

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 52 *Go Down Moses*
“When Israel Was in Egypt’s Land”

*Affirmation of Faith (Unison) *The Apostles’ Creed*
**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of
heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son
our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius
Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended
into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right
hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he
shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe
in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the
communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the
resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

*Doxology *Hymn 606 Old Hundredth*
**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Pastoral Joys and Concerns of the Church

Prayer for the People and 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.**

Call to Stewardship
All undesignated cash goes to the Compassion Fund.

Offertory *David Cherwien*
“Prelude on “*Middlebury*”

*Congregational Response *Hymn 708 (v.1) Schumann*
**We give thee but thine own,
whate’er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from thee.**

*Offertory Prayer

Bearing and Following the Word into the World

*Hymn 756 *Llangloffan*
“O God of Every Nation”

*Invitation to Discipleship

*Charge and Benediction

*Closing Congregational Response 748 *Tallis’ Canon*
“Go with Us, Lord”
**Go with us Lord, and guide the way
Through this and every coming day,
that in your Spirit strong and true
Our lives may be our gift to you.**

*Peace of Christ
The peace of Christ be with you
And also with you

*Closing Voluntary *H. Alexander Matthews*
“O God. Our Help in Ages Past”

Today’s Liturgy has been adapted from:
Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion, Liturgies for Year A, Volume 2 and
Call to Worship and Prayer of Confession by Sarah Are, A Sanctified Art LLC.



Anti-Creation Narrative by Lauren Wright Pittman

 **Grace First**
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Together – Worshipping, Witnessing, Working

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The Reverend Ashley Drake Mertz, Pastor
The Reverend David A. Slyter, Associate Pastor
Marialice Parish, M.M., Organist and Director of Music

THE ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP

July 14, 2019

10:40 A.M.

When Humans Unravel God's Plans For Justice

**The congregation is invited to stand as music begins.
Additional worshipers may enter as the congregation sings.*

Welcome and Announcements

Welcome to worship at Grace First Presbyterian Church! As we light the Christ Candle, we are reminded that Jesus is the light of the world. As we pour the Baptismal Waters in the Font, we recall our baptism and newness of life. As we bring in the Bible, we remember the centrality of the Word. We worship our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. ***(Please sign the attendance register, pass it down the pew, and then back so everyone can greet those worshipping near you.)***

Gathering Around the Word

Opening Voluntary "Amazing Grace" Gordon Young

Entrance of Baptismal Water, the Christ Light,
and the Bible

Call to Worship (Responsive)

Listen. I have a story to tell—a story of a God who longed for justice.

A story of a God who pushed back the waters to make dry land.

A story of a God who would not take "no" for an answer when it came to the safety of God's own.

For God's people were suffering. God's people were crying out. God's people were shackled and bound by oppression.

So God said to Moses, "Speak." "Let my people Go." And Moses spoke—over and over again.

Moses stood up for justice, but over and over again, Pharaoh said no. Power said no.

The path to justice is never easy, is it? The path to change is never a straight line, is it?

Moses kept trying. God kept speaking.

Moses kept listening. Hope kept breathing.

And when power tried to unravel justice, the people kept dreaming.

God longed for justice. God still longs for justice.

So let us worship God—for human injustice will never be strong enough to unravel God's dream that all might be free, and all might know love.

Prayer of Invocation

*Hymn 12 *St. Denio*
"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God, you have asked us to be like Moses—standing up for your people, standing up for justice. But too often we are like Pharaoh—holding onto power, or holding onto privilege. God, you ask us to be like Aaron—who stood by his brother to unravel systems of oppression. But too often we align with Pharaoh—saying "no" to change and unraveling your vision for justice and peace. Forgive us for all the ways we stand on the wrong side of history. Forgive us for the harm we do to your planet, and for the harm we do to your children. Help us to be like Moses. Forgive us when we're like Pharaoh...

Silent Confession...

Assurance of Forgiveness

*Congregational Response Hymn 761 (v.1) *Beecher*

**Called as partners in Christ's service,
called to ministries of grace,
we respond with deep commitment
fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing,
side by side and friend with friend,
equal partners in our caring
to fulfill God's chosen end.**

Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Music Ministry "The Lord Is My Shepherd" John Rutter
From *Requiem*

Linda Young, Soprano

The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing.
He shall feed me in a green pasture,
and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.
He shall convert my soul and bring me forth
in the paths of righteousness, for his Name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil; for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff comfort me.
Thou shalt prepare a table for me
against them that trouble me;
Thou hast anointed my head with oil
and my cup shall be full.
But thy loving kindness and mercy
shall follow me all the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Children's Moment The Rev. David A. Slyter

First Reading Psalm 37:27-40
Pew Bible: Page 511

The word of God for the People of God
Thanks be to God.

Second Reading Exodus 5:1-2; 7:8-23
Pew Bible: Page 52

The word of God for the People of God
Thanks be to God.

Sermon The Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz