



## 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – October 18, 2020 – 11:00 AM

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

Cherie Brooks (Director of Music) and Andrew Patterson – Media Producers

Rev. Jonathan T. Carlisle, Gap Pastor

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

Piano Prelude: I Will Arise and Go to Jesus arr. by Heather Sorenson  
a time of meditation, preparing our hearts to be open to God Cherie Brooks

Welcome!

Our liturgist today is Terry Kennedy Mancini who recently served on the Pastor Nominating Committee. Our guest musician is Cherie Brooks, our Director of Music.

Announcements

A congregational meeting is hereby called for both in-person and Zoom meeting, following worship on November 1, for the purpose of voting on the Terms of Call for a new pastor and for voting on nominations from our Church Nominating Committee for elders, deacons and members of the Church Nominating Committee.

As Terry pours water into the baptismal font, you have peace like a river in your soul. You have joy like a fountain in your soul. You have love like an ocean in your soul. Give thanks to God for rivers of peace, fountains of joy and oceans of love.

Prayer of Invocation

**Responsive** Call to Worship – Psalm 46 by Leslie F. Brandt

Leader: Our God is still our refuge and strength.

**Response: God knows our problems and our fears.**

Leader: Thus we have no business doubting God

**Response: even though the earth is convulsed in tragedy.**

Leader: God's eternal plan is not canceled by the whims of human leaders

**Response: or the freakish accidents of nature.**

Leader: God is here among us. God continues to be our refuge and strength.

Hymn of Praise #623 – I've Got Peace like a River Whitney Dodds

I've got peace like a river; I've got peace like a river;

I've got peace like a river in my soul.

I've got joy like a fountain... in my soul.

I've got love like an ocean... in my soul.

Call to Confession

As you announce peace with your mouth, make sure that greater peace is in your hearts. . . . For we have been called to heal wounds, to bind up the broken, and to call home any who have lost their way. —Francis of Assisi

### Unison Prayer of Confession

**We confess, O Lord, to admiring the beautiful cross in front of us. We prefer the empty cross of your sacrifice to the demands you make on our discipleship. Show us how to apply all of your words today to our lives. Create within us a humble heart to be patient with the shortcomings of others. Give us words of peace rather than reactions of conflict. Show us how to pray for others, especially those with whom we disagree and those who do not share our values. We confess to you the ways we have hurt others this past week. Hear our silent prayers of confession ..... Amen.**

### Assurance of Pardon

Richard Rohr has written "The best criticism of the bad is the practice of the better." Let us take God's words to heart this morning. Receive the gift of the Lord's forgiveness by letting go of your hope for a different past. Having let the past go, lead a new life in Christ. Through the pain, receive the joy of the Lord which is your new strength. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

### Passing of the Peace – sign language

### The Intersection of Faith and Discipleship – the coming election

### Reading from Paul's Letters – Galatians 5:16-26 (fruit of the Spirit)

### Talk with Children – Pastor Jon

### Gospel Reading – Matthew 21:33-46 (Parable about a Vineyard Owner)

### Sermon – **Character Makes a Difference**

*If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit (Galatians 5:25)*

How do we become new creatures with new character?

### Pastoral Prayers and the Lord's Prayer

Musical offering            Be Thou My Vision                            arr. by Philip Stopford  
   Covenant Virtual Choir

### Update Announcement – Stewardship campaign

"Sharing the Glory of God's Love" is this year's theme for our stewardship drive. A big thank you to everyone who has turned in a pledge card! Your pledges help our ministry teams plan their programs and help us reach out to others. As of this past week, we have received pledges totaling close to \$336,760 which is 50% of our goal.

If you haven't turned in your pledge card, please consider doing so. You can mail or email your pledge card to Ingrid Smith in the Finance Office. Thank you for your generous heart, your financial support and your commitment to changing lives for Christ.

### Call to Stewardship – Pledge Dedication

We give thanks to God for all of our members, disciples of Jesus Christ. But the seed in the good earth—these are the good-hearts who seize the Word and hold on no matter what, sticking with it until there's a harvest. You love **spreading seeds of love.**

A lesson learned from the pandemic is to let go of making plans and to learn how to hold on to what is essential in your life. Your stewardship decisions are expressions of your love for others. Thank you.

“Giving is the closest thing we have on a daily basis to getting a true picture of a person’s character with what you value greatly.”

“All growth comes from God... Faith is a gift from God, and fruitful discipleship is the work of God in us.” Every one of us has an investment portfolio at Covenant Presbyterian Church.

You don’t have to do it all. Jesus is the Sower and gives each of us what we need when we need it most. Jesus says “thank you” to each of you for being helpers for those who can’t do everything for themselves.

We dedicate these commitment cards and ask the Lord to multiply them as Jesus did with the loaves and fish – to feed the multitudes and to show the world the love of Christ through this church.

**Unison Prayer of Dedication**

**As we together invest in the future of Covenant Presbyterian Church, thank You for giving us the wisdom to be generous, the patience to share with others and the kindness to see your face in the face of strangers. In Jesus’ name. Amen.**

Closing Hymn #291 Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

Whitney Dodds

Spirit, spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free.  
Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.  
You moved on the waters; you called to the deep;  
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;  
and over the eons, you called to each thing,  
“Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.”  
You call from tomorrow; you break ancient schemes;  
from the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams.  
Our women see visions; our men clear their eyes.  
With bold new decisions your people arise.

Charge

Benediction

Piano Postlude

His Eye is on the Sparrow

arr. By Bill Wolaver

Cherie Brooks

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