



GRACE COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship October 6, 2024 9:30am
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering

*SONG TO GATHER

“Waymaker”
Praise Team/All

as recorded by Leeland

You are here, moving in our midst; I worship you, I worship you.
You are here, working in this place; I worship you, I worship you.

You are ‘way maker,’ ‘miracle worker,’ promise keeper,’ ‘light in the darkness,’
My God, that is who you are. *(Repeat)*

You are here, touching ev’ry heart; I worship you, I worship you.
You are here, healing ev’ry heart; I worship you, I worship you.

You are ‘way maker,’ ‘miracle worker,’ promise keeper,’ ‘light in the darkness,’
My God, that is who you are. *(Repeat)*

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We gather from the west to the east, from the south to the north,

ALL: to celebrate the God of peace who accompanies us in our acts of peace.

ONE: This God of peace accompanies us in each and every circumstance
around us.

ALL: Praise God’s name!

*SONG TO PRAISE

“Unity Hymn”

by Mike Donehey

All

**Christ come have mercy on us, come and mend what we separate
We are divided over things that are not your heart
Spirit come show us the way**

**O Hallelujah Christ is with us. In him we live and move and breathe.
So with this breath inside our lungs now, and forever we will sing.**

**Father, we come for forgiveness. We have surrendered to fears of our day.
Turning brothers and sisters to enemies. Jesus we need your grace.**

**O Hallelujah Christ is with us. In him we live and move and breathe.
So with this breath inside our lungs now, and forever we will sing.**

**Your love unites us. Your love unites us, Lord.
Oh, what can separate us from (Your love) (4x)**

**O Hallelujah Christ is with us. In him we live and move and breathe.
So with this breath inside our lungs now, and forever we will sing.**

**Oh, forever we will sing
We will sing!**

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

Faced with God's goodness we recognize our failings. In the knowledge of God's mercy, we dare tell the truth about ourselves and our world. In the confidence of God's children let us confess our sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

Gracious Lord, creator of this universe, in your generosity you have given us a world of abundance and diversity, yet we live guided by greed and selfishness. We confess that we have defaced your creation and poisoned our environment through our consumerist behavior and for personal gain. In Christ, you made us brothers and sisters and intended for us to be united, and yet we have built walls to separate us from those who are different from us. You gave us wisdom and creativity, and we have used those to trick each other and to develop weapons of destruction and death. You gave us laws to order our lives, and we have abused them to take revenge and punish our enemies. We love war rather than strive for peace. We ignore the poor and the weak and honored the rich and powerful. In all this we have not lived according to your will. Forgive us, Lord, for daring to boast in our human achievements and for failing to recognize that you alone are worthy of praise. In your mercy, forgive us our sins.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God accepted us simply because of our faith in Christ, through whom our sins were forgiven. May he help us to continue to sow seeds of peace to those who are near and far.

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

“Better is One Day”

by Matt Redman

All

**How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty
For my soul longs and even faints for you.
For here my heart is satisfied within your presence.
I sing beneath the shadow of your wings**

**Better is one day in your courts
Better is one day in your house
Better is one day in your courts
Than thousands elsewhere (2x)**

**One thing I ask, and I would seek; To see your beauty,
To find you in the place your glory dwells
For here my heart is satisfied within your presence.
I sing beneath the shadow of your wings**

**Better is one day in your courts
Better is one day in your house
Better is one day in your courts
Than thousands elsewhere (2x)**

**My heart and flesh cry out for you the living God
Your Spirit's water to my soul.
I've tasted and I've seen. Come once again to me.
I will draw near to you, I will draw near to you, to you.**

**Better is one day in your courts
Better is one day in your house
Better is one day in your courts
Than thousands elsewhere (2x)**

Equipping

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 26 (NRSVue)

Dave Pack

Vindicate me, O LORD,
for I have walked in my integrity,
and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering.
Prove me, O Lord, and try me;
test my heart and mind.
For your steadfast love is before my eyes,
and I walk in faithfulness to you.
I do not sit with the worthless,
nor do I consort with hypocrites;
I hate the company of evildoers
and will not sit with the wicked.
I wash my hands in innocence
and go around your altar, O Lord,
singing aloud a song of thanksgiving
and telling all your wondrous deeds.
O Lord, I love the house in which you dwell
and the place where your glory abides.
Do not sweep me away with sinners
nor my life with the bloodthirsty,
those in whose hands are evil devices
and whose right hands are full of bribes.
But as for me, I walk in my integrity;

redeem me and be gracious to me.
My foot stands on level ground;
in the great congregation I will bless the Lord.

SONG TO REFLECT

“Sing”

by David Zimmer & Nathan Stiff

Praise Team

*Did you draw a breath as the dawn awoke and does your heart still beat?
Is the mighty Word of the living God upholding you? Then sing, O sing.*

*Has the Father’s love filled your longing heart with grace for every need?
Come and lay your burdens at Jesus’ feet and find new strength to sing, O sing.*

*Morning and evening, everything breathing must sing, O sing.
All of creation rise up and praise the King of kings and sing.*

*Has the Son of God died to take away your sin and set you free?
Has the Conqueror trampled over death? Is Christ enthroned? Then sing, O sing.*

*Morning and evening, everything breathing must sing, O sing.
All of creation rise up and praise the King of kings and sing.*

*On the final day when the Lord on High returns in majesty,
We will bow in wonder before the Lamb and evermore the saints will sing.
Yes, evermore the saints will sing.*

*Morning and evening, everything breathing must sing, O sing.
All of creation rise up and praise the King of kings and sing.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 2:18–24 (NRSVue)

Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.” So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air and brought them to the man to see what he would call them, and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle and to the birds of the air and to every animal of the field, but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
this one shall be called Woman,
for out of Man this one was taken.”

Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Creatures of the Earth”

Rev. Karen Wright

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

Today we are collecting a PCUSA Special Offering for Peace & Global Witness.

OFFERING OF GIFTS

“Better Is One Day”

by Matt Redman

All

**One thing I ask and I would seek; To see your beauty,
To find you in the place your glory dwells
For here my heart is satisfied within your presence.
I sing beneath the shadow of your wings**

**Better is one day in your courts
Better is one day in your house
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Than thousands elsewhere (2x)**

**My heart and flesh cry out for you the living God
Your Spirit's water to my soul.
I've tasted and I've seen. Come once again to me.
I will draw near to you, I will draw near to you, to you.**

**Better is one day in your courts
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Better is one day in your courts
Than thousands elsewhere (2x)**

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

The Invitation to the Table

The Great Thanksgiving, 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

The Words of Institution

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup – *partake of the bread first and then drink as instructed.*

Music During Communion

“Gratitude”

by Brandon Lake

Praise Team

*All my words fall short. I got nothing new. How could I express all my gratitude?
I could sing these songs, as I often do, but every song must end, and you never do.*

*So I throw up my hands and praise you again and again,
'Cause all that I have is a hallelujah, hallelujah.
And I know it's not much, but I've nothing else fit for a King
Except for a heart singing hallelujah, hallelujah.*

*I've got one response, I've got just one move:
With my arms stretched wide I will worship you*

*So I throw up my hands and praise you again and again,
'Cause all that I have is a hallelujah, hallelujah.
And I know it's not much, but I've nothing else fit for a King
Except for a heart singing hallelujah, hallelujah.*

Prayer After Communion

*SONG TO RESPOND

“Gratitude” *reprise*

All

**So I throw up my hands and praise you again and again,
'Cause all that I have is a hallelujah, hallelujah.
And I know it's not much, but I've nothing else fit for a King
Except for a heart singing hallelujah, hallelujah.**

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*SONG TO SEND

“Sing” *reprise*

All

**On the final day when the Lord on High returns in majesty,
We will bow in wonder before the Lamb and evermore the saints will sing.
Yes, evermore the saints will sing.**

**Morning and evening, everything breathing must sing, O sing.
All of creation rise up and praise the King of kings and sing.**

**Stand in body or spirit*

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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