



GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship October 5, 2025 9:30am
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
World Communion Sunday

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*

PRELUDE

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”
Linda Dover, organist

Caribbean traditional
setting by John A. Behnke

*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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(Based on Psalm 103)

ONE: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me,

ALL: Bless God’s Holy Name.

ONE: Bless the Lord, O my soul,

**ALL: and do not forget God’s benefits, who forgives all our iniquity, who heals all
our diseases,**

ONE: Bless the Lord, O my soul,

ALL: who redeems our life, who crowns us with steadfast love and mercy.

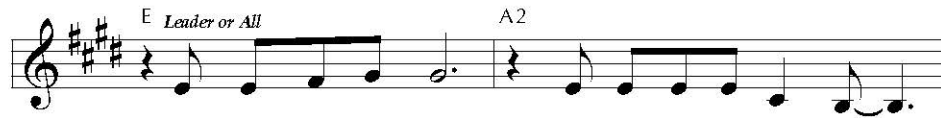
ONE: Bless the Lord, O my soul,

**ALL: who satisfies us with good as long as we live so that our youth is renewed
like the eagle’s. Bless the Lord.**

JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

769

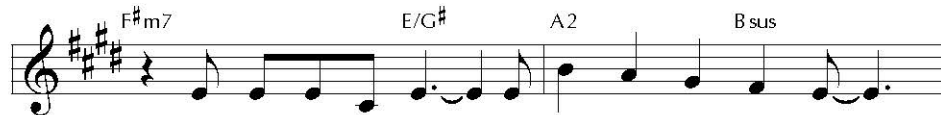
For Everyone Born



1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,
 2 For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble,
 3 For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,
 4 For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble,
 5 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,



for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,
 re - vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share,
 a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
 a - bus - er, a - bused, with need to for - give,
 to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,



a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
 with wis - dom and grace, di - vid - ing the pow - er,
 the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled,
 in an - ger, in hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy,
 to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,



for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver - head,
 for wom - an and man, a sys - tem that's fair,
 for young and for old, the right to be - long,
 for just and un - just, a new way to live,
 for ev - ery - one born, the right to be free,

This hymn from a noted New Zealand hymnwriter affirms that God's hospitality transcends the barriers erected by human society and that we who have been created in God's image are called to live in ways that reflect our Creator's values: justice and joy, compassion and peace.

TEXT: Shirley Erena Murray, 1998
 MUSIC: Brian Mann, 2006
 Text © 1998 Hope Publishing Company
 Music © 2006 Brian Mann (admin. General Board of Global Ministries t/a GBGMusik)

FOR EVERYONE BORN
 11.10.11.10 with refrain

JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

Refrain

and God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and

joy, com-pas - sion and peace: yes,

God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,

jus-tice and joy!

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

Emily Nelson Dixon

Hear the good news of the Gospel. Jesus Christ came to save sinners. We confess in the sure and certain knowledge that God's grace overflowed to us while we were yet sinners. In confidence let us confess our sins before God and one another:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. We look at a world undone by strife, torn by violence, separated by hatred. Yet you call us to walk the way of peace. Forgive us, O Lord, for refusing to follow you on this path because the cost is too high, the direction too confusing, the conditions too harsh. Forgive us our complacency. Grant us clarity of vision to see the light, and the strength to walk behind you. In the power of your Spirit we pray, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

ONE: May the peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you and all others!

*HYMN 411

“God Is Here Today”

DIOS ESTA AQUI

God Is Here Today

411

Dios está aquí

Capo 2: (D) E (A7) B7 (Bm) C#m (D7) E7 (G) A

God is here to - day; as cer - tain
Dios es - tá a - quí, tan cier - to co - mo el

(A7) B7 (D) E (D7) E7 (G) A

as the air I breathe, as cer - tain
ai - re que res - pi - ro, tan cier - to co - mo

(A7) B7 (D) E (A/C#) B/D# (Bm) C#m (D/A) E/B

as the morn - ing sun that ris - es, as
la ma - ña - na se le - van - ta, tan

(G) A (A7) B7 (D) E

cer - tain when I sing you'll hear my song.
cier - to co - mo que le can - to y me pue - de o - ír.

Though it is popular throughout Latin America, the conditions of this song's creation have remained obscure. It was once thought to have originated in a Mexican jail but is now known to have been written by an Argentinian who has also lived in the United States and Colombia.

TEXT: Raúl Galeano, 1976; English trans. C. Michael Hawn, 1998
MUSIC: Raúl Galeano, 1976; arr. C. Michael Hawn and Arturo González, 1999
English Trans. and Music Arr. © 1999 Choristers Guild

DIOS ESTÁ AQUÍ
Irregular

Equipping

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Micah 6:1–8 (CEB)

Dave Pack

Hear what the Lord is saying:
Arise, lay out the lawsuit before the mountains;
let the hills hear your voice!
Hear, mountains, the lawsuit of the Lord!
Hear, eternal foundations of the earth!
The Lord has a lawsuit against his people;
with Israel he will argue.
“My people, what did I ever do to you?
How have I wearied you? Answer me!
I brought you up out of the land of Egypt;
I redeemed you from the house of slavery.
I sent Moses, Aaron, and Miriam before you.
My people, remember what Moab’s King Balak had planned,
and how Balaam, Beor’s son, answered him!
Remember everything from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you might learn to recognize the righteous acts of the Lord!”
With what should I approach the Lord
and bow down before God on high?
Should I come before him with entirely burned offerings,
with year-old calves?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with many torrents of oil?
Should I give my oldest child for my crime;
the fruit of my body for the sin of my spirit?
He has told you, human one, what is good and
what the Lord requires from you:
to do justice, embrace faithful love, and walk humbly with your God.

ANTHEM

“Be Still”

arr. Mary McDonald

Chancel Choir - Patrick O’Halloran, director

*Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am with you.
Be still and know that I will comfort you
when you come to Me in your hour of need.*

*Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am here for you;
And I will wipe your tears; you will be renewed.*

*Come unto Me, My child, be still,
And know that I will give you rest, I am present in your pain
and I always will remain your Comforter and Friend.*

*Peace I leave with you; My peace, I give unto you.
Peace. Peace. Peace.
Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.*

Be still.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 22:15–22 (CEB)

Then the Pharisees met together to find a way to trap Jesus in his words. They sent their disciples, along with the supporters of Herod, to him. “Teacher,” they said, “we know that you are genuine and that you teach God’s way as it really is. We know that you are not swayed by people’s opinions, because you don’t show favoritism. So tell us what you think: Does the Law allow people to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” Knowing their evil motives, Jesus replied, “Why do you test me, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used to pay the tax.” And they brought him a denarion. “Whose image and inscription is this?” he asked. “Caesar’s,” they replied. Then he said, “Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.” When they heard this they were astonished, and they departed.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Boundary Issues”

Rev. Don Wilson

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

STEWARDSHIP MINUTE

Tom Stroud

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC “Ascription of Praise”
Chancel Choir

David Schwoebel

Jude 1: 24-25

*Now to him who's able to keep you from falling,
And to present you without blemish before the presence of His glory.
With rejoicing, to the only God, our Savior,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Be the glory, majesty, dominion, and the authority before all time.
Now and forever. Amen.*

(Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper by intinction. Please come forward using the center aisle. There are three communion stations available. The middle station provides a gluten-free option for those with dietary needs. An elder will offer you the bread. Dip the bread in the grape juice and partake of both elements. Please return to your seat using the outside aisles. Alternative: Pre-packaged communion cups are available for those who prefer to remain seated. Please signal an usher if you would like these brought to you.)

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

The Great Thanksgiving 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

Music During Communion

"Break Thou the Bread of Life"

arr. Nancy L. Smith

"Jesus, Lover of My Soul"

arr. Rhonda Edge

Linda Dover, organist

Prayer after Communion

Sending

*HYMN 853

"We Are Marching in the Light of God"

SIYAHAMBA

V1: Choir (South African Text)

V2: **All** in English: "Marching"

V3: "Dancing"

V4: "Praying"

TRUSTING IN THE PROMISES OF GOD

853 We Are Marching in the Light of God

Siyahamba

We are march-ing in the light of God; we are march-ing in the
Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -
light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God;
nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',
we are march-ing in the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march-ing in the light of, the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen-, kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march-ing in the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

This lively Zulu/Xhosa freedom song originated in a Methodist young men's group in South Africa and has gone on to become popular in many other languages around the globe. Some additional stanzas are suggested, but others may be improvised as appropriate to the occasion.

TEXT: South African; English trans. Gracia Grindal, 1984
MUSIC: South African; arr. *Freedom Is Coming*, 1984
English Trans. and Music Arr. © 1984 Utryck (admin. Walton Music Corp.)

SIYAHAMBA
Irregular

TRUSTING IN THE PROMISES OF GOD

We are march - ing
Si - ya - ham - ba

oo
oo

We are march-ing, march-ing, we are march-ing, march-ing,
Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba,

we are march-ing in the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

we are march-ing in the light of, the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen-, kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

we are march-ing in the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

We are march - ing
Si - ya - ham - ba

oo
oo

We are march-ing, march-ing, we are march-ing, march-ing,
Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba,

we are march-ing in the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

Additional stanzas ad lib.:

We are dancing...
We are praying...
We are singing...

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Don Wilson

POSTLUDE

“Siyahamba”
(We Are Marching in the Light of God) setting by John A. Behnke
South African Freedom Song

**Stand in body or spirit*

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

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GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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