

LET JUSTICE ROLL DOWN LIKE WATERS  
AND RIGHTEOUSNESS LIKE AN  
EVER-FLOWING STREAM.

AMOS 5:24



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

November 8, 2020

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome to worship at Grace First Presbyterian Church! We are currently worshipping online and in-person. The online service follows the same format as in-person worship. 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**

Felix Mendelssohn

“Sonata I: Adagio”

## **Call to Worship (Responsive)**

Rejoice and be glad!

**For God is our salvation.**

Rejoice and be glad!

**For God is great.**

## **Prayer of Invocation**

O great and loving God, your wisdom is radiant and unfading, easily discerned by all who seek your way. When faithful people live in love and work for justice, heaven breaks into earth. Give us the grace to live confidently and expectantly, trusting that the Lord of history, who has been approaching from all eternity, comes into life continually with compassion, redemption, and hope. Amen.

# Hymn 175

JESUS CHRIST: LIFE

## 175

## Seek Ye First

Descant

Al - le - lu - ia,

1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God  
2 Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you;  
3 You shall not live by bread a - lone,

al - le - lu - ia,

and seek, its righ - teous - ness,  
and you shall find;  
but by ev - ery word

al - le - lu - ia,

and all these things shall be add - ed un - to you.  
knock, and the door shall be o - pened un - to you.  
that pro - ceeds from the mouth of God.

al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

The author and the first stanza and folk-style tune after attending a Bible study on Matthew 6:33. The later stanzas, based respectively on Matthew 7:7 and Matthew 4:4, emerged anonymously. Such meditative singing of scripture is an important form of sung prayer.

TEXT: Stanza 1, Karen Lafferty, 1971, alt.; stanzas 2-3, anon.; Spanish trans. anon.; Korean trans. The United Methodist Korean Hymnal Committee

MUSIC: Karen Lafferty, 1971

Text and Music © 1972 Universal Music - Brentwood Publishing/Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa dba CCCM Music (admin. Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing)

LAFFERTY  
Irregular

**Call to Confession**

Beloved, we are called to live in right relationship with God by loving one another. Therefore, let us confess our sins to the One who pardons our offenses.

**Prayer of Confession (Unison)**

Loving God, we confess that we have sinned against you by not honoring you or loving one another. When we ignore injustice in the world, our worship brings you no delight. Make haste to help us, that we may stand in right relationship with you and the whole of your creation and sing your praises through the mercy of Christ, our resurrected Savior.

**Silent Confession**

**Assurance of Pardon**

Siblings, rejoice and be glad, for God is mighty to save and comes to you in peace to forgive, restore, and strengthen you eternally in Christ.

**Prayer of Illumination**

Send your Spirit to move in our world and stir the water of our souls that we may desire a word of instruction that awakens us to the joy of your coming reign. Amen.

## **First Reading**

## **Psalm 70**

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

## **Music Ministry**

## *Crusaders Hymn*

“Fairest Lord Jesus”  
Hymn Festival 2010

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,  
O Thou of God to earth come down,  
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,  
Thou, my soul’s glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,  
robed in the blooming garb of spring.  
Jesus is fairer; Jesus is purer,  
who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,  
and all the twinkling, starry host.  
Jesus shines brighter; Jesus shines purer,  
than all the angels heaven can boast.

## **Second Reading**

## **Amos 5:18-24**

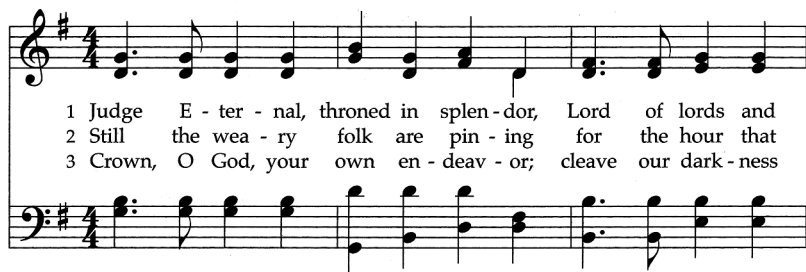
The word of God for the people of God  
**Thanks be to God**

## **Sermon**

**The Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz**

## Hymn342

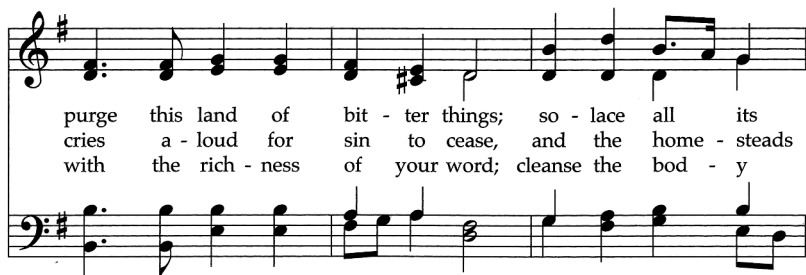
# 342 Judge Eternal, Throned in Splendor



1 Judge E - ter - nal, throned in splen - dor, Lord of lords and  
 2 Still the wea - ry folk are pin - ing for the hour that  
 3 Crown, O God, your own en - deav - or; cleave our dark - ness



King of kings, with your liv - ing fire of judg - ment  
 brings re - lease, and the cit - y's crowd - ed clang - or  
 with your sword; feed the faith - less and the hun - gry



purge this land of bit - ter things; so - lace all its  
 cries a - loud for sin to cease, and the home - steads  
 with the rich - ness of your word; cleanse the bod - y



wide do - min - ion with the heal - ing of your wings.  
 and the wood - lands plead in si - lence for their peace.  
 of this na - tion through the glo - ry of the Lord.

More than a century after it was written, this plea for national purification has lost none of its power, nor has the need for social justice grown less acute. It is set to a traditional Welsh tune named for a long-inhabited town in north Wales overlooking the River Clywd.

TEXT: Henry Scott Holland, 1902, alt.  
 MUSIC: Welsh melody; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

RHUDDLAN  
 8.7.8.7.8.7

## **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 for 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 is a gracious giver who opens the door to all who seek the wisdom of God's ways. Therefore, let us offer the gifts of our life and labor and come into God's courts with praise.

## **Offertory**

Felix Mendelssohn

"Sonata IV: Andante Religioso"

## 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

O great and loving God, we give you thanks that you have given your faithful people a love for justice and the gift of generosity. Bless these gifts and our commitments to serve you through the ministries of Grace First in the coming year. With them reveal your righteousness as we await the coming of your peace. Use us to bring about your kingdom in this faith community, in this city, in the state, and in the world. Amen.

## Hymn

JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

## 757 Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples



1 To - day we all are called to be dis - ci - ples of the  
2 God made the world and at its birth or - dained our hu - man  
3 Pray jus - tice may come roll - ing down as in a might - y



Lord, to help to set the cap - tive free, make  
race to live as stew - ards of the earth, re -  
stream, with righ - teous - ness in field and town to  
word, and walk the road the saints have trod till





plow - share out of sword, to feed the hun - gry, quench their  
spend - ing to God's grace. But we are vain and sad - ly  
cleanse us and re - deem. For God is long - ing to re -  
all have seen and heard. As stew - ards of the earth may



thirst, make love and peace our fast, to serve the  
proud; we sow not peace but strife. Our dis - cord  
store an earth where con - flicts cease, a world that  
we give thanks in one ac - cord to God who



poor and home - less first, our ease and com - fort last.  
spreads a dead - ly cloud that threat - ens all of life.  
was cre - at - ed for a har - mo - ny of peace.  
calls us all to be dis - ci - ples of the Lord.

This text placing stewardship in the context of faithful witness was written by a retired Presbyterian minister to be part of the 1986 stewardship campaign titled "Called to Be Disciples." The tune name recalls the Sussex village where the arranger first heard the melody.

TEXT: H. Kenn Carmichael, 1985  
MUSIC: *English County Songs*, 1893; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906  
Text © 1989 H. Kenn Carmichael

KINGSFOLD  
CMD

## Benediction

## The Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you  
And also with you

## Postlude

Felix Mendelssohn

### "Sonata II: Allegro Maestoso"

Today's Liturgy has been adapted from: Feasting on the Word:  
Worship Companion, Liturgies for Year A, Volume 2  
Cover Photo: Iguazu Falls Argentina—Piriya Wongkongkathep