



Grace First

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Together – Worshipping, Witnessing, Working



The Reverend Ashley Drake Mertz, Pastor
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THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

November 22, 2020

Christ the King Sunday

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

Royal Oak

Arr. Michael Burkhardt

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

Sanctuary Handbells

Call to Worship (Responsive)

The Lord God is our shepherd.

**We are the people of God’s pasture, the
sheep of God’s hand.**

God will seek the lost, feed the hungry, and
strengthen the weak.

**But the proud and the power-hungry will be
fed with justice.**

Prayer of Invocation

God of majesty, you love us with an everlasting love and show us the way to justice and peace. In Jesus Christ you have reconciled the whole world to you and claimed us as your own, that we may live as his body on earth and, with all the saints, enter into your glory. Amen.

Hymn 268

268 Crown Him with Many Crowns

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
 2 Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side,
 3 Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scep - ter sways
 4 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time;

hark, how the heaven-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own!
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied:
 from pole to pole, that wars may cease, ab - sorbed in prayer and praise.
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fa - bly sub - lime.

A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 no an - gel in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
 His reign shall know no end; and round his pierc - ed feet
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;

and hail him as thy match-less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 but down-ward bends his burn-ing eye at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 fair flowers of par - a - dise ex - tend their fra-grance ev - er sweet.
 thy praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

This text is so familiar that it is easy to miss all its paradox, mystery, suffering, and beauty; it rewards careful reading and meditation outside corporate worship. The tune's composer, chapel organist at Windsor Castle, had much experience in creating a royal sound.

TEXT: Matthew Bridges, 1851
 MUSIC: George Job Elvey, 1868

DIADEMATA
 SMD

Call to Confession

With sincere and repentant hearts, let us name our sins against Christ and one another as we pray together the prayer of confession printed in your bulletin.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Holy God, Judge of the nations: we confess that we have not seen your face among our neighbors in need. We have not shared our food with the hungry; we have not offered clothes to the destitute or shelter to the homeless. We have not welcomed the stranger, nor have we visited the prisoners. We have not paid attention to these, your children, and in our neglect, we have failed to serve you. Forgive us, merciful God, so that we may return to your fold and rejoice in your presence...

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Siblings, God seeks the lost sheep and feeds them with justice. Forgiven and freed, turn, then, and live in Christ.

Prayer of Illumination

Holy God, open your Word. Give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation, that our eyes may be enlightened and we may know the hope to which we have been called; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

First Reading

Matthew 25:31-46

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

Music Ministry

Welsh Folk Melody

"Let All Things Now Living"

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
To God the creator triumphantly raise;
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
by guiding us on to the end of our days.

Gods banners are o'er us; pure light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night:
till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.

By law God enforces, the stars in their courses,
the sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.

We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
With glad adoration a song let us raise
'Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
"To God in the highest, Hosanna and praise!"

Second Reading

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

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

Sermon

The Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz

Hymn 187

187 Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

1 Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten-der care.
 2 We are yours: in love be - friend us; be the guard-ian of our way.
 3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin-ful though we be;
 4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor; ear - ly let us do your will.

In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us; for our use your fold pre-pare.
 Keep your flock: from sin de - fend us; seek us when we go a - stray.
 you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.
 Bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.

Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us: we are yours.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us; love us still.

Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us: we are yours.
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This unattributed hymn, like many that are now meaningful to adults, was written for children and develops shepherd imagery from Psalm 23 and John 10:1-18. The tune, composed for these words, was originally named for the text but has come to be known by the composer's name.

TEXT: Thrupp's *Hymns for the Young*, 1836, alt.
 MUSIC: William Batchelder Bradbury, 1859, alt.

BRADBURY
 8.7.8.7.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 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 holds the depths of the earth and the heights of the mountains, the sea and the dry land. Let us offer our gifts to God, our Maker.

Offertory

Dix

Arr. Alfres V. Fedak

“For the Beauty of Each Hour”

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

Holy God, use us, and these gifts, to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and honor your presence in all people. Amen.

Hymn 766

766 The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound

1 The church of Christ can - not be bound by
2 True faith will o - pen up the door and
3 True love will not sit i - dly by when
4 If what we have we free - ly share to
5 The church of Christ can - not be bound by

walls of wood or stone. Where char - i - ty and
step in - to the street. True ser - vice will seek
jus - tice is de - nied. True mer - cy hears the
meet our neigh - bor's need, then we ex - tend the
walls of wood or stone. Where char - i - ty and



This text was the winning entry in a hymnwriting competition seeking new texts dealing with poverty and homelessness, but as the stanza sung at the beginning and end of the hymn makes clear, such specific ministries grow out of an understanding of the church as love in action.

TEXT: Adam M. L. Tice, 2005

MUSIC: African American spiritual; *Jubilee Songs*, 1884; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1940

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MC KEE

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Benediction

May God who seeks the lost keep you; may God who brings back the wandering heart uphold you; may God who binds up the injured heal you; may God who strengthens the weak empower you, now and forever. Amen.

The Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you
And also with you

Postlude

Sigfried Karg-Elert

“Now Thank We All Our God”

*Today's Liturgy has been adapted from: Feasting on the Word:
 Worship Companion, Liturgies for year A, vol. 2*

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