

Grace First

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Together – Worshipping, Witnessing, Working

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THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

August 23, 2020

Twelfth 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

Trad. American Melody
arr. Sandra Eithun

“I’ve Got Peace Like a River”

Call to Worship

As in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function. So, we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members of one another. As God’s redeemed and reconciled people, let us offer our worship and praise.

Prayer of Invocation

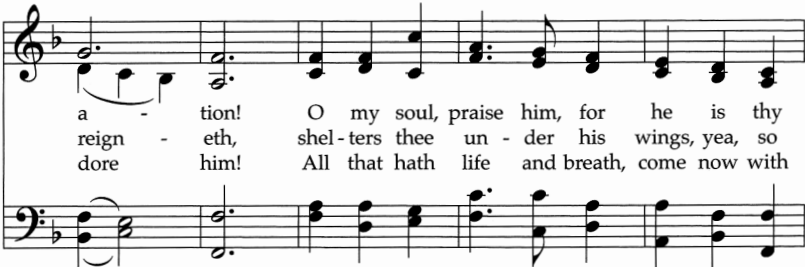
God of mercy, we rejoice in this time when we remember your constant and faithful presence. We thank you for the opportunity to pray, to sing, and to gather as your people. As we worship, shape us with your love and grace. Soften our hearts to be instruments of compassion. Grant us your vision of a just world. Amen.

Hymn 35

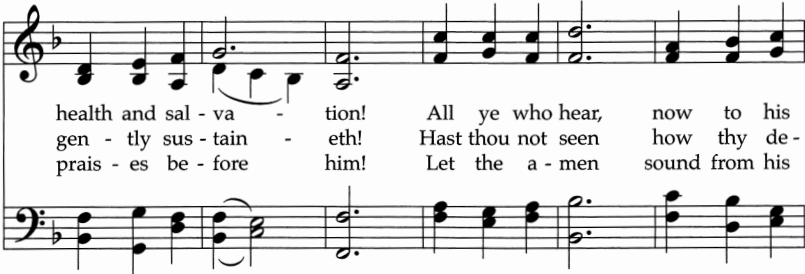
35 Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty



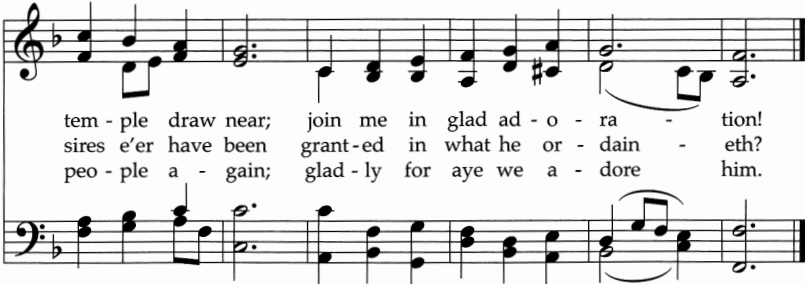
1 Praise ye the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
 2 Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous - ly
 3 Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me a -



a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy
 reign - eth, shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so
 dore him! All that hath life and breath, come now with



health and sal - va - tion! All ye who hear, now to his
 gen - tly sus - tain - eth! Hast thou not seen how thy de -
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his



tem - ple draw near; join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sires e'er have been grant-ed in what he or - dain - eth?
 peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for aye we a - dore him.

This very strong 17th-century German hymn employs many phrases from the psalms, especially Psalms 150 and 103:1-6. It did not receive an effective English translation until the mid-19th century, but has remained popular ever since, thanks in part to its stirring tune.

TEXT: Joachim Neander, 1680; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.

MUSIC: Stralsund Erneueren Gesangbuch, 1665; harm. *The Chorale Book for England*, 1863

LOBE DEN HERREN

14.14.4.7.8

Call to Confession

Scripture tells us that if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins. Let us come before God and confess our sins corporately then in our own private confession.

Prayer of Confession

Our God, we confess that we often act out of fear instead of love. We use our frustrations as an excuse to dehumanize others. We forget that all people are your people and we turn away from your vision of a just world. Forgive us. Give us the courage to act on behalf of those who need us. Fill us with the compassion to transform bitterness and hatred into the possibility of new life.

Silent Confession**Assurance of Pardon**

We are members of the body of Christ by the grace and love of God. As God in Christ has reached out to claim us and to incorporate us into the household of God, God also forgives us and gives us the gift of new life. Friends know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

Prayer of Illumination

God of the Highest, reigning in glory, send down your Spirit of wisdom to shine on your heavenly Word, so that we may worship you with joy, continually blessing your name. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

First Reading

Romans 12:1-8

The word of God for the People of God

Thanks be to God**Music Ministry**

arr. Rusty Crownover

"Dear Lord and Father of Mankind"

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways,
re clothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives thy service find,
In deeper reverence, praise.

Drop thy still dews of quietness
till all our strivings cease,
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our de-sire
thy cool-ness and thy balm,
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire,
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm!

In simple trust like theirs who heard
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word,
rise up and follow thee.

Second Reading

Matthew 16:13-20

The word of God for the People of God

Thanks be to God**Sermon****The Rev. David A. Slyter**

Hymn 307

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

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

God invites us to experience and share compassion, love, and generosity with all the world. The tithes and offerings we bring together are a sign of our commitment to this life and to God's vision of a just world for everyone.

Offertory

Written & arr. Rusty Crownover

"Morning Meditation 1 for Guitar and Flute"

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

Generous God take these gifts and use them to open doors for those who do not know you. Take these gifts and dedicate them to releasing the captive and assuring the outsider of your graceful presence. Take our gifts of time, talents, and tithes and use them now to the work of the Kingdom. Amen.

Hymn 700

700 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

1 I'm gon-na live so (live so)
2 I'm gon-na work so (work so) God can use me an - y -
3 I'm gon-na pray so (pray so)
4 I'm gon-na sing so (sing so)

where, Lord, an - y - time!
(an - y - time!) I'm gon-na
I'm gon-na
I'm gon-na
I'm gon-na

live so (live so)
work so (work so) God can use me an - y -
pray so (pray so)
sing so (sing so)

where, Lord, (my Lord,) an - y - time! (an - y - time!)

This African American spiritual has more depth than may at first appear: for people who are bound in slavery to sing about dedicating themselves to God's use shows a profound awareness of God-given self-worth despite circumstances that would deny their human or spiritual value.

TEXT: African American spiritual
MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. Wendell P. Whalum, 1984
Music Arr. © Estate of Wendell P. Whalum

I'M GONNA LIVE
Irregular

Benediction

May the God of hope fill you with courage. May the presence of Jesus Christ fill you with compassion. May the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with passion to set the world on fire with holy justice. Amen.

The Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you
And also with you

Postlude

Johann Sebastian Bach
"Prelude in G Minor"

Today's Liturgy has been adapted from:
The Journal of Worship Resources Vol. 12 Year A
Cover Art Courtesy of:
<https://graceblog.files.wordpress.com/2012/09/who-do-you-say-i-am>