



GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

August 19, 2018 8:50am

Service of Worship
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering All People in a Caring Christian Community

*SINGING Shout to the North Martin Smith
Here I Am To Worship Tm Hughes

*CALL TO WORSHIP
One: In the name of God, the Creator,
All: we gather.
One: In the name of God, the Redeemer,
All: we gather.
One: In the name of God, the Comforter,
All: we gather. We have come to worship God.

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

COME AS A CHILD, A YOUTH, OR AN ADULT Blessing of the Backpacks
(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.)

Sing 664 "Morning Has Broken"
*Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation; praise every morning,
God's re-creation of the new day!*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)* "Have Mercy On Us"
From Ann Weems, *Kneeling in Jerusalem*

O God, from whose eyes the measure of our faith is not hidden, wrench from us now all religiosity, all rules and regulations of our scheduled selves that separate us from your Holy Spirit.

O God, who calls us each by name to be the church, give us love enough to make a difference, give us vision enough to follow, give us endurance enough to hold steadfast in the face of the unholy.

O God, who claims us as disciples, bless us now and touch us with your holiness that we might have commitment enough to be good news to the poor.

O God of the bruised, we pray for healing. Comfort those who cry in dark corners: the lonely, the strangers, the weary, the fearful, the disappointed, the anxious, the depressed, the forsaken, the dispirited, the grieving, and those who lie in sickness and in pain.

O God, who wept over Jerusalem, open our eyes to those around us who scream in silence the depth of their despair.

O God of compassion, heal our hard hearts to tenderness.

O God of the oppressed, fire us with justice that we might proclaim liberty to the captives.

O God, who gave us the rainbow and parted the Red Sea, we dare to pray for miracles for the powerless.

O God of the hungry, we pray for those who have not bread. Remove, O God, the bondage of hunger by removing our shackles so that we might share our bread.

O God of the homeless, we pray for those who have no land. We pray that you will open the doors of our hearts and let your wandering people in.

O God of the captives, have mercy on those who must live out their lives enslaved to someone else because of race or politics or economics or faith. Loose our bonds that we might risk our own securities on their behalf.

O God of peace, give peace to our hearts and to our nation and to our world.

O Lamb of God, have mercy upon us! Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON From Ann Weems, *Reaching for Rainbows*

One: Once there was a time when we danced. Remember? We weren't afraid to dance then.

All: Once we could cry and laugh and dance and sing.

One: Once we could be angry and direct our anger appropriately. Once we could love fiercely.

All: Jesus said, "Unless you turn and become like children..."

One: When we think about Jesus and the children, we think about openness, about open arms—his and theirs.

All: We think about holding and cherishing.

We think about flowers and games in the sun.

We think about squealing and giggling and unrestrained laughter.

We think about the spirit with which Jesus received them, accepting, loving, seeing the aliveness that adults often forfeit for security and prestige.

One: We think of their spirit, trusting, free, ready, eager.

All: "For of such is the kingdom of God."

One: Sh-h-h-h.

All: Should we sh-h-h-h the Kingdom of God? No, in Jesus Christ, we are made new. 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 Jesus' love.)

*SINGING Lord Have Mercy Steve Merkel

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND MUSICAL MEDITATION
"Far Away" by Peter Jung
Cal Sweeten, hammered dulcimer

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

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Genesis 1:14-19 Nelson Townsend
(Old Testament, Page 1)

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Philippians 2:12-18
(New Testament, Page 197)

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words.
Thanks be to God!

SERMON "Gospel Partners: Shining Stars" Fred Holbrook

Sending People to Serve in the World

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC Cal Sweeten, hammered dulcimer

*SINGING Shine, Jesus, Shine by Graham Kendrick

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

**If convenient/able, please stand.*

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