

Grace First
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Together – Worshipping, Witnessing, Working

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

August 9, 2020

Tenth 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

William Bradbury
arr. Melody Bober

“Sweet Hour of Prayer”

Call to Worship

God lifts us from death to life and preserves us
for God’s purposes through the compassion of
Jesus Christ our Lord and the guidance of the
Holy Spirit. With thanksgiving, praise the Lord!

Prayer of Invocation


Son of God, you walk on the waters of turmoil to
meet us in the midst of your purposed journey for our
lives. Help us to recognize your presence, remember
your promise, rely on your power, and receive your
peace through every storm. Amen.

Hymn 10


10 Sing Glory to the Name of God

(Psalm 29)


Unison



1 Sing glo - ry to the name of God, whose ho - ly splen - dor shines a -
 2 The name of God is full of might: re - sound - ing thun - der, flash - ing
 3 The name of God is wild and free, a - whirl in ho - ly mys - ter -
 4 May God for - ev - er be our peace; may hymns of glo - ry nev - er




Harmony *Unison*




broad.
 light.
 y.
 cease:

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

En - throned a - bove the
 The wil - der - ness can -
 A se - cret wrapped in
 Let all the faith - ful

crash - ing waves, the God of grace and glo - ry saves.
 not con - tain the ech - oes of the great re - frain:
 smoke and fire, still chant - ed by the tem - ple choir:
 peo - ple come; sing praise to God, the Three - in - One:



Harmony



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





This sweeping paraphrase of Psalm 29 conveys a sense of the Jewish reverence for the sheer power of God's name, regarded as too holy for mortal tongues to pronounce. In keeping with its appointment for Trinity Sunday, the final stanza gives the psalm a Christian interpretation.

TEXT: David Gambrell, 2009

MUSIC: *Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1623, alt.; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

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LASST UNS ERFREUEN

LM with alleluias

(this tune in a higher key, 327)

Call to Confession

Let us confess our sins to the Lord of all, who is generous to all who call upon him.

Prayer of Confession

Lord Jesus, we call upon you. Save us! We are intimidated by our circumstances, distracted from your purposes, drowning in doubts and fears. We are presumptuous about your will, belittling others and magnifying ourselves. We envy the blessings of others, secretly despising their dreams. We have hardened our hearts to the suffering of our siblings, your children, feeding ourselves in face of the injustice that holds them captive. Lord Jesus, who searches our hearts, lift us from sin and help us to walk with you in faith, humility, and sibling-love...

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Our God sees all, knows all, forgives all, restores all through Jesus Christ. No one who believes in him will be put to shame, for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Prayer of Illumination

God of our present trouble and promised triumph, open our eyes to see you in the midst of our struggles. Open our ears to hear your words of invitation and assurance. Open our minds to recall your wonderful works and miracles. Open our hearts to glory in your name and seek strength in your Word; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Reading

Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22

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

Music Ministry

Converse

“What A Friend We Have in Jesus”
Combined Choirs, October 24, 2010
First United Methodist Church
Grace First Presbyterian Church

Second Reading

Genesis 37


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

Sermon


The Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz

Hymn 754


754 Help Us Accept Each Other




1 Help us ac - cept each oth - er as Christ ac - cept-ed us;
 2 Teach us, O Lord, your les - sons, as in our dai - ly life
 3 Let your ac - cep - tance change us, so that we may be moved
 4 Lord, for to - day's en - coun - ters with all who are in need,



teach us as sis - ter, broth - er, each per - son to em-brace.
 we strug - gle to be hu - man and search for hope and faith.
 in liv - ing sit - u - a - tions to do the truth in love;
 who hun - ger for ac - cep - tance, for jus - tice and for bread,



Be pres - ent, Lord, a - mong us and bring us to be - lieve
 Teach us to care for peo - ple, for all, not just for some,
 to prac - tice your ac - cep - tance un - til we know by heart
 we need new eyes for see - ing, new hands for hold - ing on:



we are our - selves ac - cept - ed, and meant to love and live.
 to love them as we find them, or as they may be - come.
 the ta - ble of for - give - ness, and laugh - ter's heal - ing art.
 re - new us with your Spir - it; Lord, free us; make us one!

The scriptural basis of this text is Romans 15:7, recast as a prayer in the opening two lines of the first stanza. The many implications of living as people who have been accepted by Christ fill the remaining stanzas. This tune was composed for the first publication of this text.

TEXT: Fred Kaan, 1974
 MUSIC: Doreen Potter, 1974
 Text and Music © 1975 Hope Publishing Company

BARONITA
 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

Let us be called to this moment of stewardship: Christ has freely given us the gift of grace and salvation. Let us therefore freely bring our generous gifts of time, talent, and treasure so that grace may be extended through us to all God's people.

Offertory

Traditional Irish

arr. Melody Bober

"Be Thou My Vision"

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

We give thanks to you, O Lord, for your sustaining presence and abundant grace. Receive now these gifts we bring to you out of your generous provision in our lives. May they be used to satisfy the hungry in famine, relieve the oppressed in times of trouble, and proclaim everywhere the good news of your Son, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Hymn 462

462 I Love to Tell the Story



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
2 I love to tell the sto - ry; 'tis pleas - ant to re - peat
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best

of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it, like the rest.

I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know 'tis true;
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,

it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else could do.
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly Word.
'twill be the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain

I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry

to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

This text is drawn from the second part of a fifty-stanza poem on the life of Christ written in 1866, during the author's recovery from a serious illness. The tune named for her first appeared three years later, and the composer was responsible for the creation of the refrain.

TEXT: Katherine Hankey, 1866; ref. William G. Fischer, 1869
MUSIC: William G. Fischer, 1869

HANKEY
7.6.7.6.D with refrain

Benediction

May the generous blessing and favor of our loving, abundant God lift you, sustain you, and send you to the world with the gift of life!

The Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you
And also with you

Postlude

Johann Sebastian Bach
“Prelude in C Major”

Today's Liturgy has been adapted from: Feasting on the Word:
Worship Companion, Liturgies for Year A, Volume 2
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The Reverend Ashley Drake Mertz, Pastor
The Reverend David A. Slyter, Associate Pastor
Marialice Parish, M.M., Organist and Director of Music