



# Grace First

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Together – Worshipping, Witnessing, Working*



The Reverend Ashley Drake Mertz, Pastor  
The Reverend David Slyter, Associate Pastor  
Dr. Holly Hughes, Pianist

# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

January 10, 2021

Baptism of the Lord

## Welcome and Announcements

Let us lift up our voices in song and prayer that we may be refreshed and our hearts in praise and adoration that we may walk in the newness of life.

## Prelude

arr. Robert Vandall

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

## Call to Worship (Responsive)

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

**The Spirit of God swept over the face of the waters;**

then God said: Let there be light,  
**and God saw that it was good.**

At the beginning of his ministry, Jesus was baptized by John.

**The heavens opened, and the Spirit descended like a dove;**

then God said: This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Let us worship God.

## Prayer of Invocation

God of heaven and earth, we gather in the name of Jesus to hear your holy Word and to be immersed in your Spirit. Speak to us with grace and truth and pour out your love upon us so that this temple may resound with joyful shouts of glory; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## 408 There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit



1 There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, and I  
2 There are bless - ings you can - not re - ceive till you



know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord; there are  
know him in his full - ness and be - lieve; you're the



sweet ex - pres - sions on each face, and I  
one to prof - it when you say, "I am



know they feel the pres - ence of the Lord.  
going to walk with Je - sus all the way."

*Refrain*

Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, sweet heav - en - ly Dove, stay right here



with us, fill - ing us with your love; and for these bless - ings we



lift our hearts in praise; with - out a doubt we'll know that we have



been re - vived when we shall leave this place.

This gospel hymn grew out of this African American author and composer's intense experience of prayer with her interracial choir in Los Angeles one Sunday morning before worship. She recalled that sense of "a sweet, sweet Spirit" when she sat down at her piano the next day.

**Call to Confession**

A prophet appeared in the wilderness, calling the people to repent, be baptized, and prepare the way of the Lord. We return to the water to confess our sins, giving thanks for the grace of Jesus Christ.

**Prayer of Confession (Unison)**

God of all glory, you look from heaven and see us as we are—not worthy to kneel at your feet, not ready to welcome your way. Forgive us, gracious God. In Christ, stoop down to save us; loosen the ties that bind us to sin and set us free to love and serve you; in Jesus' name...

**Silent Confession**

**Assurance of Pardon**

Hear the good news of the gospel: As a voice from heaven said to Jesus, so God says to each of us: You are my beloved child, and with you I am well pleased. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

**Prayer of Illumination**

Send down your Holy Spirit, O God—tear open the veil of heaven and speak to us as beloved children so that we may hear and believe the good news of your Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## First Reading

Genesis 1:1-5

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

## Second Reading

Mark 1:4-11

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

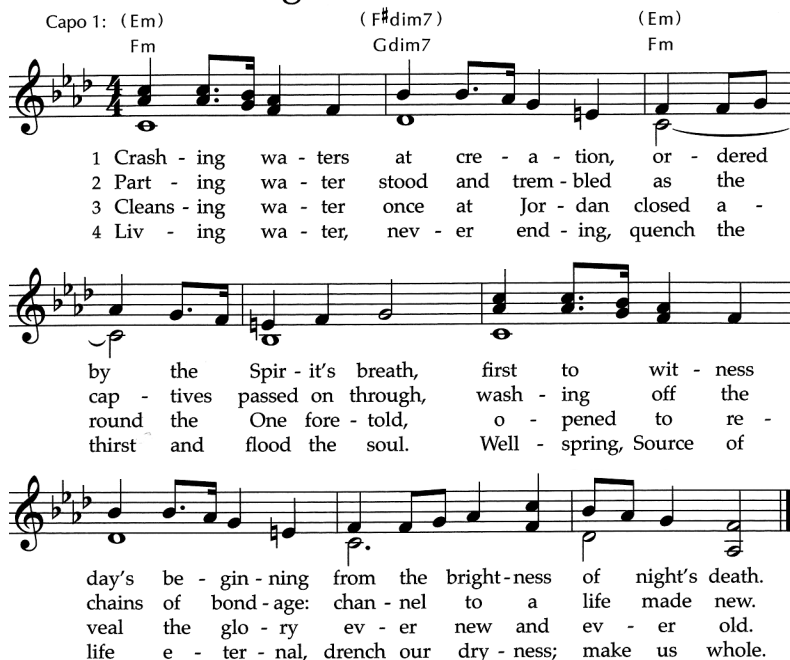
## Sermon

The Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz

## Hymn 476

### 476 Crashing Waters at Creation

Capo 1: (Em) Fm (F#dim7) Gdim7 (Em) Fm



1 Crash - ing wa - ters at cre - a - tion, or - dered  
2 Part - ing wa - ter stood and trem - bled as the  
3 Cleans - ing wa - ter once at Jor - dan closed a -  
4 Liv - ing wa - ter, nev - er end - ing, quench the

by the Spir - it's breath, first to wit - ness  
cap - tives passed on through, wash - ing off the  
round the One fore - told, o - pened to re -  
thirst and flood the soul. Well - spring, Source of

day's be - gin - ning from the bright - ness of night's death.  
chains of bond - age: chan - nel to a life made new.  
veal the glo - ry ev - er new and ev - er old.  
life e - ter - nal, drench our dry - ness; make us whole.

Like the Thanksgiving Over the Water in the rite of Baptism, this text by a United Church of Canada minister recalls significant events in salvation history involving water. The final stanza is a prayer to Christ, the Living Water (John 4:10, 14), to quench our spiritual thirst.

## **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 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**

The earth belongs to God, our creator; every good thing is a gift from the Lord. Let us glorify God through the gifts of our lives.

## **Offertory**

arr. Mark Hayes

“There is a Balm in Gilead”

## **Congregational Response Hymn 606 Old Hundredth**

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 you thanks, O God, for every blessing and spiritual gift you have poured out upon us. Let the gifts of our lives be a source of blessing in your world, all to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

## Hymn 292

GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

# 292

## As the Wind Song

風之頌

1 As the  
2 As the

wind song through the trees, as the stir - ring of the breeze, so it  
rain - bow af - ter rain, as the hope that's born a - gain, so it

is with the Spir - it of God, as the heart made strange-ly  
is with the Spir - it of God, as the green in the

warm, as the voice with - in the storm, so it is with the  
spring, as a kite on a string, so it is with the

Spir - it of God. Nev - er seen, ev - er  
Spir - it of God, mak - ing worlds that are

known new, where this wind has blown bring - ing  
new, mak - ing peace come true, bring - ing



life, bring-ing power to the world, as the  
gifts, bring-ing love to the world, as the

danc - ing tongues of fire, as the soul's most deep de -  
ris - ing of the yeast, as the wine at the

sire, so it is with the Spir - it of God.  
feast, so it is with the Spir - it of God.

Reversing the usual order, this hymn began with the music rather than the words. The composer (from Singapore) sent this tune to the author (in New Zealand) to see what text it might inspire from her. She also suggested the tune name, a Maori phrase meaning "Holy Spirit."

TEXT: Shirley Erena Murray, 2004; Chinese trans. Ee Suen Wong, 2005  
MUSIC: Swee Hong Lim, 2004  
Text and Music © 2005 Hope Publishing Company

WAIRUA TAPU  
Irregular

## Benediction

## The Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you  
And also with you

## Postlude

arr. Mark Hayes

"How Great Thou Art"

.....

Liturgy taken from Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion,  
Year B, Volume 1.  
Cover Art: Baptism-of-Christ by Morris Hunter