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.**

WELCOME

Rev. Karen Wright

INTROIT

“God Has Made Them All”

Allison Blumenthal

Owls: Henry Frye & Zoey Wetzig; Dogs: Rowan Cabe & Brody Frye

Fish: Drake Cabe, Abby Schmidt, & Bristol Sellers; Snakes: Gilbert Dixon & Wyatt Schendel

Emily Hussey & Hilary Schmidt, directors

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

(Based on John 13 and Acts 11)

ONE: Jesus said, “Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.”

**ALL: By this everyone will know we are Christ’s disciples — if we have love for one another.**

ONE: God’s love knows no bounds — welcoming every nation, every people, every heart.

**ALL: The Spirit breaks down barriers and opens our eyes to new possibilities.  
Let us worship God, who makes all things new.**

\*SONG TO PRAISE

**"Let Your Kingdom Come"**

by Bob Kauflin

Praise Team/All

**Your glorious cause, O God, engages our hearts.  
May Jesus Christ be known wherever we are.  
We ask not for ourselves, but for your renown.  
The cross has saved us so we pray, "Your kingdom come."**

**Let your kingdom come, let your will be done,  
So that ev'ryone might know your name.  
Let your song be heard ev'rywhere on earth,  
Til your sov'reign work on earth is done.  
Let your kingdom come!**

**Give us your strength, O God, and courage to speak.  
Perform your wondrous deeds through those who are weak.  
Lord, use us as you want, whatever the test.  
By grace we'll preach your gospel  
Til our dying breath.**

**Let your kingdom come, let your will be done,  
So that ev'ryone might know your name.  
Let your song be heard ev'rywhere on earth,  
Til your sov'reign work on earth is done.  
Let your kingdom come!**

#### 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 or Emily Nelson-Dixon

We are called to love without limits, to welcome without hesitation, and to trust that God's grace reaches farther than we can imagine. But we often cling to what is familiar and comfortable. Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin together.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Loving God, You command us to love one another as you have loved us, but we confess we struggle to love those who are different from us. You call us to**

**welcome all your children, but we draw boundaries and set limits. You show us visions of a wider grace, but we resist the movement of your Spirit. Forgive us, O God. Transform our hearts, that we may follow the way of Jesus— breaking down dividing walls, welcoming the stranger, and living as signs of your love. Amen.**

#### **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Hear the good news: God's love is for all people, God's grace reaches across every boundary, and God's mercy makes us new. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, loved, and set free.

**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**

**"Greater"**  
Praise Team/All

by MercyMe

**Bring your tired and bring your shame; bring your guilt and bring your pain.  
Don't you know that's not your name; you will always be much more to me.**

**Ev'ry day I wrestle with the voices that keep telling me  
I'm not right; but that's alright.**

**'Cause I hear a voice, and he calls me redeemed  
when others say I'll never be enough.**

**And greater is the one living inside of me  
than he who is living in the world.**

**In the world, in the world.**

**And greater is the one living inside of me than he who is living in the world.**

**Bring your doubts and bring your fears; bring your hurt and bring your tears.  
There'll be no condemnation here; you are holy, righteous and redeemed.**

**Ev'ry time I fall there'll be those who will call me a mistake;  
but that's okay.**

**'Cause I hear a voice, and he calls me redeemed  
when others say I'll never be enough.**

**And greater is the one living inside of me  
than he who is living in the world.  
In the world, in the world.  
And greater is the one living inside of me than he who is living in the world.**

**There'll be days I lose the battle. Grace says that it doesn't matter  
'cause the cross already won the war.  
I am learning to run freely, understanding just how he sees me,  
and it makes me love him more and more.**

**'Cause I hear a voice, and he calls me redeemed  
when others say I'll never be enough.  
And greater is the one living inside of me  
than he who is living in the world.  
In the world, in the world.  
And greater is the one living inside of me than he who is living in the world.**

**There'll be days I lose the battle. Grace says that it doesn't matter  
'cause the cross already won the war.  
I am learning to run freely, understanding just how he sees me,  
and it makes me love him more and more.**

## **Equipping**

### **SCRIPTURE LESSON**

**John 13:31–35 (NRSVUE)**

**Barbara Douglas**

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

### **SONG TO REFLECT**

**"Living Water"  
Praise Team**

**by Anne Wilson, Jeff Pardo  
& Matthew West**

*This goes out to every outcast ~ To the just-don't-quite-fit-in  
Every runaway, runaway rebel ~ So ashamed of where you've been  
This goes out to every searcher ~ Tryin' to fill that empty space  
Well, your searchin' days are over now ~ Everything's about to change*

*Come on down to the Living Water  
Waves of mercy rushin' over you  
No more strangers, only sons and daughters  
Come down to the Living Water and rise up new*

*Have you heard about a man named Jesus? He's the way, the truth, the life  
Stretched out His arms on a rugged cross and paid every sinner's price  
So when you're tired of all your runnin', you don't have to run no more  
You can leave it all behind you, just believe and be reborn.*

*Come on down to the Living Water  
Waves of mercy rushin' over you  
No more strangers, only sons and daughters  
Come down to the Living Water and rise up new*

*This is your invitation, no more lost and alone  
This is your invitation ~ Hear your Father sayin', "Welcome home"*

*See that cross up on the steeple ~ Hear that sweet forgiveness song  
Come and join the Jesus people ~ This is where we all belong*

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

### Acts 11:1–18 (NRSVUE)

Now the apostles and the brothers and sisters who were in Judea heard that the gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners, and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household

will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

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

SERMON

"Widening the Circle"

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

SONG FOR GIVING

"Nobody"

by Mark Hall, Bernie Herms  
& Matthew West

Praise Team/All

I'm just a nobody tryin' to tell ev'rybody, well, all about  
somebody who saved my soul.  
Ever since you rescued me, you gave my heart a song to sing.  
I'm living for the world to see nobody but Jesus.  
Why you ever chose me has always been a mystery.  
All my life I've been told I belong at the end of the line,  
With all the other Not-Quites, with all the Never-Get-it-Rights.  
But it turns out they're the ones you were looking for all this time.

**'Cause I'm just a nobody tryin' to tell ev'rybody,  
all about somebody who saved my soul.  
Ever since you rescued me, you gave my heart a song to sing.  
I'm living for the world to see nobody but Jesus.**

Moses had stage fright, and David brought a rock to a sword fight.  
You picked twelve outsiders nobody would've chosen and you changed the world.  
Well, the moral of the story is ev'rybody's got a purpose.

So, when I hear that devil start talking to me saying,  
“Who do you think you are?” I say:

**I’m just a nobody tryin’ to tell ev’rybody,  
all about somebody who saved my soul.  
Ever since you rescued me, you gave my heart a song to sing.  
I’m living for the world to see nobody but Jesus.**

So let me go down, down, down in history  
as another blood-bought faithful member of the family.  
And if they all forget my name, well, that’s fine with me.  
I’m living for the world to see nobody but Jesus.

**I’m just a nobody tryin’ to tell ev’rybody,  
all about somebody who saved my soul.  
Ever since you rescued me, you gave my heart a song to sing.  
I’m living for the world to see nobody but Jesus.**

## Sending

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Karen Wright

### \*SONG TO SEND

**“Nobody”**

**Praise Team/All**

So let me go down, down, down in history  
as another blood-bought faithful member of the family.  
And if they all forget my name, well, that’s fine with me.  
I’m living for the world to see nobody but Jesus.

**I’m just a nobody tryin’ to tell ev’rybody,  
all about somebody who saved my soul.  
Ever since you rescued me, you gave my heart a song to sing.  
I’m living for the world to see nobody but Jesus.  
I’m living for the world to see nobody but Jesus.  
I’m living for the world to see nobody but Jesus.**

*\*Stand in body or spirit*

## GOD'S PEACE TO YOU

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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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