



*“...but that very Spirit intercedes  
with sighs too deep for words”*

*Romans 8:26*

# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

July 26, 2020

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome to worship at Grace First Presbyterian Church! We are currently worshipping online only. Our service follows the same format as in-person worship. In the next few weeks we will be transitioning from fully pre-recorded and edited services to live streaming our service. Please allow some grace for growing pains in this process. We pray that worship as a whole will invite you into deeper personal connection with God and empower you to live by the example of Jesus Christ, all while being guided by the Holy Spirit.

**Prelude**

Charles Callahan

“Aria”

## **Call to Worship**

Today is a special day! We celebrate our reunion to be together to worship the Lord.

**We come to strengthen our resolve and share our stories of the week.**

Our God has blessed us with one another, so we come to pray and give you praise.

**We are here because we want to be here. Let us come and praise God’s name.**

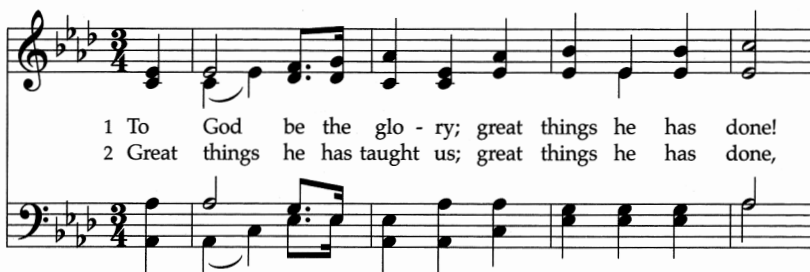
Come, worship and know that God is here to receive us.

## **Prayer of Invocation**

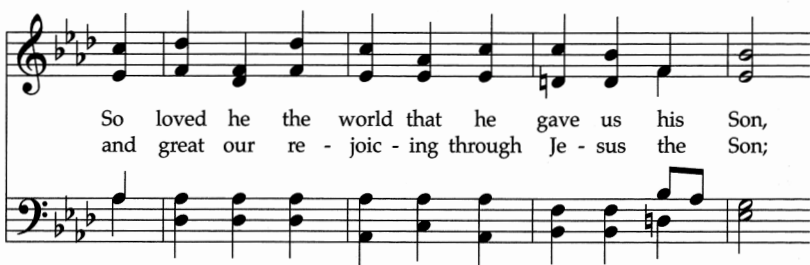
God of inseparable love, thank you for this day of worship, this place of worship, and our many reasons for worship. Renew in us your great love and redirect us to share that great love. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

## Hymn 634

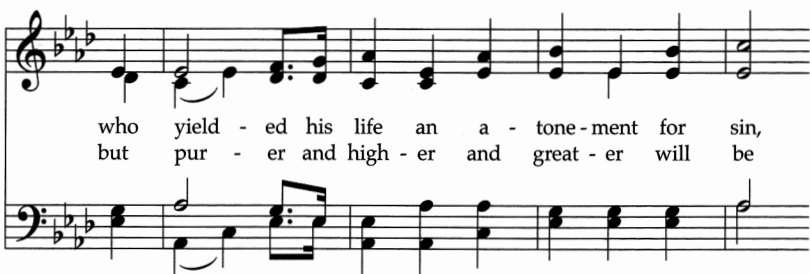
### 634 To God Be the Glory



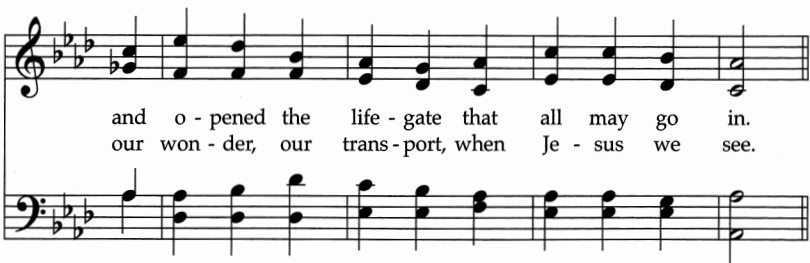
1 To God be the glo - ry; great things he has done!  
2 Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,



So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,  
and great our re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son;



who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin,  
but pur - er and high - er and great - er will be



and o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.  
our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see.

Refrain

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of staves. The lyrics are: 'Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!', 'Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!', 'O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,', and 'and give him the glory: great things he has done!'. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a strong emphasis on the lyrics.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,

and give him the glory: great things he has done!

This American gospel song became popular in England in the late 19th century, then returned to this country in the mid-20th century with the Billy Graham crusades. Its continuing popularity may well be due to the freedom from subjective considerations in its praise of God.

TEXT: Fanny Jane Crosby, 1875  
MUSIC: William Howard Doane, 1875

TO GOD BE THE GLORY  
11.11.11 with refrain

## Call to Confession

Scripture tells us that if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins. Let us come before God and confess our sins corporately then in our own private confession.

## **Prayer of Confession**

God, we easily allow our trials to cloud our vision of your great love, tribulations to distract us from that love. We act as though our circumstances somehow impact your consistency, as though our perceptions influence your presence. Forgive us, and replenish us in your love that knows no bounds.

## **Silent Confession**

## **Assurance of Pardon**

Just as God's love is boundless, so God's mercy is insatiable so rise now, renewed in spirit and full of love. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

## **Prayer of Illumination**

God of the Highest, reigning in glory, send down your Spirit of wisdom to shine on your heavenly Word, so that we may worship you with joy, continually blessing your name. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## **First Reading**

Matthew 13:31-33; 44-52

The word of God for the People of God

**Thanks be to God**

## **Music Ministry**

Kathleen Thomerson

Arr. Richard Erikson

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

Sanctuary Choir, 2009

I want to walk as a child of the light.

I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.

The star of my life is Jesus.

*In Him there is no darkness at all.  
The night and the day are both alike,  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

I want to see the brightness of God.  
I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,  
and show me the way to the Father.

I'm looking for the coming of Christ.  
I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race,  
we shall know the joy of Jesus.

## Second Reading

**Romans 8:26-39**

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

## Sermon

**The Rev. David A. Slyter**

## Hymn 321

### 321 The Church's One Foundation



1 The chur-ch's one foun-da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord.  
2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,  
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op-pressed,  
4 Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war,  
5 Yet she on earth has un - ion with God, the Three in One,

She is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.  
her char - ter of sal - va - tion: one Lord, one faith, one birth.  
by schis - ms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis-tressed,  
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more:  
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won:

From heaven he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride.  
 One ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,  
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"  
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,  
 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we,

With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.  
 and to one hope she press - es, with ev - ery grace en - dued.  
 And soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.  
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.  
 like them, the meek and low - ly, may live e - ter - nal - ly.

This hymn was one of twelve written by an English curate to affirm the articles of the Apostles' Creed with biblical allusions such as 1 Corinthians 3:11 here. Though not created for this text, the tune was joined to it in 1868, and the two have been inseparable ever since.

TEXT: Samuel John Stone, 1866, alt.  
 MUSIC: Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864

AURELIA  
 7.6.7.6.D

## 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**

God's love is made known to us in many tangible ways, and we have tangible ways to show God's love to others. Through our offerings of time, talent, and treasure, we can give others glimpses of a love that renews, refreshes, redirects, and redeems all of creation.

## **Offertory**

*St. Agnes*  
arr. Wilbur Held

"Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove"

## **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**

God of unlimited love, we offer these limited gifts to spread the news of your great love. Take and multiply these gifts and use us to spread the good news. Amen.



# Hymn 726

## 726 Will You Come and Follow Me

### The Summons

Capo 3: (D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (Asus) (A)  
 F C7 Dm Gm7 Csus C

1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?  
 2 "Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?  
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?  
 4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?  
 5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.

Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?  
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?  
 Will you set the pris-oners free and nev - er be the same?  
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?  
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.

Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;  
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?  
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,  
 Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world a - round,  
 In your com-pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.

will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"  
 Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"  
 and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"  
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"  
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

The first four stanzas of this ballad-like hymn are understood to be in the voice of Christ, with the fifth reflecting the individual singer's response. Created for this traditional Scottish tune, the text was written to mark the conclusion of a youth volunteer's time of ministry.

TEXT: John L. Bell and Graham Maule, 1987

MUSIC: Scottish melody; arr. John L. Bell, 1987

Text and Music Arr. © 1987 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

KELVINGROVE

13.13.7.7.13

**Benediction**

Now that we are filled in body, mind, and soul,  
let us go out into the world and share with the world the  
things we have learned. May we be like the mustard  
seed, a means to an end and be the vehicle that leads  
others to God. Amen.

**The Peace of Christ**

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

**Postlude**

Douglass E. Wagner

“Let All Who Have Breath Praise the Lord!”

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Today's Liturgy has been adapted from:  
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