



GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11100 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS 66210 ♦ 913-345-1256 ♦ gpcpc.org

Service of Worship
Earth Day

April 22, 2018 8:50am

Gathering All People in a Caring Christian Community

*SINGING Shout to the North
Martin Smith

Blessed Be the Name
Matt and Beth Redman

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Fred Holbrook
(Please sign and pass the Grace Greetings books at this time.)

*CALL TO WORSHIP
One: The Lord is risen! Alleluia!
All: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!
One: All who obey God's commandments abide in God, and God abides in them.
All: By this we know that God abides in us—by the Spirit that God has given us. So then, let us worship God!

COME AS A CHILD
*(Children ages 4 through 1st grade may go to **Awakening to Worship**, our child-friendly worship time. Greeters at the back of the Sanctuary will go with children to Room 12 downstairs where parents may pick up their children following worship. Our Nursery welcomes young children and our ushers can assist families to the nursery located in the children's wing.)*

Sing 250, **v. 1** "In the Bulb There Is a Flower" by Natalie Sleeth
*In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from P.C.(U.S.A.) *Confession of 1967*)
God's redeeming work in Jesus Christ embraces the whole of humanity's life: social and cultural, economic and political, scientific and technological, individual and corporate. It includes humanity's natural environment as exploited and despoiled by sin. It is the will of God that God's purpose for human life shall be fulfilled under the rule of Christ and all evil be banished from God's creation.

Biblical visions and images of the rule of Christ, such as a heavenly city, a father's house, a new heaven and earth, a marriage feast, and an unending day culminate in the image of the kingdom. The kingdom represents the triumph of God over all that resists God's will and disrupts God's creation. Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in people, and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption.

With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God.

"Now to God who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST
One: May the peace of Christ be with you and everyone.
All: And also with you and all others!
(Let us greet one another with expressions of love.)

*SINGING Thy Word
Amy Grant and Michael Smith

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND SILENT PRAYER

*Equipping People to Develop and Share a
Faith That Works in Real Life*

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 23
(Old Testament, Page 501) Maggie Blankers

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON I John 3:16-24
(New Testament, Page 240)

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words.
Thanks be to God!

SERMON "Obeying and Abiding" Fred Holbrook

Sending People to Serve in the World

OFFERING OF GIFTS & MUSIC

*SINGING "In a Round World" Text by Manley Olson
Congregation & Symphony Orchestra BUNESSAN

**In a round world, no corners to hide in,
All life connected, part of the whole.
God made but one earth which needs protection.
We face this challenge, we claim this goal.**

**From space one sees a lovely blue marble,
A floating speck in the star-filled sky.
This was the insight told by the psalmist;
We are but dust, yet seen in God's eye.**

**Gone are the days when we could be masters,
Using earth's gifts for our selfish ends.
Our role today is that of God's stewards,
To be a church that speaks and defends.**

**Only our God can create a species.
Can we preserve what God has designed?
When we destroy life, we change the balance
In ways not thought of, with ends not seen.**

**It's time we alter our basic outlook
Renounce dominion, give up our pride.
Working with God, restoring creation,
In a round world with nowhere to hide.**
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*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

SENDING MUSIC *(seated)* setting by Claude T. Bass
"Canticle: All Creatures of Our God and King"
Symphony Orchestra – Pam Kelly, director

***If convenient/able, please stand.**
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