

# Grace

and peace to you  
2 Thessalonians 1:2

January 15, 2023

10:30 a.m.

## Grace Presbyterian Church

Prelude

We Shall Overcome

A. Hailstork

### GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Welcome & Announcements

The Peace

Introit

Surely the Lord is in This Place

H. Colvin

Surely the Lord is in this place.  
This is none other than the House of God.  
And this is the Gate of Heaven.  
Surely the Lord is in this place.

Call to Worship

Psalm 27

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

**The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?**

Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!

**"Come," my heart says, "seek the Lord's face!" Your face, Lord, do I seek.**

Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path.

**I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.**

Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage;

**Wait for the Lord!**

Hymn

We Are Marching in the Light of God

We are marching in the light of God;  
we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching in the light of God;  
we are marching in the light of God.

We are dancing . . .  
We are praying . . .  
We are singing . . .

Invitation to Confession

Romans 3:23-24

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; yet we are justified by the gift of God's grace through the redemption that is ours in Christ Jesus.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

**O God, forgive our pretense of self-sufficiency, our claim to be in control of our destinies, and our pride in our sometimes thinking that we live more decently and honorably than others do. Help us to face and overcome our ignorance of the human need that our relative wealth and influence could help meet, our evasion of responsibility for wrong because we know that righting it would change our way of life, and most of all our indifference to the suffering of others. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Moment of Silent Reflection and Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the Good News! Hope does not disappoint us,

**For God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.**

Believe this Good News and give thanks:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God!**

Celebration of Forgiveness

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning, new mercies I see.

All I have needed thy hand hath provided.

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Anthem

Sing Unto the Lord a New Song

Sing unto the Lord a new song!  
Sing unto the Lord all the earth!

For God is great and greatly to be praised.  
Oh, Sing unto the Lord a new song.  
Sing unto the Lord all the earth.

Word with the Children

Prayer for Illumination

Pour out your Holy Spirit, O God, and prepare our hearts to accept your word.  
Silence in us any voice but your own, that, hearing, we may also follow your will;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Lesson (pg. 854 Old Testament)

Amos 5:14-15, 21-24

Second Lesson (pg. 162 New Testament)

Romans 12:9-21

Sermon

In His Own Words

Hymn

The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound

The church of Christ cannot be bound  
by walls of wood or stone.  
Where charity and love are found  
there can the church be known.

True faith will open up the door  
and step into the street.  
True service will seek out the poor  
and ask to wash their feet.

True love will not sit idly by  
when justice is denied.  
True mercy hears the homeless cry  
and welcomes them inside.

If what we have we freely share  
to meet our neighbor's need,  
then we extend the Spirit's care  
through every selfless deed.

The church of Christ cannot be bound  
by walls of wood or stone.  
Where charity and love are found,  
there can the church be known.

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

Affirmation of Faith

Romans 8:1, 28, 38,39

**We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Like a Mighty Stream

Hogan & Jacobson

Lift every voice and let us sing!  
In every song let freedom ring!  
From every soul comes a noble dream  
Let justice roll like a mighty stream.

Chorus

Like a mighty stream, let justice roll like a mighty stream

Oh, every trial we'll overcome,  
when every child beneath the sun,  
And every soul shall live as one.  
The noble dream has just begun! (Chorus)

Doxology

Praise to God the Father  
Da n' ase

Praise to God the Father;  
praise to God the Son;  
praise to God the Spirit:  
praise to the Three-in-One.  
Sing praise, sing praise to the Lord on high.  
Praise to God Almighty;  
praise to the Holy One.

Prayer of Dedication

## SENDING TO SERVE GOD'S KINGDOM

Hymn

Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

Today we all are called to be  
disciples of the Lord,  
to help to set the captive free,  
make plowshare out of sword,  
to feed the hungry, quench their thirst,  
make love and peace our fast,  
to serve the poor and homeless first,  
our ease and comfort last.

God made the world and at its birth  
ordained our human race  
to live as stewards of the earth,  
responding to God's grace.  
But we are vain and sadly proud;  
we sow not peace but strife.  
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud  
that threatens all of life.

Pray justice may come rolling down  
as in a mighty stream,  
with righteousness in field and town  
to cleanse us and redeem.  
For God is longing to restore  
an earth where conflicts cease,  
a world that was created for  
a harmony of peace.

May we in service to our God  
act out the living word,  
and walk the road the saints have trod  
till all have seen and heard.  
As stewards of the earth may we  
give thanks in one accord  
to God who calls us all to be  
disciples of the Lord.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee

J. S. Bach

# “To Know Christ, and To Make Him Known.”

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Musicians: Chancel Choir, Cherub Choir, Valerie Clayton, Ruth Fulleborn, Karen Whitney,  
Guest Organist

Pastor: Jim Reisner

Worship Leader: Joseph Caminiti

Audio and Video: Ben Morris

*The chancel flowers this Sunday are given to the Glory of God by Marylouise and John Still, in memory of Cletus Kraft, Jr.*

*The rose in the chancel is in honor of the birth of Charles Robert Gerhard, born on January 10th, son of Leslie and Charles, younger brother of Gregory, and grandson of Rob and June Hudson.*

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## Scripture

### Amos 5:14-15, 21-24

<sup>14</sup> Seek good and not evil,  
that you may live,  
and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you,  
just as you have said.

<sup>15</sup> Hate evil and love good,  
and establish justice in the gate;  
it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts,  
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

<sup>21</sup> I hate, I despise your festivals,  
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

<sup>22</sup> Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,  
I will not accept them,  
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals  
I will not look upon.

<sup>23</sup> Take away from me the noise of your songs;  
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

<sup>24</sup> But let justice roll down like water  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

### Romans 12:9-21

<sup>9</sup> Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup> love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup> Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup> Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; <sup>17</sup> do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>18</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. <sup>19</sup> If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>20</sup> Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, <sup>21</sup> for it is written, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord.” <sup>22</sup> Instead, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” <sup>23</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.