



SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

*Grace First
Presbyterian Church*



Grace First
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Together – Worshipping, Witnessing, Working



The Reverend Ashley Drake Mertz, Pastor
The Reverend David Slyter, Associate Pastor
Marialice Parish, M.M., Organist and Director of Music

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

January 17, 2021

Matthew 25: Dismantle Structural Racism Race
Relations Day/Racial & Intercultural Justice

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

Brazilian Folk Song

Arr. Susan Geschke

“Cantad al Señor”

Call to Worship (Responsive)

Come all who are created in God’s likeness.

Come all who long for justice.

Come all who desire God’s peace.

We come seeking a just peace.

We come to worship you God of peace
and justice.

Prayer of Invocation

We come to worship you Our Lord and our God,
You have graced this world with dignity and shown us
your desire for justice. As we offer our thanks and
praise may we also embrace your ways to seek justice
for all. Amen.

Hymn 450

450 Be Thou My Vision

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true Word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;
 4 High King of Heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tower;
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav - en - ward, O Power of my power.
 High King of Heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

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

These stanzas are selected from a 20th-century English poetic version of an Irish monastic prayer dating to the 10th century or before. They are set to an Irish folk melody that has proved popular and easily sung despite its lack of repetition and its wide range.

TEXT: Irish poem; trans. Mary E. Byrne, 1905; vers. Eleanor Hull, 1912, alt.
 MUSIC: Irish ballad; harm. David Evans, 1927
 Music Harm. © 1927 Oxford University Press

SLANE
 10.10.10.10

Call to Confession

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Trusting in God's grace, let us join together in the prayer of confession followed by our own silent time.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God of freedom, whether we like to admit it or not, we do not treat everybody with equality. We silently judge others based on appearance, social status, and even race. Please give us the courage to meet others who are different from us, to learn from them, and to partner with them. Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of friendship and show us your presence in those who differ most from us, until our knowledge of your love is made perfect in our love for all your children.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

God is just and forgiving. God receives us as we are, lifts us up and calls us again to be people upholding justice and peace. Receive God's pardon and peace knowing that all sins are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

Prayer of Illumination

God of Justice and peace, as we prepare to hear your word, open our eyes to see you, our ears to hear your word of justice so we may share your justice and peace in the world. Amen.

First Reading

1 Samuel 3:1-1

The word of God for the people of God

Thanks be to God

Music Ministry

Lou Williams Wimberly

“Let the People Praise Thee”

Men of the Sanctuary Choir, 2009

God be merciful unto us and bless us,
and cause His face to shine upon us,
that Thy way may be known upon earth,
Thy saving health among the nations.

Let the people praise Thee,
O God, let all the people praise Thee.
Let the nations be glad and sing for joy.
For Thou shall judge the people righteously,
and govern the nations upon earth.

Let the people praise Thee, O God,
Let all the people praise Thee!

Second Reading

John 1:43-51

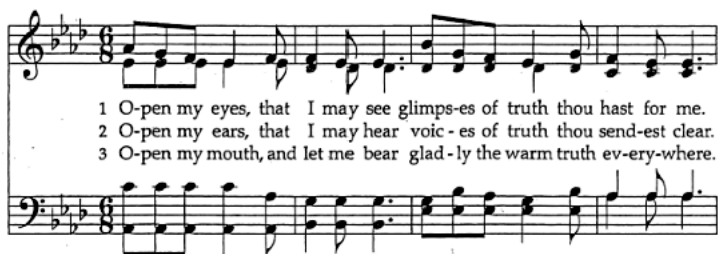
Matthew 25:34-45

The word of God for the people of God

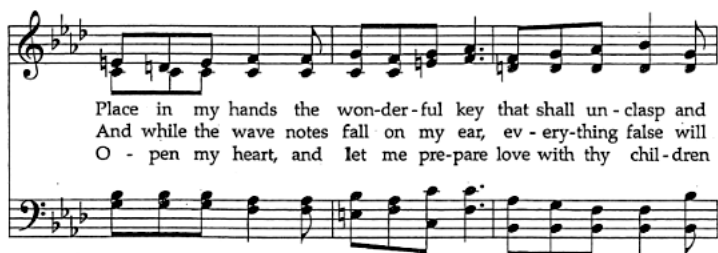
Thanks be to God

Hymn 451

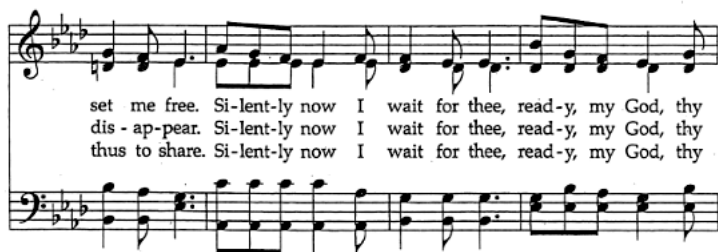
451 Open My Eyes, That I May See



1 O - pen my eyes, that I may see glimps-es of truth thou hast for me.
 2 O - pen my ears, that I may hear voic-es of truth thou send-est clear.
 3 O - pen my mouth, and let me bear glad-ly the warm truth ev-ery-where.



Place in my hands the won-der-ful key that shall un-clasp and
 And while the wave notes fall on my ear, ev-ery-thing false will
 O - pen my heart, and let me pre-pare love with thy chil-dren



set me free. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy
 dis-ap-pear. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy
 thus to share. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy



will to see. O - pen my eyes; il-lu-mine me, Spir-it di-vine!
 will to see. O - pen my ears; il-lu-mine me, Spir-it di-vine!
 will to see. O - pen my heart; il-lu-mine me, Spir-it di-vine!

The first woman to publish a collection of her own anthems, this author/composer has created in this hymn a sung prayer for illumination. It not only asks God to help us understand Scripture but also prays for the strength and courage to make God's love known to others.

Affirmation of Faith (Adapted from A Brief Statement of Faith)

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed, and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

We trust in God. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and re-newer of life. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.

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.

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

Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." We are not the center of the world or even our own lives. God frees us to reach beyond ourselves in love and care and genuine regard for a world of promise, a world in need. Let us begin that reaching in this moment and with these gifts.

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

Here we are Lord, for you called us by name. We have responded in obedient generosity and faithfulness of heart. Please accept these gifts as our expression of devotion to you. Bless these gifts and givers and may they further your kingdom here on earth. Amen.

Hymn

Arr. Philip Morgan

Text & Tune David Gambrell

“Jesus Be With Us”

A hymn for Matthew 25 churches in the PC(USA)

Benediction

Go forth from this place, nourished and prepared for the challenge of following Jesus. Go, eager to share good news with a hesitant and hopeless world. Go, eager to invite others to “come and see” this Jesus whom we love. Amen

The Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you
And also with you



MATTHEW 25

Matthew 25 in the PC(USA):

A bold vision and invitation

We are a Matthew 25 church!

Our congregation has accepted the PC(USA)'s invitation to follow Jesus' teachings in Matthew 25:31–46 by becoming active disciples and making a difference in our community and the world.

As part of our Matthew 25 commitment, we pledge to embrace one or more of these three areas of focus:

- Building congregational vitality by deepening and energizing our faith and growing as joyful leaders and disciples actively engaged with our community as we share the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed
- Dismantling structural racism by fearlessly applying our faith to advocate and break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color
- Eradicating systemic poverty by acting on our beliefs and working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor

To learn more and for ideas on how to get involved and do your vital part as a member of a Matthew 25 church, please visit pcusa.org/matthew25.



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Mission