



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

June 13, 2021

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome and Announcements

As you prepare for worship today you are invited to light a candle in your worship space or gaze upon the Christ candle in the Sanctuary to center yourself for the worship of God.

Prelude

St. Columba

arr. Janet Linker

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

*Call to Worship (Responsive)

Small as a mustard seed and lofty as a cedar:

The kingdom of God is growing.

While we sleep and rise night and day:

The kingdom of God is growing.

The low are brought high; the high are brought low:

The kingdom of God is growing, it's large branches are home to all kinds of people!

*Prayer of Invocation

God, Sower of seeds, be at work among us, we pray, that your church may thrive in faithfulness. Whether we are the size of a tall cedar or a small sprig, it does not matter. You are able to put us to good use. Not by our efforts, but by your power and grace we bear fruit, produce boughs of spacious welcome. You can make even a dry tree flourish! Even we can become a new creation! Urge us on, then, in the love of Christ. In his name we pray. Amen.

15 All Creatures of Our God and King

Unison



1 All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voice
 2 O broth-er wind with clouds and rain, you nur-ture gifts
 3 O broth-er fire, so warm and bright, chase off the shad-
 4 All who for love of God for-give, all who in pain

and with us sing, Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
 of fruit and grain. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
 ous of the night. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
 or sor-row grieve, Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Unison



O broth-er sun with gold-en beam, O sis-ter moon
 O sis-ter wa-ter, flow-ing clear, make mu-sic for
 Dear moth-er earth, who day by day un-folds such bless-
 Christ bears your bur-dens and your fears; so, e-ven in

Harmony



with sil-ver gleam, sing prais-es! Al-le-lu-ia!
 your Lord to hear. Sing prais-es! Al-le-lu-ia!
 ings on our way, sing prais-es! Al-le-lu-ia!
 the midst of tears, sing prais-es! Al-le-lu-ia!

Unison



Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Sometimes called "The Canticle of the Sun," this cosmic roll call allows human beings to give voice to all creation. One of the earliest religious poems in the Italian language, it is made even more expansive by this broad, repetitive melody with interspersed "Alleluias."

TEXT: Francis of Assisi, 1225; trans. composite
 MUSIC: Geistliche Kirchengesäng. 1623, alt.; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

LASST UNS ERFREUEN
 LM with alleluias
 (this tune in a higher key, 327)

Children's Moment

Children's Worship

Call to Confession

God will not count our trespasses against us, longing instead for us to be reconciled. We come before God, then, in honesty, humility, and hope.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Gracious God, we so often miss your kingdom at work among us. Captivated by power and prestige, we overlook the mustards seeds you have planted all around. Forgive us for failing to notice where and how you are at work. Forgive us when we work against your plans and purposes—fostering divisions when you have called us to a ministry of reconciliation; beset by apathy when the world has such deep needs; building walls to keep people out when your branches offer generous nests. Help us to grow in faithfulness, we pray, so that we might reach our fullest height of faith.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon (Responsive)

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

We are ambassadors for Christ, for God has reconciled us through him!

Prayer of Illumination

Holy God, we walk by faith and not by sight. So, guide our steps in your Word today that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are kept from falling and find our way in your way. Through Christ, we pray. Amen.

First Reading

2 Corinthians 5:6-13

The word of God for the people of God

Thanks be to God

Music Ministry

Dunlap's Creek

"We Walk By Faith"
Sanctuary Choir

We walk by faith and not by sight;
no gracious words we hear
from Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke;
but we believe Him near.
We may not touch His hands and side,
nor follow where He trod;
but in His promise we rejoice, and cry,
"My Lord and God!"
Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;
and may our faith abound
to call on You when You are near
and seek where You are found.
That, when our life of faith is done,
in realms of clearer light
we may behold You as You are,
with full and endless sight.

Second Reading

Mark 4:26-34

The word of God for the people of God

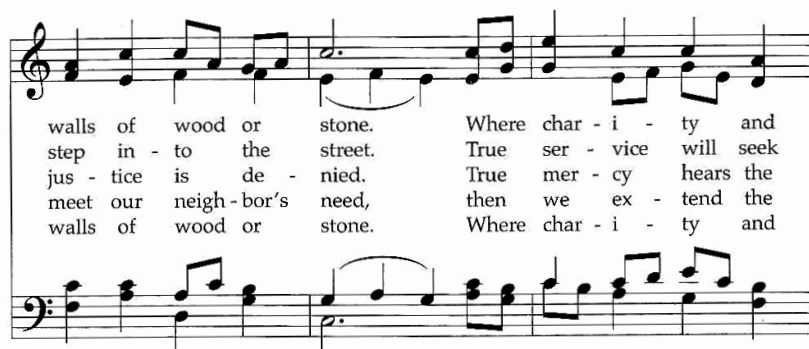
Thanks be to God

766

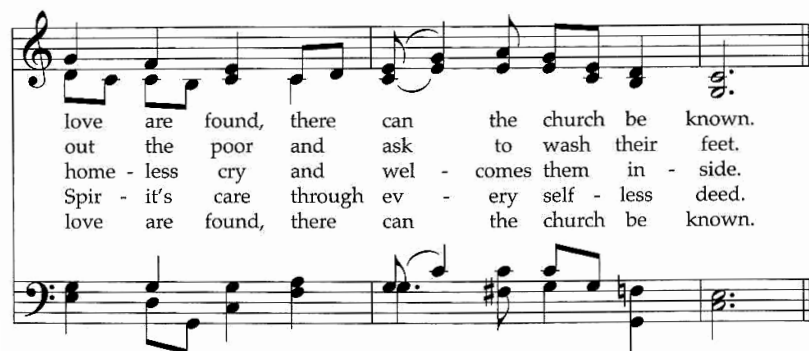
The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound



1 The church of Christ can - not be bound by
 2 True faith will o - pen up the door and
 3 True love will not sit i - dly by when
 4 If what we have we free - ly share to
 5 The church of Christ can - not be bound by



walls of wood or stone. Where char - i - ty and
 step in - to the street. True ser - vice will seek
 jus - tice is de - nied. True mer - cy hears the
 meet our neigh - bor's need, then we ex - tend the
 walls of wood or stone. Where char - i - ty and



love are found, there can the church be known.
 out the poor and ask to wash their feet.
 home - less cry and wel - comes them in - side.
 Spir - it's care through ev - ery self - less deed.
 love are found, there can the church be known.

This text was the winning entry in a hymnwriting competition seeking new texts dealing with poverty and homelessness, but as the stanza sung at the beginning and end of the hymn makes clear, such specific ministries grow out of an understanding of the church as love in action.

TEXT: Adam M. L. Tice, 2005

MUSIC: African American spiritual; *Jubilee Songs*, 1884; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1940.

Text © 2005 GIA Publications, Inc.

MC KEE
CM

Service of Installation

***Affirmation of Faith (Unison)** 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.

Prayer for the People and Lord's Prayer (Unison)

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](#) (click here to be directed to our online giving)

We give thanks in word and song to God, who makes us glad and gives us joy because of all that God has done. We enact our thanksgiving through these tithes and offerings. May God put to good use what we give today.

Offertory

Beach Spring

"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

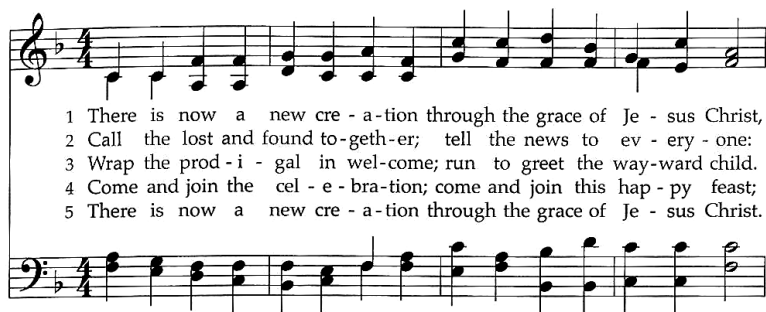
Congregational Response Hymn 606 *Old Hundredth*

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.

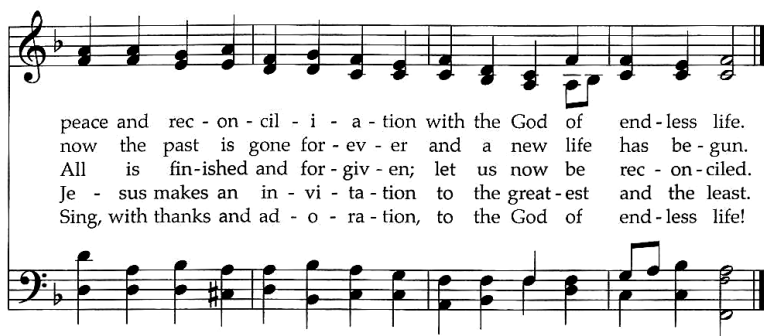
Offertory Prayer

Life-giving God, we know that you will
accomplish everything you purpose. Accept, we pray,
these offerings from our hands. May they contribute to
what you are doing so that life may flourish. Amen.

774 There Is Now a New Creation



1 There is now a new cre - a - tion through the grace of Je - sus Christ,
2 Call the lost and found to - geth - er; tell the news to ev - ery - one:
3 Wrap the prod - i - gal in wel - come; run to greet the way - ward child.
4 Come and join the cel - e - bra - tion; come and join this hap - py feast;
5 There is now a new cre - a - tion through the grace of Je - sus Christ.



peace and rec - on - cil - i - a - tion with the God of end - less life.
now the past is gone for - ev - er and a new life has be - gun.
All is fin - ished and for - giv - en; let us now be rec - on - ciled.
Je - sus makes an in - vi - ta - tion to the great - est and the least.
Sing, with thanks and ad - o - ra - tion, to the God of end - less life!

At the center of this text stands a reference to the well-known parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11–32), and the fourth stanza forms an effective bridge between that gospel story and the celebration of the Lord's Supper. The first and last stanzas draw on 2 Corinthians 5:17.

TEXT: David Gambrell, 2009

MUSIC: Witt's *Psalmodia Sacra*, 1715, alt.

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STUTTGART

8.7.8.7

Benediction

Sleep and rise, night and day, and keep alert to the kingdom of God all around. May God bless you with new life, Christ tend you in grace, and the Holy Spirit guide your steps, as you walk by faith now and forever.

The Peace of Christ (Responsive)

The peace of Christ be with you
And also with you

Postlude

Benedetto Marcello

“Psalm 19—The Heavens Declare”

Today's Liturgy has been adapted from:

The Journal of Worship Resources, Vol. 13, No. 3; Vol. 16, No. 3

Cover image source:

<http://theologasia.ph/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/seeds.jpg>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, June 13

- 9:00 AM Sunday School Classes
- 10:15 AM Sanctuary Choir Warm-up
- 10:40 AM Morning Worship, Sanctuary
- 11:45 AM Corporate Meeting
- 12:00 PM Christian Ed, Library
- 1:00 PM PYP Women's Bible Study
- No Youth Group

Monday, June 14

- 5:00 PM Worship & Music

Tuesday, June 15

- 5:00 PM Sanctuary Handbell Rehearsal
- 6:30 PM Social Justice Weekly Discussion

Wednesday, June 16

- 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, June 20 Father's Day

- 9:00 AM Sunday School Classes
- 10:15 AM Sanctuary Choir Warm-up
- 10:40 AM Morning Worship, Sanctuary
- No Youth Group

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Corporate Meeting TODAY—The Trustees and Session have called a GFPC Corporate Meeting following worship for the purpose of approving new Bylaws for the Corporation.

Stewardship—If you would like to contribute financially to the ministries of Grace First, you may do so by placing your offering in the designated box in the Narthex as you leave the Sanctuary, or by visiting this link:

<https://gracefirstpc.churchcenter.com/giving>

Star Word Prompt for June—Now that we're halfway through, revisit the initial thoughts, impressions, and prayers you first had with your star word. How have they changed? How have you grown?

VBS—Time to sign the kiddos up for [GFPC VBS 2021!](#) For ways you can help with this years VBS, contact Pastor David or Leslie Goeldner.

Pastor Schedule—Pastor David is taking the youth on a Mission Trip and will be out from Monday, June 14 thru Friday June 18. Immediately following that he will be taking vacation and will return on June 27. During this time if you have any needs for pastoral care, please contact [Pastor Ashley](#) via email or telephone: 817-565-6756 or the church office at 817-594-2744.

Back-to-School Supply Drive—We will be collecting backpacks and other school supplies during VBS and throughout the summer. See the back for more details!

Grace First Back-to-School Event

The 2021-2022 school year will be exciting for returning students who will resume regular classroom instruction and for students who are entering school for the first time.

The members of Grace First have an opportunity to support and encourage elementary students in grades Pre-K through 5 by providing much needed school supplies through a back-to-school event.

When: August 7, 2021 from 9:00am—noon
Where: GFPC Great Hall
Purpose: To equip students with school supplies to begin the new school year

Ways that you can help:

- Purchase backpacks for children ages 2-11
- Donate school supplies
- Make a monetary donation to GFPC with a notation for the Back-to-School event
- Volunteers will be needed the day before and the day of the event to set up, hand out supplies, and clean up. Please contact the church office if you would like to be a part of this exciting time for children in our community.

We will be collecting backpacks and other school supplies during VBS and throughout the summer.

Thank you for making a difference for these young students!