



## GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship August 31, 2025 9:30am  
Twelfth 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*

PRELUDE

“Blessing”

John Leavitt

Linda Dover, organist

*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: Praise the Lord!

**ALL: Praise God in the sanctuary; praise God in the mighty heavens!**

ONE: Praise God for mighty deeds; praise God according to surpassing  
greatness!

**ALL: Praise God with trumpet sound, with lute and harp!**

ONE: Praise God with tambourine and dance; praise God with strings and pipe!

**ALL: Praise God with clanging cymbals; praise God with loud clashing  
cymbals. Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!**

\*HYMN 4

“Holy God, We Praise Your Name”

GROSSER GOTT, WIR LOBEN DICH

# 4 Holy God, We Praise Your Name

1 Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we  
 2 Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn an - gel choirs a -  
 3 All a - pos - tles join the strain as your sa - cred  
 4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, Ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it:

bow be - fore you. All on earth your scep - ter claim;  
 bove are rais - ing; cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,  
 name they hal - low; proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,  
 three we name you, while in es - sence on - ly one;

all in heaven a - bove a - dore you. In - fi - nite your  
 in un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, fill the heavens with  
 and the bless - ed mar - tyrs fol - low, and from morn to  
 un - di - vid - ed God we claim you, and a - dor - ing,

vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing is your reign.  
 sweet ac - cord: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!"  
 set of sun, through the church the song goes on.  
 bend the knee while we own the mys - ter - y.

Based on an 18th-century German metrical version of a celebrated 5th-century Latin hymn, *Te Deum laudamus*, this abbreviated 19th-century English paraphrase is sung by both Protestants and Roman Catholics. It is set here to the tune composed and named for the German version.

TEXT: Attr. Ignaz Franz, c. 1774; trans. Clarence Alphonsus Walworth, 1858, alt.  
 MUSIC: *Allgemeines Katholisches Gesangbuch*, c. 1774; harm. Johann Gottfried Schicht, 1819

GROSSER GOTT, WIR LOBEN DICH  
 7.8.7.8.7.7

## A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

*(ATW does not meet this morning. 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

God calls us to be clothed with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Yet so often, the stitches of our lives unravel — selfishness pulls at the seams, pride frays the edges, and resentment weakens the binding. Let us come before the One who mends us, trusting in God's grace to bind us together once more.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, You created us to be one body, joined together in Christ. But we confess that too often we worship ourselves instead of You. We come with divided hearts — seeking our own comfort, forgetting to give thanks, failing to let Your peace rule in us. We confess that we do not always sing with gratitude, nor do we always forgive as we have been forgiven. Bind us together in Your mercy, O Lord. Clothe us again with compassion and love, that our lives and our worship may bring You glory. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news: God's love holds fast. In Jesus Christ, we are clothed in grace, bound in forgiveness, and made whole in love.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

**ONE:** May the peace of Christ be with you.

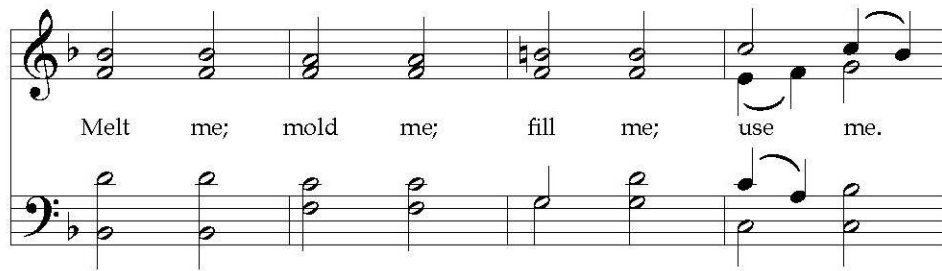
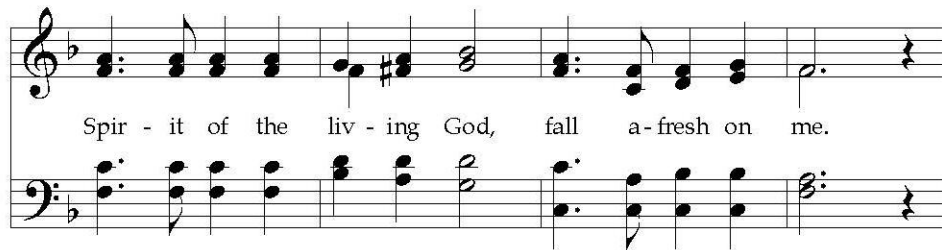
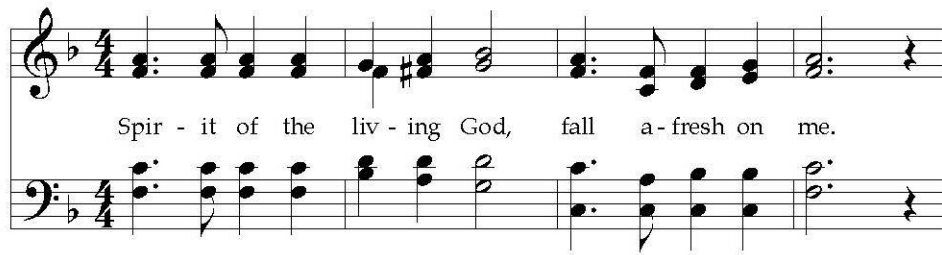
**ALL:** **And also with you and all others!**

\*HYMN 288

"Spirit of the Living God"

LIVING GOD

# Spirit of the Living God 288



## KOREAN

살아계신 주 성령 내게 오소서  
 살아계신 주 성령 내게 오소서  
 빛으시고 채우소서  
 살아계신 주 성령 내게 오소서

## SPANISH

*Santo Espíritu de Dios, ven sobre mí.*  
*Santo Espíritu de Dios, ven sobre mí.*  
*Tómame, cámbiame, lléname, úsame.*  
*Santo Espíritu de Dios, ven sobre mí.*

Both the words and the music of this prayer-song were written by a Presbyterian minister from Tarboro, North Carolina. The words were initially inspired by Jeremiah 18:1-6; a friend helped him set them to music during an evangelistic meeting in Orlando, Florida, where the song was first sung.

TEXT: Daniel Iverson, 1926; Korean trans. The United Methodist Korean Hymnal Committee; Spanish trans. anon.

MUSIC: Daniel Iverson, 1926

Text and Music © 1935 Birdwing Music (admin. EMICMGPublishing.com)

Korean Trans. © 2001 Birdwing Music (admin. EMICMGPublishing.com)

LIVING GOD  
 Irregular

## Equipping

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 4:19–26 (NRSVue)

Joy Slayton

The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

### ANTHEM

#### “A Lord-Built House”

Roger Lentz

Based on Psalm 127

*Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain.*

*I want to live in a Lord-built house!*

*Don't want to live in a man-built house with a structure built on sin –  
Brightly painted shutters and doors, and all decayed within.*

*Don't want to live in a man-made house with a man-made light inside –  
The storms blow in and the power goes out and the man in fear must hide!*

*I want to live in a Lord-built house, with a structure built on love,  
With the rock foundation under me and the Heavenly Father above!*

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Colossians 3:12–17 (NRSVue)

Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words

**Thanks be to God!**

### SERMON

“Worship — Binding It Together”

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

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC

**"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"** DENNIS  
Linda Dover, organist

J.G. Naegeli (1773–1836)  
arr. Wilbur Held

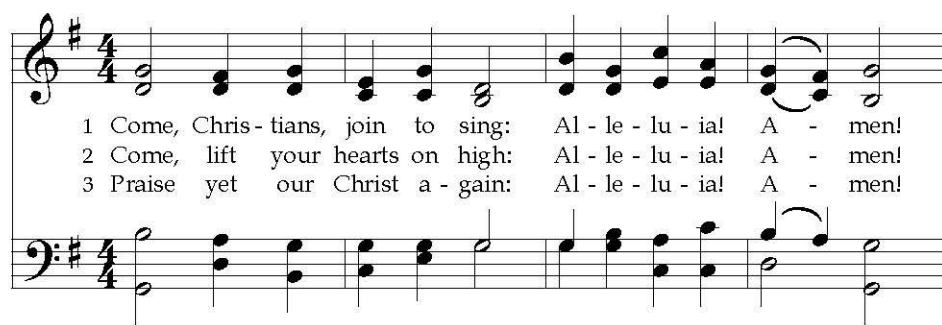
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\*HYMN 267

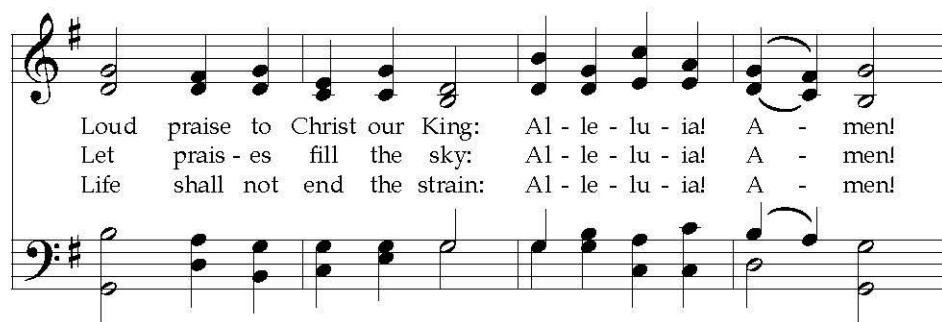
**"Come, Christians, Join to Sing"**

MADRID

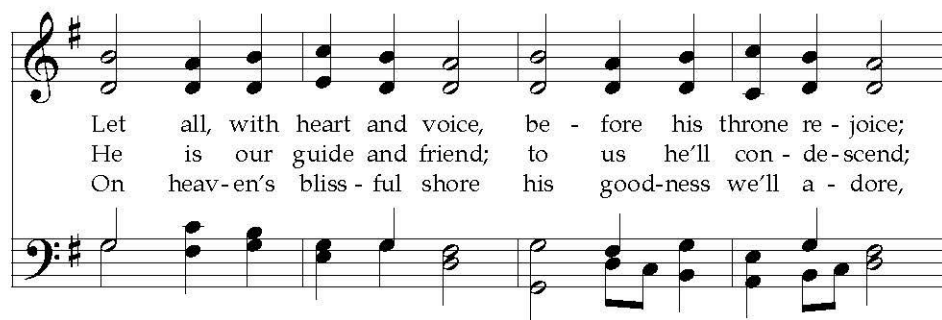
# 267 Come, Christians, Join to Sing



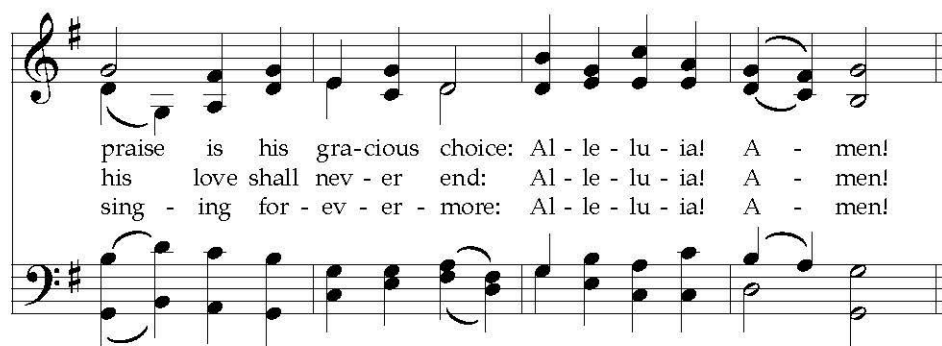
1 Come, Chris-tians, join to sing: Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!  
 2 Come, lift your hearts on high: Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!  
 3 Praise yet our Christ a-gain: Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!



Loud praise to Christ our King: Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!  
 Let prais-es fill the sky: Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!  
 Life shall not end the strain: Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!



Let all, with heart and voice, be-fore his throne re-joice;  
 He is our guide and friend; to us he'll con-de-scent;  
 On heav-en's bliss-ful shore his good-ness we'll a-dore,



praise is his gra-cious choice: Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!  
 his love shall nev-er end: Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!  
 sing-ing for-ev-er-more: Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!

Like many other hymns of praise, this text was originally addressed to children but has been embraced by adults as well. Although the tune's repetitive elements suggest folk origins (possibly with alternating groups of singers), no specific source has been identified.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Karen Wright

POSTLUDE

“God of Grace and God of Glory” CWM RHONDDA  
Linda Dover, organist

John Hughes  
arr. Mary Ellen Kerrick

*\*Stand in body or spirit*

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

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**GRACE COVENANT**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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