



Grace First

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Together – Worshipping, Witnessing, Working



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 WORSHIP

Holy Communion

July 4, 2021

Independence Day

Welcome and Announcements

As you prepare for worship today you are invited to light a candle in your worship space or gaze upon the Christ candle in the Sanctuary to center yourself for the worship of God.

Prelude

Charles Callahan

“Prelude on National Airs”

***Call to Worship (Responsive)**

The earth is the Lord’s, and the fullness thereof.

God alone is our sovereign to whom all bow in allegiance.

Come, let us worship the Lord, our God, the Ruler of all nations.

***Prayer of Invocation**

God the creator, God of the cross, you show your power in whirling galaxies and unseen forces. You show your love in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Drive out all that threatens to break our spirits and help us to rely on your all-sufficient grace, for we pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

337 My Country, 'Tis of Thee

1 My coun - try, 'tis of thee, sweet land of
 2 My na - tive coun - try, thee, land of the
 3 Let mu - sic swell the breeze, and ring from
 4 Our *fa - thers' God, to thee, au - thor of

lib - er - ty, of thee I sing; land where my
 no - ble free, thy name I love; I love thy
 all the trees sweet free - dom's song, Let mor - tal
 lib - er - ty, to thee we sing, Long may our

*fa - thers died, land of the pil - grims' pride,
 rocks and rills, thy woods and tem - pled hills;
 tongues a - wake; let all that breathe par - take;
 land be bright with free - dom's ho - ly light;

from ev - ery moun - tain - side let free - dom ring,
 my heart with rap - ture thrills like that a - bove.
 let rocks their si - lence break, the sound pro - long.
 pro - tect us by thy might, great God, our King.

*Or "parents"

This now-familiar patriotic song was written by a Baptist minister and received its first public performance at an Independence Day celebration by the Boston Sabbath School Union in 1831. It was written to replace a German patriotic text sung to the same tune.

Children's Moment

Following Children's Moment, children ages 3—grade 5 who would like to participate in Children's Worship may leave the sanctuary with this week's teachers. If your child does not wish to participate in Children's Worship they are welcome to stay here! Following today's service, you may pick up your child in room 6.

Today's Teachers are: Shantee Siebuhr & Sharon Barnhart

Call to Confession

This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. I will forgive their evil deeds, and remember their sin no more. In penitence and faith, let us confess our sins to almighty God.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image...

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon (Responsive)

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Friends, believe this good news: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.


All: Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen!

Psalm 48:1, 2, 9-14

Cantor: Dianna Dixon

Arthur H. Messiter
Arr. Hal H. Hopson

REFRAIN



Re - jice, re - jice, re - jice, give thanks and sing.

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Prayer of Illumination

Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept your Word. that, hearing, we may also obey your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Reading

Psalm 123

The word of God for the people of God
Thanks be to God

Music Ministry

Andrew Gerow
arr. K. Lee Scott

"To God We Come in Prayer and Praise"
Sanctuary Choir

To God we come in prayer and praise,
one people with one heart and voice;
the source of strength of all our days,
in God we trust, in Him rejoice.

He spoke, and gave the planets birth,
the starry hosts of heaven above,
and formed for us a fertile earth,
and loves us with a Father's love.

He reigns beyond the passing years,
by whom all thrones and kingdoms stand,
our life, with all its loves and fears,
is kept by His eternal hand.

Our Rock, our Refuge and our Tower,
our Hope while time itself shall last;
we celebrate this present hour
in thankfulness for mercies past.

To God, from age to age the same,
who came in Christ to make us free,
His will, His kingdom and His name,
we consecrate the years to be.

Second Reading

Mark 6:1-13

The word of God for the people of God
Thanks be to God

Sermon

The Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies 338

1 O beau-ti-ful for spa-cious skies, for am-ber waves of grain,
 2 O beau-ti-ful for he-roes proved in lib-er-at-ing strife,
 3 O beau-ti-ful for pa-triot dream that sees be-yond the years

for pur-ple moun-tain maj-es-ties a-bove the fruit-ed plain!
 who more than self their coun-try loved, and mer-cy more than life!
 thine al-a-bas-ter cit-ies gleam, un-dimmed by hu-man tears!

A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God shed his grace on thee,
 A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God mend thine ev-ery flaw;
 A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! May God thy gold re-fine

and crown thy good with *broth-er-hood from sea to shin-ing sea!
 con-firm thy soul in self-con-trol, thy lib-er-ty in law!
 till all suc-cess be no-ble-ness and ev-ery gain di-vine!

**Or "servanthood"*

This text (inspired by the vista from Pike's Peak and by a visit to Chicago's Columbian World Exposition) and tune (named MATERNA because it was composed for "O Mother, Dear Jerusalem") were joined in 1912. The combination proved immensely popular during World War I and afterwards.

TEXT: Katharine Lee Bates, 1893, alt.
 MUSIC: Samuel Augustus Ward, 1882

MATERNA
 CMD

***Affirmation of Faith**

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.

[Call to Stewardship](#) (click here to be directed to our online giving)

Jesus said to Paul, My grace is sufficient for you...Jesus also said to Peter, Every one to whom much is given, of him much will be required. Let us bear witness to the love of God by presenting our offerings of thanksgiving.

Offertory

Malita

John Bacchus Dykes

“Eternal Father, Strong to Save”

Congregational Response Hymn 606 *Old Hundredth*

Doxology

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.

Offertory Prayer

Almighty and merciful God, from whom comes all that is good, we praise you for your mercies, for your goodness that has created us, your grace that has sustained us, your discipline that has corrected us, your patience that has borne with us, and your love that has redeemed us. Help us to love you, and to be thankful for all your gifts by serving you and delighting to do your will, through Jesus Christ our Lord to whom be all honor and dominion and glory, now and forevermore. Amen.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

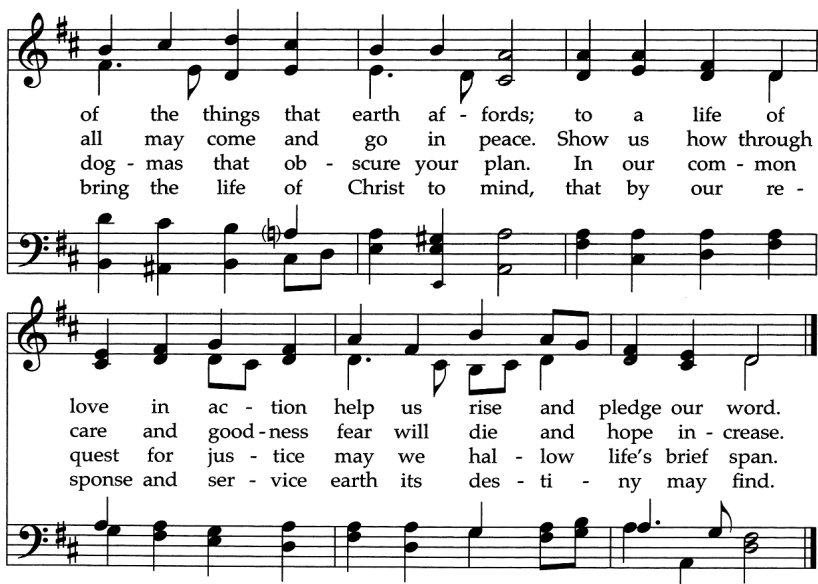
Communion Voluntary James Weldon Johnson
"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

346 For the Healing of the Nations

The musical score is written for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts, with the piano providing harmonic support. The lyrics are written below the vocal staves.

1 For the heal - ing of the na - tions, Lord, we pray with
2 Lead us for - ward in - to free - dom; from de - spair your
3 All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the
4 You, Cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten your great name on

one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing
world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred,
earth be banned: pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing,
hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in your like - ness,



of the things that earth af - fords; to a life of
all may come and go in peace. Show us how through
dog - mas that ob - scure your plan. In our com - mon
bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our re -

love in ac - tion help us rise and pledge our word.
care and good - ness fear will die and hope in - crease.
quest for jus - tice may we hal - low life's brief span.
sponse and ser - vice earth its des - ti - ny may find.

The first line of this text quotes the declared purpose of the leaves of the tree of life growing beside the river of life in the heavenly Jerusalem (Revelation 22:2). The hymn continues by identifying some of the many ways we are called to share with God in this healing work.

TEXT: Fred Kaan, 1965

MUSIC: John Francis Wade, c. 1750; harm. *Hymns Ancient & Modern*, 1861
Text © 1968 Hope Publishing Company

ST. THOMAS (Wade)
8.7.8.7

Benediction

Go out into the world in peace; have courage; hold on to what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak, and help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. May the love of God, the grace of Jesus Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit guide you this day and forevermore. Amen.

The Peace of Christ (Responsive)

The peace of Christ be with you
And also with you

Postlude

John Phillip Sousa
arr. Linger

"The Washington Post March"

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, July 4

9:00 AM

10:15 AM

10:40 AM

Independence Day

Sunday School Classes

Sanctuary Choir Warm-up

Morning Worship, Sanctuary

No Youth Group

Monday, July 5

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, July 6

6:30 PM

Social Justice Weekly Discussion

Thursday, July 9

9:00 AM

P.W. Coordinating Team

Sunday, July 11

9:00 AM

10:40 AM

12:00 PM

5:00 PM

Sunday School Classes

Morning Worship, Sanctuary

Christian Ed, Library

Youth Group at GFPC

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Member—Join us after worship as we greet new member Joy Henning and her Husband Bill.

Music Notes—Tunes used in the Prelude are MATERNA: Samuel A. Ward, 1847-1903; BATTLE HYMN, American Folk song, 19th century; and NATIONAL ANTHEM, 18th Century.

Star Word Prompt for July—How has your Star Word surprised you so far?

Informational Meeting— Today immediately following worship (11:45) there will be an informational meeting in the Great Hall to relay information pertaining to recent events with former pastor, Charles Bruner. Steve Shive, the interim executive presbyter of Grace Presbytery will be joining us for this meeting.

Today's Liturgy has been adapted from:
Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion,
Liturgies for Year B, Volume 1 and PCUSA
Worship Service on July 4 liturgy

Cover Image: Jesus rejected at Nazareth, Jeff Watkins