



# GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Service of Worship  
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 16, 2017

8:50am

*Gathering All People in a Caring Christian Community*

\*SINGING

This Is the Day

By Brenton Brown

Let Everything That Has Breath

By Matt Redman

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Often the road has been stony and hard. Sometimes we have stumbled and even fallen.

**All: But God has been our friend and our guide. We have no cause to be alarmed. God is faithful to us, even when we are faithless.**

One: Today we rejoice in God's faithful love, and together ask for strength and signs of hope and life.

**All: And again we are drawn together to celebrate the life that is ours in Christ Jesus. Thanks be to God!**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Harold Frye

*(Please sign and pass the Grace Greetings books at this time.)*

COME AS A CHILD

*(Worship bags are available for children who remain in the Sanctuary. Nursery age children are welcome to be taken to our Nursery which is located in the Children's Wing. An usher can direct you.)*

CONFESSION OF SIN

Forgive the poverty of our worship, our unbelief and hesitating witness, our blindness to what you would have us to be and to do, O God. Forgive us for imagining ourselves to be the center of the world, and for seeking security in the works of our own hands and minds, O God. Forgive us for the waste of our time and talents and gifts, and for our abuse of the earth, your creation, O God. Forgive us that so little of your love is passed through us to others, and that we have cared so little about the sufferings and injustices that they endure, O God. Forgive us by your mercy, O God, for the sins held secret in our hearts. Your grace and understanding are beyond human comprehension. Your love abounds and, for that, we give you thanks. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Despite our urge to pull apart, in spite of our tenacity to hold to our old ways, our loving God continues to call us back together again, showing us the true nature of forgiveness.

**All: God does not keep score of our wrongs or measure how far we have wandered. God welcomes us, like a mother scooping up her lost children, like a father embracing his prodigal offspring. We are welcomed home, encouraged to learn from that forgiveness, to offer it to ourselves and to others again and again, as God offers it to us in Jesus Christ, our hope and our home. 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

Oceans

By Matt Crocker, Joel Houston

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND SILENT PRAYER

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

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Joshua 24:14-25

*(Old Testament, Page 216)*

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Luke 15:1-2, 11-32

*(New Testament, Page 78)*

The Rev. Dr. Tim Hoare

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words.

**Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

"Coming Home"

Tim Hoare

*Sending People to Serve in the World*

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC

\*SINGING

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

By Chris Tomlin

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

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**Timothy D. Hoare** is Professor Emeritus of Humanities and Religions at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, KS. In 1992, he received his Ph.D. in Religion and the Arts from Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA, his M.Div. from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, IL in 1988, and his B.A. in Religion/Philosophy and Speech/Theatre from Missouri Valley College, Marshall, MO in 1977.

From 1977-1985, Dr. Hoare studied and worked in professional theatre as a performer and teacher of mime and mask technique. Dr. Hoare's ongoing research interests center on Southeast Asian religions, fine arts, and languages—more specifically, those of the Kingdom of Thailand. He has participated in field studies in East and Southeast Asia, and is the author of numerous papers and conference presentations on Southeast Asian subjects. In the summer and fall of 2008, Dr. Hoare was a guest Professor of Humanities at Mae Fah Luang University in Chiang Rai, Thailand.

After nineteen years of teaching at JCCC, Dr. Hoare retired at the end of the spring 2017 semester. Dr. Hoare's wife, Baikaew, is from Thailand, and after almost thirty years of marriage, they will be moving to Thailand permanently in September.