



covenant

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



August 30, 2026 – 10am

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

PRELUDE

"O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus" arr. Sorenson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: From the midst of our lives, vibrant and troubled

People: God longs to connect with us

Leader: They meet us with compassion and call us to courage

People: God entices us all toward deeper relations

Leader: With land and creature, neighbors and strangers

People: We find our lives entangled and entwined

Leader: For the sake of all life, God summons our attention

People: We worship the God who calls us to deeper life, love, and liberty

*Please rise in body or spirit



This 20th-century text was created to provide words for this traditional tune named for a small village on the Isle of Mull, off the west coast of Scotland. Through repeated use of "new" and "first," each morning is treated as a re-creation of the promise of the original day.

1 Morning has broken
like the first morning;
blackbird has spoken
like the first bird.
Praise for the singing!
Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing
fresh from the Word!

2 Sweet the rain's new fall
sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall
on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness
of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness
where God's feet pass.

3 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!

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION



God of mercy,
we confess that, like the disciples,
we set our minds not on divine things
but on human things.
Doubting your loving care, we grab for
more than we need.
Doubting your loving purposes, we shrink
from living as your followers.
Doubting your loving plan, we become
stumbling blocks in your creation.
Forgive us that we may gain new life in you,
for it is in Jesus' forgiving name we pray. 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

Romans 12:9-21 (NRSVUE)

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



SPECIAL MUSIC

"Wade in the Water" arr. Raney

THE GOSPEL READING

Matthew 16:21-28 (NRSVUE)

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY†

Passionate Lord,
walking to Golgatha
in the midst of our confusion:
free us from our images of you
which keep you enthroned in idle power,
apart from the pain and sin of the world;
lead us to embrace the scandal of the cross
and let our violence die
that greater life might rise;
through Jesus Christ, who took the form of a slave. Amen.

SERMON

"Our Greatest Teachers"

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

"Let There Be Peace On Earth" arr. Hayes

*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 #223

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

This familiar text from the beginning of the 18th century grew out of Isaac Watts' desire to give Christians the ability to sing about gospel events. It is set here to a very restrained tune from the early 19th century inspired by the patterns of Gregorian chant.



1 When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down;
did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Reprise “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

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

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Assisting in Worship Today:

Jude McLean – Liturgist

Allie Garner – Vocalist

Linda Gabel, Laura Hooks, Jude McLean, Lynn Turney, Makoto Winkler, Crystal King - Handbell Ensemble

Amy Kendall - Pianist, Handbell Ensemble

Nan Davidson – Director of Handbell Ensemble

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



CHANCEL FLOWERS



From Joel Esala with gratitude for the support, prayers, and love shared during his sabbatical.



**SOS
FOOD
PANTRY**

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.

YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR



FEATURING BEN POWERS

September 16

11:30 AM | LOUNGE

RSVP:

WITH GERLINDE OR
MEGAN IN THE OFFICE!

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.

**CHILDRENS
EDUCATION** **RETURNING
SEPTEMBER 13TH**
SUNDAY
9AM | ROOM 115

Children 3 years through 6th grade

**ADULT
FORUM** **RETURNING
SEPTEMBER 20TH**
SUNDAY
9AM | LOUNGE

9/20 & 9/27:

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

**YOUTH
GROUP** **RETURNING
SEPTEMBER 20TH**
SUNDAY
11AM | ROOM 115

Youth 7th- 12th grade

JOIN ONE OF OUR MUSIC ENSEMBLES!

No Experience Necessary



Cherie Brooks



Nan Davidson



Katie Wynkoop



Ashley Woodard

CONTACT THE DIRECTOR TO LEARN MORE!



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