



# Grace First

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Together – Worshipping, Witnessing, Working*

The Reverend Ashley Drake Mertz, Pastor  
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# **THE ORDER OF WORSHIP**

June 28, 2020

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

We welcome you to worship at Grace First Presbyterian Church. We are currently pre-recording our worship service so that you can worship when it is most convenient for you. We pray the worship experience will allow you to focus on your relationship with God and how God is calling you to live as faithful disciples in the world. You will find the liturgy of the service laid out as it would normally be when we gather for worship in the sanctuary. Let us worship God!

## **Prelude**

arr. Pierce Dickens

“When Morning Gilds the Skies”

## **Call to Worship**

God calls us by name into the presence of holiness as God’s holy people. We answer this call by the grace of God through the power of the Holy Spirit in the name of God’s own Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Come, let us worship God.

## **Prayer of Invocation**

God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who gives us birth by water and Holy Spirit, teach us how to live always in integrity of body, mind, and spirit, in obedience to your love, in the name of Jesus Christ, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory now and forever. Amen.

CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

## 39 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1 \*Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;  
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,  
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee.  
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove  
 thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide,

Thou chang - est not; thy com - pas - sions they fail not.  
 join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness  
 strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row:

As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
 to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.  
 bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!  
오 신 실 하 신 주 오 신 실 하 신 주

Morn - ing by morn - ing, new mer - cies I see.  
날 마 다 자 비 를 배 푸 시 며

All I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed.  
일 용 할 모 든 것 내 려 주 시 니

Great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!  
오 신 실 하 신 주 나 의 구 주

\*Or "Great is thy faithfulness, O God, Creator."

Written as a meditation on Lamentations 3:22-23, this text is one of the few hymns among the 1200 poems by this Methodist writer and pastor that has gained much currency. The tune that appears here was composed especially for these words, and the pairing has proved enduring.

TEXT: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923

MUSIC: William Marion Runyan, 1923

Text and Music © 1923, ren. 1951 Hope Publishing Company

FAITHFULNESS

11.10.11.10 with refrain

11.10.11.10 with refrain

## **Call to Confession**

How costly is our broken relationship with God! The price of sin is a spiritless life, which is no life at all. Where are joy, peace, or lasting love to be found, except in the One who creates peace and joy, who sent Jesus Christ, the beloved Son, to save us from our sin? Let us confess, repent, and trust God to forgive us our sin.

## **Prayer of Confession**

**O God, on lonely Mount Moriah you put your servant Abraham to the test. We confess that we have failed much lesser tests of faith. We have allowed sin to run our lives, to shape how we act toward others, and to kill our relationship with you. In your great mercy, forgive us. Change even our bodies from implements of destruction to instruments of your peace; for the sake of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever...**

## **Silent Confession**

## **Assurance of Pardon**

God, whose name is I AM, provides for our weakness. Jesus Christ, I AM in the body, gave himself for our salvation. All who are united to Christ in his death are united to Christ in his resurrection. I declare to you, in Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven.

## **Prayer of Illumination**

Terrifying Word, life-giving Word, sanctifying Word, come to us as ones who crave water in the desert. Grant that we may hear and respond to you, yes, in fear and trembling, and also in rejoicing, through the Lamb that was slaughtered, Jesus Christ, who, with you and the Holy Spirit, is worshiped and glorified by all your saints, now and forever. Amen.

## **First Reading**

Genesis 22:1-14

The word of God for the People of God

**Thanks be to God**

## **Music Ministry**

Charles Gounod

“Entreat Me Not to Leave Thee”

Mary Banks, Soprano, 2009

Entreat me not to leave thee,  
or to return from following after thee:  
For whither thou goest I will go,  
and where thou lodgest, I will lodge.  
Thy people shall be my people,  
and thy God, my God. Where thou diest,  
will I die, and there will I be buried;  
The Lord do so to me, and more also,  
if aught but death part thee and me.  
Thy people shall be my people,  
and thy God, my God.

## **Second Reading**

Matthew 10:40-42

The word of God for the People of God

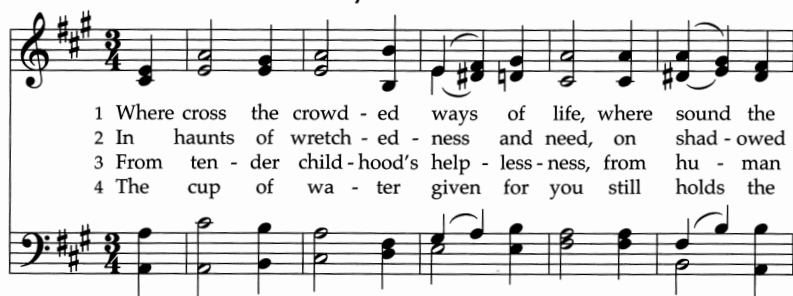
**Thanks be to God**

## **Sermon**

**The Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz**

# Hymn 343

## 343 Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life



1 Where cross the crowd - ed ways of life, where sound the  
 2 In haunts of wretch - ed - ness and need, on shad - owed  
 3 From ten - der child - hood's help - less - ness, from hu - man  
 4 The cup of wa - ter given for you still holds the



cries of race and clan, a - bove the noise of  
 thresh - olds fraught with fears, from paths where hide the  
 grief and bur - dened toil, from fam - ished souls, from  
 fresh - ness of your grace; yet long these mul - ti -



self - ish strife, we hear your voice, O Son of Man.  
 lures of greed, we catch the vi - sion of your tears.  
 sor - row's stress, your heart has nev - er known re - coil.  
 tudes to view the sweet com - pas - sion of your face.

5 O Master, from the mountainside,  
 make haste to heal these hearts of pain;  
 among these restless throngs abide;  
 O tread the city's streets again;

6 Till all the world shall learn your love,  
 and follow where your feet have trod;  
 till glorious from your heaven above  
 shall come the city of our God.

Because dense populations always result in concentrated hardships, this vivid yet timeless evocation of urban need connects to our own day as well as to Jesus' lament over Jerusalem (Matthew 23:37 / Luke 13:34). This tune was the first used with this text and is now customary.

TEXT: Frank Mason North, 1903, alt.  
 MUSIC: Gardiner's *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

GERMANY  
 LM

## **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.

## **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.

## **Call to Stewardship**

Let us respond to God's grace by offering our thanksgiving with gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

## **Offertory**

Gilbert M. Martin

"Meditation on *Bradbury*"



## Congregational Response Hymn 606 Old Hundredth

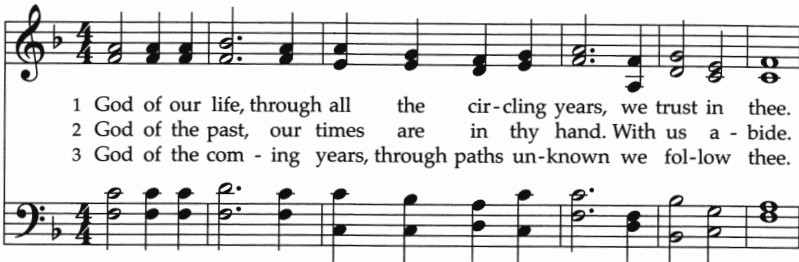
Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## Offertory Prayer

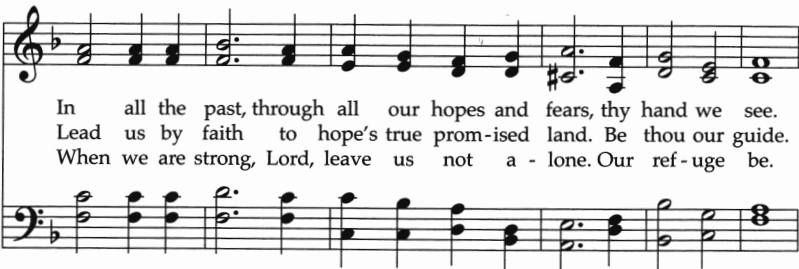
Voice in the wilderness, Lamb upon the tree,  
Wind carrying the Word of salvation to the world—you  
who are the One in Three, thank you for calling us by  
name, for providing for our needs, for freeing us to live  
in union with Christ. We offer to you what you have  
given to us in joy with love for the common good.  
Bless gifts, givers, and receivers so that we can give  
you our richest praise in the name of Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

## Hymn 686

### 686 God of Our Life



1 God of our life, through all the cir-cling years, we trust in thee.  
2 God of the past, our times are in thy hand. With us a - bide.  
3 God of the com - ing years, through paths un-known we fol-low thee.



In all the past, through all our hopes and fears, thy hand we see.  
Lead us by faith to hope's true prom-ised land. Be thou our guide.  
When we are strong, Lord, leave us not a - lone. Our ref-uge be.

With each new day, when morn - ing lifts the veil,  
 With thee to bless, the dark - ness shines as light,  
 Be thou for us in life our dai - ly bread,  
 we own thy mer - cies, Lord, which nev - er fail.  
 and faith's fair vi - sion chang - es in - to sight.  
 our heart's true home when all our years have sped.

This text was created for the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, by its pastor. He wrote these words especially for this tune, originally composed for John Henry Newman's text "Lead, Kindly Light."

TEXT: Hugh Thomson Kerr, 1916, alt.  
 MUSIC: Charles Henry Purday, 1860; harm. John Weaver, 1986  
 Text © 1928 F. M. Braselman, ren. 1956 Presbyterian Board of Christian Education  
 (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)  
 Music Harm. © 1990 Hope Publishing Company

SANDON  
 10.4.10.4.10.10

## Benediction

## The Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you  
 And also with you

## Postlude

arr. David Lasky

"Postlude on *Duke Street*"

Today's Liturgy has been adapted from: Feasting on the Word:  
 Worship Companion, Liturgies for Year A, Volume 2  
 Cover Art: "Appearance While the Apostles Are At Table"  
 By: Duccio di Buoninsegna