



Grace First

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Together – Worshipping, Witnessing, Working

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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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

August 30, 2020

Thirteenth 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

Royal Oak

arr. Sandra Eithun

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

Call to Worship(Responsive)

The God of our ancestors calls us to worship.

Praise the Lord!

Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord
rejoice.

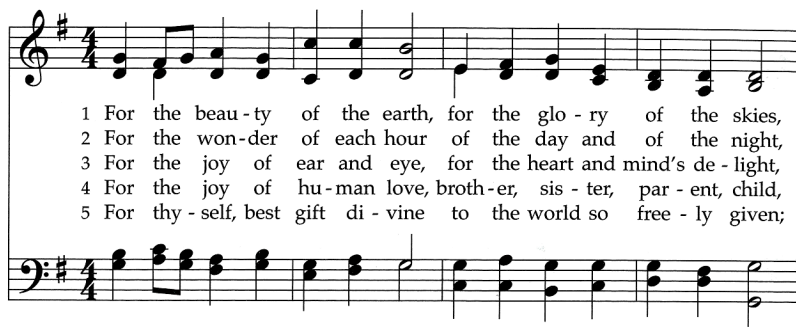
Let us worship God!

Prayer of Invocation

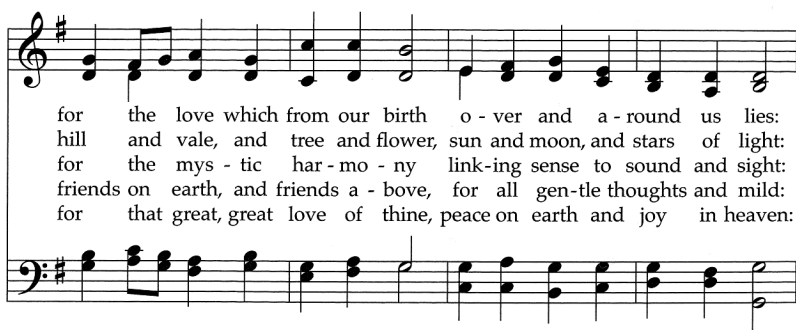
God of mystery and might, whose wonderful works are to be remembered, move in our lives, change our minds, soften our hearts, direct our feet, that we may follow you more faithfully. Yes, God, we seek to follow Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Hymn 14

14 For the Beauty of the Earth

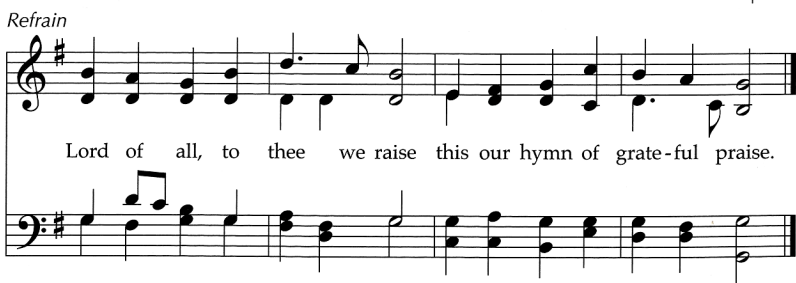


1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5 For thy - self, best gift di - vine to the world so free - ly given;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:

Refrain



Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

In the course of many revisions, the original eucharistic emphasis of this text has shifted to a hymn of thanksgiving for a wide range of human experience, with a Christological summation. It is set here to the tune that is customary in North America, though not elsewhere.

TEXT: Folliott Sandford Pierpoint, 1864, alt.

MUSIC: Conrad Kocher, 1838; abr. William Henry Monk, 1861; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

DIX

7.7.7.7.7.7

Children's Moment

Blessing of the Backpacks
with Claire Varnon & Rev. David Slyter

Call to Confession

Jesus Christ overcame evil with good so that all people might be saved from sin. Let us then confess our need for grace, confident in God's forgiveness.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God of mercy, we confess that, like the disciples, we set our minds not on divine things but on human things. Doubting your loving care, we grab for more than we need. Doubting your loving purposes, we shrink from living as your followers. Doubting your loving plan, we become stumbling blocks in your creation. Forgive us that we may gain new life in you, for it is in Jesus' forgiving name we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Jesus took up the cross for our salvation. In return for our old life of sin, he promises a new life of grace. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

Prayer of Illumination

Holy Spirit, who spoke to Moses from the burning bush, speak to us now in the reading and proclaiming of your word.

First Reading

Romans 12:9-21

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

Music Ministry

Solid Rock

"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"
Combined Choirs, October 24, 2010
First United Methodist Church
Grace First Presbyterian Church

Second Reading

Exodus 3:1-15


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

Sermon

The Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz

Hymn 316

316 Where Charity and Love Prevail



1 Where char-i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
2 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son.
3 Let strife a - mong us be un-known; let all con - ten-tions cease.
4 Let us for-give each oth-er's faults as we our own con - fess,
5 Love can ex-clude no race or creed if hon - ored be God's name;



brought here to - geth-er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
As mem-bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris-tian gen - tle - ness.
our com-mon life em - brac - es all whose Mak - er is the same.

This English paraphrase is based on a longer Latin hymn traditionally associated with the footwashing ritual on Maundy Thursday, an enactment of Christ's "new commandment" that we should love one another (John 13:34). For a chant setting of the first line of the hymn see no. 205.

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 & 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

The apostle Paul encourages us: do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. In loving service to this loving Lord, we now return to God a portion of the bounty God has provided.

Offertory

arr. Melody Bober

“Amazing Grace”

Congregational Response Hymn 606 Old Hundredth Doxology

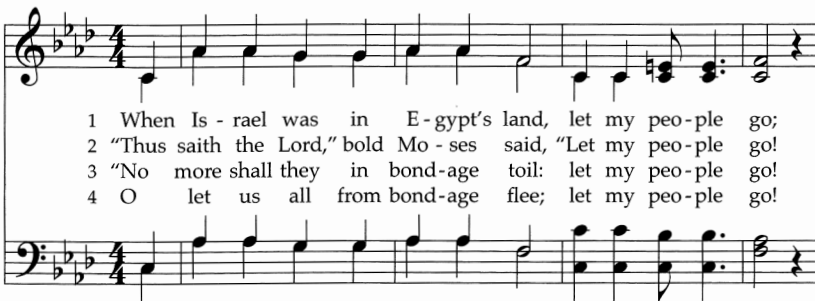
Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Offertory Prayer

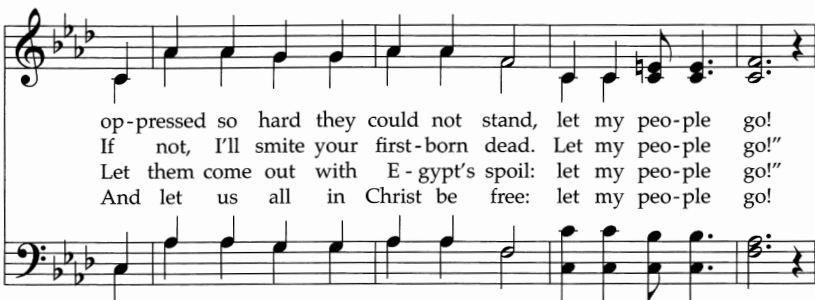
Holy God of holy ground, like Moses, we
question our fitness to serve your purposes on earth.
Overcome our qualms with the assurance of your
presence; bless these offerings that, through them, we
may do your will; in the name of the triune One. Amen.

Hymn 52

52 When Israel Was in Egypt's Land



1 When Is - rael was in E - gypt's land, let my peo - ple go;
2 "Thus saith the Lord," bold Mo - ses said, "Let my peo - ple go!
3 "No more shall they in bond - age toil: let my peo - ple go!
4 O let us all from bond - age flee; let my peo - ple go!



op - pressed so hard they could not stand, let my peo - ple go!
If not, I'll smite your first - born dead. Let my peo - ple go!"
Let them come out with E - gypt's spoil: let my peo - ple go!"
And let us all in Christ be free: let my peo - ple go!

Refrain

Go down, (go down,) Mo - ses, (Mo - ses,) way down in E - gypt's
land; tell old Pha - raoh: let my peo-ple go!

The image shows a musical score for the refrain of the spiritual 'Go Down Moses'. It is written for voice and piano. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 8/5. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Nothing in Hebrew Scripture resonated more deeply with the experience of African Americans in North America than Israel's slavery in Egypt. In this spiritual's recurring line, "Let my people go," past and present became one, as they still do for all who are oppressed.

TEXT: African American spiritual
MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. Melva Wilson Costen, 1989
Music Arr. © 1990 Melva Wilson Costen

GO DOWN MOSES
8.5.8.5 with refrain

Benediction

The Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you
And also with you

Postlude

Johann Sebastian Bach
"Prelude in D Minor"

Today's Liturgy has been adapted from: Feasting on the Word:
Worship Companion, Liturgies for Year A, Volume 2

Cover Art: Burn By Justin Christenbery