



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

May 2, 2021

Welcome and Announcements

“The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult; and left untried.”

- G.K. Chesterton

Prelude

African American Spiritual
arr. Anna Laura Page

“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”

“Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land”

Handbell Ensemble

Call to Worship (Responsive)

Come let us go to the mountain of the LORD,
that we may walk the path of the Most High.

**That we may beat our swords into plough
shares, and our spears into pruning hooks.**

We are a nation at war with ourselves, a people
who have forgotten who we are.

**We gather today to remember that we are
each a child of God. We gather to claim our
belonging to each other and our commitment
to living the way of God’s peace.**

Prayer of Invocation

Gracious God, inspire us with the gift of shalom,
the gift of wholeness and the promise of your presence.
Give us wisdom to seek nonviolence as an answer to
the violence of our lives and world. Give us courage to
seek wholeness in a fractured and divided world, to find
reconciliation rather than revenge, to abandon the

instruments of violence and death and entrust our lives, our homes and our families to you. May your presence fill us and others with the thirst for unity, wholeness, and the desire to see all people valued as created in your image. May we and others receive your Shalom that we might be faithful instruments of your love. Amen.

307 God of Grace and God of Glory



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour thy power; crown thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry; bring its
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our
 thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in
 we de - plore. Let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our



bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss thy king - dom's goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

This stirring hymn used at the opening of Riverside Church in New York in 1930 was penned by its widely-known and influential pastor, and it has gained a firm place in English-language hymnals around the world. The Welsh tune name honors the Rhondda Valley in Glamorganshire.

TEXT: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930, alt.
 MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907

CWM RHONDDA
 8.7.8.7.8.7.7

Children's Moment

The Rev. David Slyter

(Following the Children's Moment, the children will be excused to attend Children's Worship. Following the service, parents may pick their child up in room 6.)

Today's Teachers are Virginia Welsh & Shantee Siebuhr

Call to Confession

Trusting in God's grace, let us join together in the prayer of confession followed by our own silent time of prayer.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

O God of all people, we know that you are as near as our next breath wherever we go, you are already there. Thank you for creating us in your image and claiming us as your children. O Lord, we confess that we have forgotten who we are; that each of us belongs to you. We confess that we have forsaken your peaceable kingdom. Forgive us O God. Remind us that your love is powerful and that your spirit will sustain us as nothing else can. Let us desire, as you desire, forgiveness rather than revenge, reconciliation rather than retribution. Give us the courage to live by your spirit. Open our hearts to you so that we also may open them to each other. Guide us on the path of peace.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

God's great love for us was revealed in Jesus Christ, in whose name we have been offered forgiveness. And so, I say to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

Prayer of Illumination

God as your Word is opened and proclaimed,
give us ears to hear, eyes to see, and hearts to
understand your Word for us this day. Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 2:2-4

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

Music Ministry

David Ashley White

“O Breath of Life”
Sanctuary Choir

O Breath of Life, come sweeping through us,
Revive your church with life and power.
O Breath of Life, come, cleanse, renew us,
and fit your church to meet this hour.

O Wind of God, come, bend us, break us,
till humbly we confess our need,
then in Your tenderness remake us;
revive, restore, for this we plead.

O Breath of Love, come, breathe within us
renewing thought and will and heart.
Come, love of Christ, afresh to win us;
Revive your church in every part.

Second Reading

Luke 6:27-36

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

Sermon

The Rev. Deanna Hollas
WALKING THE PATH OF JESUS

Hymn

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
"If We Just Talk of Thoughts and Prayers"

If we just talk of thoughts and prayers
And don't live out a faith that dares,
And don't take on the ways of death,
Our thoughts and prayers are fleeting breath.

If we just dream of what could be
And do not build community,
And do not seek to change our ways,
Our dreams of change are false displays.

If we just sing of doing good
And don't walk through our neighborhood
To learn its hope, to ease its pain,
Our talk of good is simply vain.

God, may our prayers and dreams and songs
Lead to a faith that takes on wrongs —
That works for peace and justice, too.
Then will our prayers bring joy to you.

Tune: Traditional English melody ("Though I May Speak")
Text: Copyright © 2017 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

Permission is given for free use of this hymn in local churches.
This hymn was written after the church shooting
in Sutherland Springs, Texas.

Affirmation of Faith From “A Brief Statement of Faith”

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!” With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Call to Stewardship

The commandment we have from God is this: those who truly love God must love their brothers and sisters also, as the demonstration of the genuineness of their love. The gifts we offer now are one way in which our love is put to the test. Give, then, generously, that God may be honored, and our own hearts deepened in love.

Offertory

Wilbur Held

“Prelude on Aberystwyth”

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, receive these gifts as the manifestation of our love for you. as they reach the lives within the circle of this congregation and the needs of the world beyond, may they demonstrate your love at every turn. Amen.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Communion Voluntary

Hymns of the Faith

753 Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Prayer of St. Francis



1 Make me a chan-nel of your peace. Where
2 Make me a chan-nel of your peace. Where
4 Make me a chan-nel of your peace. It



there is ha - tred, let me bring your love. Where
there's de - spair in life, let me bring hope. Where
is in par - don - ing that we are par - doned, in



there is in - ju - ry, your par - don, Lord, and
there is dark - ness, on - ly light, and
giv - ing of our - selves that we re - ceive, and in



where there's doubt, true faith in you.
where there's sad - ness, ev - er joy.
dy - ing that we're born to e - ter - nal life.

3 O, Mas - ter, grant that I may nev - er seek so
 much to be con - soled as to con - sole, to be
 un - der - stood as to un - der - stand, to be
 loved as to love with all my soul.

to Stanza 4

Guitar chords in Pew Edition do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Though popular opinion credits this prayer to Francis of Assisi, the earliest known printing was in a French religious magazine in 1912. Yet that gentle saint's spirit seems evident in these words, a quality that has spurred many paraphrases and musical settings such as this one.

TEXT: Anon., c. 1912; adapt. Sebastian Temple, 1967
 MUSIC: Sebastian Temple, 1963; arr. Alfred V. Fedak, 2011
 Text and Music © 1967 OCP

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS
 Irregular

Benediction

The Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you
And also with you

Postlude

Azmon

arr. Gilbert M. Martin

“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sunday, May 2** **Guest Preacher Deanna Hollas**
9:00 AM Sunday School Classes
10:15 AM Sanctuary Choir Warm-up
10:40 AM Morning Worship, Sanctuary
5:00 AM Youth Group, with Faith Aledo at GFPC
- Monday, May 3**
6:30 PM Troop 76, Great Hall
6:30 PM Pack 76, North Hall Classrooms
- Tuesday, May 4**
5:00 PM Sanctuary Handbell Rehearsal
6:30 PM SJ Ministry Guest Speaker Deanna Hollas
- Wednesday May 5**
7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- Sunday, May 9** **Stuff The Wagon! Mother's Day!**
9:15 AM Sunday School Classes
10:15 AM Sanctuary Choir Warm-up
10:40 AM Morning Worship, Sanctuary
No Youth Group

Cover Art Photo taken by Pastor Ashley
At Cartwright Park, Weatherford Texas

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Guest Preacher—We are excited to welcome Rev. Deanna Hollas, Gun Violence Prevention Ministry Coordinator with Presbyterian Peace Fellowship, to our worship today! The May Social Justice Ministry focus is Gun Violence Prevention. She will join us on Tuesday, May 4 at 6:30pm on zoom for a discussion. Please make every effort to join us for the discussion on Tuesday. You can find more information on our website under the Social Justice Ministries tab or through Church Matters.

Star Word Prompt for May—As we prepare for Pentecost, how has the Holy Spirit lit a fire in you in/through your star word? What new thing has it inspired you to do?

Stuff the Wagon Sunday May 9— GFPC will be holding a snack drive for the Child Advocacy Center of Parker County. The children are offered juice, water and snacks while at the center. These are the types of things they would like: Juice boxes (prefer not bags), Small (8 oz) water bottles, individually wrapped snacks such as: Goldfish, Graham Cracker Snacks (teddy grahams, scooby-doo, paw patrol), Ritz Bits, Cheez-it, Cracker Sandwich Snacks, Fruit Snacks, Chewy Granola Bars, Rice Krispies Treats.

Prayers and Concerns:

Myrlan Coleman

Dannie Woodard