



WELCOME BACK

September 13, 2026 – 10am

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

PRELUDE

“When in Our Music God is Glorified” arr. Limbaugh

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Grace looks like a lavender sunrise, like pale blue robin eggs.

People: Grace feels like hands resting kindly on either side of your face, like a deep, full inhale.

Leader: Grace sounds like the wisdom of elders—a tuning fork, a supper bell.

People: Grace moves with the dreams of the young—dancing bodies, determined feet.

Leader: Grace is the reality that in this moment, we can begin again.

People: By Grace we have been saved.

Leader: We worship together a Grace-Loving God.

*Please rise in body or spirit



As was his custom, the author wrote this hymn to accompany his sermon on 1 Chronicles 17:16–17, preached on January 1, 1773; he called it "Faith's Review and Expectation." Much of its current popularity comes from this now-familiar tune, an association that began in 1835.

1 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come.
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

4 The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

5 When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION



Nurturing God, like a hen gathers her brood under her wings, you desire to gather your children. But division and disagreement plague us. We cling to rigid certainties, approach each other in arrogance, and fail to listen. We walk away from conflict, rather than working through it. Forgive us, Holy God. Help us grow in faith, mature in relationship, and be transformed through your steadfast love. Amen.

(Silence for personal confession)

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

HYMN #750

"Goodness is Stronger Than Evil"

Recognizing that this text arose from the years of apartheid in South Africa adds depth and resonance to its already confident language. Yet these words can also be read as a summary of Christ's death and resurrection, the true basis of our hope that good will triumph over evil.



Goodness is stronger than evil;
love is stronger than hate;
light is stronger than darkness;
life is stronger than death.
Victory is ours; victory is ours,
through God who loves us.
Victory is ours, victory is ours,
through God who loves us.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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



TALK WITH THE CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION



THE SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 2:1-22(NRSVUE)



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

SERMON

“Practice Resurrection: Reconciling Grace”

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

“If You Want to Sing Out, Sing Out” arr. Matt & Adam Podd

***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**





1 In our light, in our darkness,
In our hopes, in our fears,
You have purpose here.
In our highs, in our lows
In our joys, in our sorrows,
In our rights, in our wrongs,
When we're weak and when we're strong,
In our story, in our song, you belong.

Refrain:

You belong just as you are,
Here in this place.
You are the image of God.
You belong, come raise your voice,
Come hear the word,
Listen to God, and know that you belong.

2 In your prayer, in your silence,
In your grief, in your tears,
God will hold you near.
In your strength, in your weakness,
In your storm, in your peace,
When you give all you can,
When you question where you stand,
When you hate what you see,
Growing pains have made you weak,
You are still given grace, you are justified by faith.
You still have a gift and song, you belong. Refrain

3 We on earth have no sorrow
That God cannot feel;
God will help us heal.
We are called in this place,
In our hearts, and in our faith;
To tell the story and the song; we belong.
Tell the story and the song; we belong.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Reprise “You Belong”

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Assisting in Worship Today:

Jim Hamilton – Liturgist

Whitney Dodds – 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



GREAT FOOD | GREAT PEOPLE | GREAT FUN!

WELCOME BACK COOKOUT

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



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 19TH

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

3RD SATURDAY
FIRST WATCH KINGSDALE



BEGINNING OCTOBER 3RD

MEN'S STUDY BREAKFAST

1ST SATURDAY
9:00 AM | LOUNGE



**ADULT
FORUM**

SUNDAY
9 AM | LOUNGE

**RETURNING
SEPTEMBER 20TH**

9/20 & 9/27:

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



**YOUTH
GROUP**

SUNDAY
11 AM | ROOM 115

**RETURNING
SEPTEMBER 20TH**

Youth 7th- 12th grade



**CHILDRENS
EDUCATION**

SUNDAY
9 AM | ROOM 115

**CONTINUES
SUNDAY**

Children 3 years through 6th grade

YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR

FALL GATHERING

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.



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