



covenant

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



August 23, 2026 – 10am

Covenant is an accepting, welcoming community sharing the glory of God's love with all.

PRELUDE

"Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty" arr. Rouse

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Believers, Skeptics, Heretics, and Seekers

People: We gather together with questions and convictions

Leader: Tussling and wrestling with the mysteries of faith

People: The Spirit delights in our discernment of Wisdom

Leader: God has given us agency, creativity, and imagination

People: We are set free to pursue a multitude of truths

Leader: Let us discover what it is we believe

*Please rise in body or spirit



In this text the first day of the week represents a threefold commemoration of Creation, Resurrection, and Pentecost—each an encounter with Trinitarian activity centered on one of the Three Persons.

1 O day of rest and gladness,
O day of joy and light,
O balm for care and sadness,
most beautiful, most bright;
on you, the high and lowly,
through ages joined in tune,
sing "Holy, holy, holy"
to the great God triune.

2 On you, at earth's creation
the light first had its birth;
on you, for our salvation
Christ rose from depths of earth;
on you, our Lord victorious
sent Spirit forth from heaven.
And thus on you, most glorious,
a triple light was given.

3 On you, God's people, meeting,
the Holy Scripture hear,
Christ's living presence greeting,
through bread and wine made near.
New graces ever gaining
from this our day of rest,
we reach the rest remaining
to spirits of the blest.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION



**Forgiving God,
we confess that we are conformed to this world.
We conform to this world's frantic pace,
too hectic to notice all the blessings you provide.
We conform to this world's reckless waste,
exploiting what you entrust to our care.
We conform to this world's shallow values,
oblivious to the giftedness of people different from us.
We conform to this world's impatient attitudes,
preferring the latest instead of the lasting.
Forgive our conformity and transform us, O God.
We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

(Silence for personal confession)

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

HYMN #582 "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me"



Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.
Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.
Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord, be with you all. **And also with you.**

HYMN #188

"Jesus Loves Me"



TALK WITH THE CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION



THE FIRST READING

Psalm 124 (NRSVUE)

Holy wisdom, holy word. **Thanks be to God.**



THE GOSPEL READING

Matthew 16:13-20 (NRSVUE)

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY†

Living God,
you accept our stumbling faith,
our misplaced answers,
our false horizons,
and through them build a way of peace:
empower us
to bind the wounds of the world
and loose the debts of oppression,
that all may confess the grace
that is your work alone;
through Jesus Christ, anointed for the world. Amen.

SERMON

"What Do You Say?"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven... (Hymnal p. 35. We say "debts & debtors.")



INVITATION TO THE OFFERING



OFFERTORY

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness" arr. Forrest

*DOXOLOGY #606

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**



*PRAYER OF DEDICATION



*HYMN #14

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

In the course of many revisions, the original eucharistic emphasis of this text has shifted to a hymn of thanksgiving for a wide range of human experience, with a Christological summation. It is set here to the tune that is customary in North America, though not elsewhere.



1 For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:

Refrain:

Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

2 For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light:
(Refrain)

3 For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight:
(Refrain)

4 For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild:
(Refrain)

5 For thyself, best gift divine
to the world so freely given;
for that great, great love of thine,
peace on earth and joy in heaven:
(Refrain)

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Reprise “For the Beauty of the Earth”

† From Prayers for an Inclusive Church by Steven Shakespeare. New York: Church Publishing, 2009.

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Assisting in Worship Today:

Abbi Menke – Liturgist

Jim Eder – Vocalist

Cherie Brooks – Director of Music

Katie Wynkoop – Organist/Pianist & Assistant Director of Music

Brian Biller– Media Production Specialist

Erin Wise – Director of Children's & Youth Ministries

Rev. Joel A. Esala – Pastor

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Bible Study - Wednesday at 1:00pm in the Lounge. Join Bible Study with the QR code.

Centering Prayer- Thursday at 8:30am in the Lounge





The shelves are looking a little bare!

Our SOS Food Pantry is in need of 'just about everything'. Donations of nonperishable food or monetary donations are greatly appreciated.

OUTDOOR SOUND BATH & LABYRINTH WALK

Just \$5 per session (cash or Venmo)

SATURDAYS 9/12, & 10/10, 9:30-10:30AM



Join Katy Oberle outside on the portico by the steps for a full-body mindful listening experience designed to promote relaxation, reduce stress, and enhance well-being. You're invited to bring a yoga mat, blanket, and/or pillow (chairs will be available if you'd like to sit instead), or you can choose to walk the labyrinth during the sound bath.



GREAT FOOD | GREAT PEOPLE | GREAT FUN!

WELCOME BACK COOKOUT

Join us for hot dogs, brats, chips, kids activities and MORE!



Please sign up to bring food and/or volunteer by scanning the QR code, following the link, or completing a paper form available at the welcome table or reception desk.

<https://bit.ly/26WelcomeBack>



CHILDRENS EDUCATION

SUNDAY
9AM | ROOM 115

RETURNING SEPTEMBER 13TH

Children 3 years - 6th Grade



ADULT FORUM

SUNDAY
9AM | LOUNGE

RETURNING SEPTEMBER 20TH

9/20 & 9/27:

Hinduism with Seth Josephson, PhD, OSU
professor in comparative studies, Dept of
Religion



YOUTH GROUP

SUNDAY
11AM | ROOM 115

RETURNING SEPTEMBER 20TH

Youth 7th- 12th grade



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