



GRACE COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship August 15, 2021 10am
20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gathering

PRELUDE “How Brightly Shines the Morning Star” J.S. Bach
“Sheep May Safely Graze”
“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”
“Prelude & Fuga in F”
Linda Dover, organist

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (*video*)

Let us worship together, united in Christ.

“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms” arr. Bill Ingram
Charter Ringers II – Celia Nicholas, director
Linda Bruns, Kathy Bures, Katie Hearn, Cheryl Johnson, & Cal Sweeten
“The eternal God is our refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.” Deuteronomy 33:27

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

BLESSING

God of fresh starts and new beginnings, we bring ourselves, our big feelings,
and our backpacks to you.

Last year was different from what we expected.

We couldn't see our friends or play on playgrounds, we learned at home, in masks six feet apart, or both. In all these changes, we may have felt sad and alone.

God, our friend who comforts us, hold us close and wipe our tears.

In our backpacks, we carry blank pages, sharpened pencils, and pointy crayons, and in our hearts, we carry big feelings, unanswered questions, and hopeful expectations.

There are endless possibilities of what this new year might bring— of what we might learn, who we might meet, and who we might become.

God, our friend who is always with us, be with us through it all.

Be with us as we ride the bus. Be with us as we walk. Be with us as we buckle seat belts, zip-up jackets, and tie shoes.

However we get there, and whatever we wear, bless this journey into something new.

For the grown-ups going back to school, With-Us God, be with them too.

Thank you for our teachers, helpers, caregivers, and leaders, and for all they do to help us learn and grow.

God, our friend who's full of wonder, fill their hearts and bless their hands. Amen.

BLESSING HYMN

“God of All Learning”

BUNESSAN

God of all learning, God of all knowing,
We bring these backpacks filled with supplies.
Bless all these tools of learning and growing.
Use them, we pray, to change many lives.

Bless all the students, young ones and old ones —
Walking or riding, traveling by bus.
May they remember that you go with them,
And that they all are precious to us.

Some kids are poor and some kids are wealthy;
May we give all the tools that they need.

May we make sure they're safe, loved and healthy
So that they all may thrive and succeed.

Bless all who learn and bless those who guide them,
Bless those who teach and counsel and care.
May they remember you walk beside them.
Through all their school days, you, Lord, are there.

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ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE & SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you and all others!

Equipping

SUNG PRAYER

"Safe Within Your Arms"

Words & Music by Mark Hayes

David Sutherland, tenor

*Whether I'm right or whether I'm wrong, whether I'm weak or whether I'm strong,
Whether I'm sure or maybe confused, feeling loved or feeling used:
I know a place where I can go, somewhere that winter winds don't blow.
There I am warmed by loving arms, held with care next to your heart.*

***And I'm safe within your arms, Lord. I've become a child again.
I've come back to the source of love, where healing can begin.
Though the world would say I must be strong and prove my worth by what I do,
I will rest assured in your embrace and find my strength in you.***

*Whether I'm walking in the light or whether I'm stumbling through the night,
You are a God whose promise endures; though undeserved, your love is sure.
When I am tempted to pursue plans that may lead me far away from you, gently you call,
"My child, come home. I will never let go of one of my own." (Refrain)*

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON 1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14 (CEB)

Rebecca Prater

Then David lay down with his ancestors and was buried in David's City. He ruled over Israel forty years—seven years in Hebron and thirty-three years in Jerusalem. Solomon sat on the throne of his father David, and his royal power was well established.

Now Solomon loved the LORD by walking in the laws of his father David, with the exception that he also sacrificed and burned incense at the shrines.

The king went to the great shrine at Gibeon in order to sacrifice there. He used to offer a thousand entirely burned offerings on that altar. The LORD appeared to Solomon at Gibeon in a dream at night. God said, "Ask whatever you wish, and I'll give it to you."

Solomon responded, “You showed so much kindness to your servant my father David when he walked before you in truth, righteousness, and with a heart true to you. You’ve kept this great loyalty and kindness for him and have now given him a son to sit on his throne. And now, LORD my God, you have made me, your servant, king in my father David’s place. But I’m young and inexperienced. I know next to nothing. But I’m here, your servant, in the middle of the people you have chosen, a large population that can’t be numbered or counted due to its vast size. Please give your servant a discerning mind in order to govern your people and to distinguish good from evil, because no one is able to govern this important people of yours without your help.”

It pleased the LORD that Solomon had made this request. God said to him, “Because you have asked for this instead of requesting long life, wealth, or victory over your enemies—asking for discernment so as to acquire good judgment— I will now do just what you said. Look, I hereby give you a wise and understanding mind. There has been no one like you before now, nor will there be anyone like you afterward. I now also give you what you didn’t ask for: wealth and fame. There won’t be a king like you as long as you live. And if you walk in my ways and obey my laws and commands, just as your father David did, then I will give you a very long life.”

SERMON

“Know What to Ask For”

Rev. Sue Trigger

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

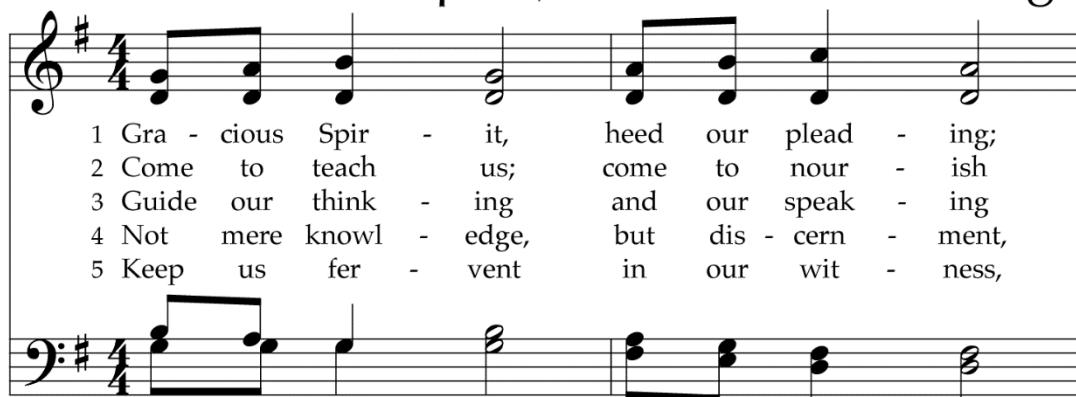
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HYMN 287


“Gracious Spirit, Heed our Pleading”

NJOO DWETU, ROHO MWEMA

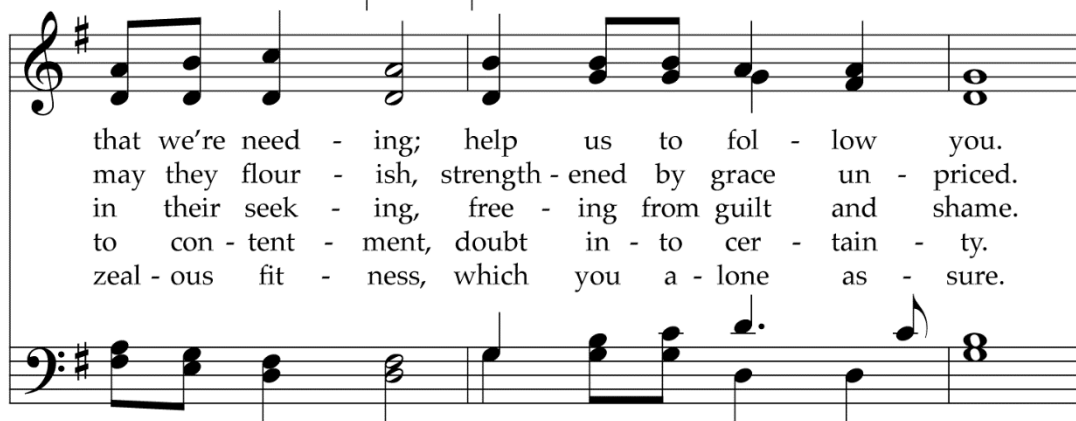
287 Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading



1 Gra - cious Spir - it, heed our plead - ing;
 2 Come to teach us; come to nour - ish
 3 Guide our think - ing and our speak - ing
 4 Not mere knowl - edge, but dis - cern - ment,
 5 Keep us fer - vent in our wit - ness,

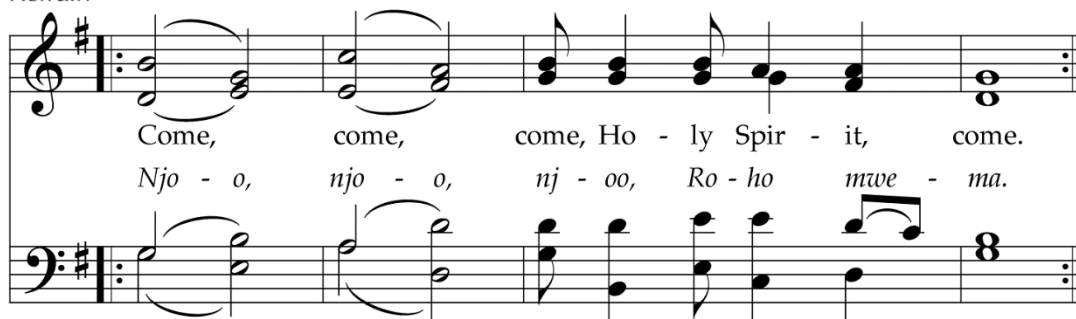


fash - ion us all a - new. It's your lead - ing
 those who be - lieve in Christ. Bless the faith - ful;
 done in your ho - ly name. Mo - ti - vate all
 nor root - less lib - er - ty; turn dis - qui - et
 un - swayed by earth's al - lure. Ev - er grant us



that we're need - ing; help us to fol - low you.
 may they flour - ish, strength - ened by grace un - priced.
 in their seek - ing, free - ing from guilt and shame.
 to con - tent - ment, doubt in - to cer - tain - ty.
 zeal - ous fit - ness, which you a - lone as - sure.

Refrain



Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
 Njo - o, njo - o, nj - oo, Ro - ho mwe - ma.

Originally written for the uniting of the Lutheran churches in Tanzania, this prayerful hymn touches on the need of the whole church at all times for the Holy Spirit's guidance and blessing. When appropriate, the refrain can effectively be used alone as a prayer response.

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Fuga in C”
Linda Dover, organist

J.S. Bach

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

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