



GRACE COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship October 25, 2026 9:30am
Twenty Second Sunday after Pentecost

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

"Simple Gifts"
"Come, Christians, Join to Sing"
Spirit Ringers
Katie Hearn, director

arr. Martha Lynn Thompson
arr. Susan Berry

*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: The Holy Spirit gives us power to be Christ's witnesses, near and far.

ALL: God sends us beyond ourselves to share the good news of Christ's love.

ONE: The early church shared what they had, caring for one another so that no one was in need.

**ALL: The Spirit calls us to live generously, serve faithfully, and love boldly.
Come, let us worship God, who gathers us in grace, grows us in faith, and
sends us into the world in love.**

SONG TO PRAISE

The Summons

Words by
John L. Bell and Graham Maule

Music
Scottish melody, Kelvingrove

VERSE

♩=140

F C7 Dm Gm7 Csus

1. Will you come and fol - low Me if I but call your name?
 2. Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call your name?
 3. Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
 4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
 5. Lord, Your sum - mons ech - oes true when You but call my name.

8 C F C7 Dm Gm7 Bb/C F

Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same? Will you
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same? Will you
 Will you set the pris - 'ners free and nev - er be the same? Will you
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same? Will you
 Let me turn and fol - low You and nev - er be the same. In Your

17 Gm7 Bb Am7 Bb6 Csus C

let My love be shown, will you let My name be known? Will you
 risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare? Will you
 kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen, and ad -
 use the faith you've found to re - shape the world a - round through my
 com - pa - ny I'll go where Your love and foot - steps show. Thus I'll

25 F C7 Dm Gm7 Bb/C F

let My life be grown in you and you in Me?
 let Me an - swer prayer in you and you in Me?
 - mit to what I mean in you and you in Me?
 sight and touch and sound in you and you in Me?
 move and live and grow in You and You in me.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Emily Nelson Dixon

The Spirit sends us beyond ourselves to bear witness to Christ's love. Yet we sometimes turn inward, holding tightly to what we have or staying within the comfort of what we know. Trusting in God's abundant grace, let us confess the ways we fall short of the life to which we are called.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Unison)*

Gracious God, you call us to be witnesses to your love, but we often keep our faith to ourselves. You invite us to share generously, but we cling to what we have, forgetting the needs of our neighbors. You create us for community, but we allow our differences to divide us and our comfort to keep us from reaching out.

Forgive us when we turn inward instead of following your Spirit into the world. Open our hearts to the needs around us, loosen our grip on the gifts you have given us, and strengthen us to serve with courage and joy. Send us out as people shaped by your grace, united in Christ's love and generous in all that we do. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news: God's grace is abundant, Christ's love is steadfast, and the Holy Spirit is always at work among us. We are forgiven, renewed, and freed to live in a new way. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free to serve.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

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.)

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

They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love

Words and Music by
Peter Scholtes

VERSE

Tempo: ♩ = 56

Cm B $\flat$ /C Cm B $\flat$ /C Cm B $\flat$ /C Cm B $\flat$ /C Cm



1. We are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord; We are
2. We will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand; We will
3. We will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side; We will
4. All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come; And all

5 Fm B $\flat$ 7/F Cm B $\flat$ /C Cm Fm



one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord. And we pray that all
walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand. And to - geth - er we'll
work with each oth - er, we will work side by side. And we'll guard each man's
praise to Christ Je - sus, His on - ly Son. And all praise to the

CHORUS

10 B $\flat$ 7/F Cm B $\flat$ /C Cm A $\flat$



u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored. And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our
spread the news that God is in our land.
dig - ni - ty and save each man's pride.
Spir - it, who makes us one.

15 Cm Fm Cm Fm B $\flat$ 7/F Cm



love, by our love, yes they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

Equipping

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 133

Joy Slayton

How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!
It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.
It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the Lord ordained his blessing,
life forevermore.

SONG TO REFLECT

“God Will Take Care of You”

Kris Crunk & Becki Bice

Spirit Singers

Patrick O’Halloran, director & Donna Heer, accompanist

*Whatever your need is, wherever you are, God will be there for you.
There’s no hidden corner, no distant too star out of God’s reach or view.
Whatever you do, whoever you are, God will be there for you.
And whether it seems near or far, God will take care of you.*

*Whenever you’re seeking with all of your heart, God is still there for you.
There’s no disappointment, no journey too far God will not see you through.
Whatever you do, whoever you are, God will be there for you.
And whether it seems near or far, God will take care of you.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 1:8 and Acts 4:32–35

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"The Spirit Sends Us"

Rev. Karen Wright

SONG OF RESPONSE

"Reckless Love"

Culver, Asbury, & Jackson

Praise Team

James Schmidt, trumpet & Liam Hussey, percussion

Before I spoke a word, you were singing over me.

You have been so, so good to me.

Before I took a breath, you breathed your life in me.

You have been so, so kind to me.

O, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God.

O, it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found, leaves the ninety -nine.

I couldn't earn it, I don't deserve it, still you give yourself away.

O, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God.

When I was your foe, still your love fought for me.

You have been so, so good to me.

When I felt no worth, you paid it all for me.

O, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God.

O, it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found, leaves the ninety -nine.

I couldn't earn it, I don't deserve it, still you give yourself away.

O, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God.

**There's no shadow you won't light up, mountain you won't climb up,
Coming after me.**

**There's no wall you won't kick down, lie you won't tear down,
Coming after me. (2X)**

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

Stewardship Prayer

**O Lord, all that we have received is from Your hands.
You call us to be stewards of Your abundance,
the caretakers of all You have entrusted to us.
Help us to always use Your gifts wisely
and teach us to share them generously.
Work through us, bringing Your grace to those we serve.
May our faithful stewardship
be an extension of your Spirit working in our lives.
We pray this with grateful hearts, in Christ's' name.
Amen.**

SONG FOR GIVING

"Build Your Kingdom Here"

Gilkeson, Llewellyn & Herron

Praise Team

James Schmidt, trumpet & Liam Hussey, percussion

**Come set your rule, and reign in our hearts again.
Increase in us, we pray. Unveil why we're made.
Come set our hearts ablaze with hope,
Like wildfire in our very souls;
Holy Spirit, come, invade us now.
We are your church; we need your pow'r in us.**

**We seek your kingdom first. We hunger and we thirst;
Refuse to waste our lives, for you're our joy and prize.
To see the captives' hearts released;
the hurt, the sick, the poor at peace.
We lay down our lives for heaven's cause.
We are your church; we pray, revive this earth.**

**Build your kingdom here. Let the darkness fear.
Show your mighty hand. Heal our streets and land.
Set your church on fire. Win your people back.
Change the atmosphere. Build your kingdom here, we pray!**

**Unleash your kingdom's pow'r, reaching the near and far.
No force of hell can stop your beauty, changing hearts.
You made us for much more than this; awake the kingdom seed in us.
Fill us with the strength and love of Christ.
We are your church; we are the hope on earth.**

**Build your kingdom here. Let the darkness fear.
Show your mighty hand. Heal our streets and land.
Set your church on fire. Win your people back.
Change the atmosphere. Build your kingdom here, we pray!**

Sending

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Karen Wright

***SONG TO SEND**

"Build Your Kingdom Here" *reprise*

We are your church; we are the hope on earth.

**Build your kingdom here. Let the darkness fear.
Show your mighty hand. Heal our streets and land.
Set your church on fire. Win your people back.
Change the atmosphere. Build your kingdom here, we pray!**

**Stand in body or spirit*

GOD'S PEACE TO YOU

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