

Order of Worship for March 13, 2022

Gathering Music

Your Grace Is Enough

Great is Your faithfulness, O God, You wrestle with the sinner's heart
You lead us by still waters and to mercy, and nothing can keep us apart

So, remember Your people. Remember Your children
Remember Your promise, O God

Your grace is enough! Your grace is enough!
Your grace is enough for me!

Great is Your love and justice, God. You use the weak to lead the strong
You lead us in the song of Your salvation and all Your people sing along

So, remember Your people. Remember Your children
Remember Your promise, O God

Your grace is enough! Your grace is enough!
Your grace is enough for me!

Your grace is enough! Your grace is enough!
Your grace is enough for me!

So, remember Your people. Remember Your children
Remember Your promise, O God

Your grace is enough! Your grace is enough!
Your grace is enough for me!

Yeah, Your grace is enough. Heaven reaching down to us
Your grace is enough for me.

God, I see Your grace is enough. I'm covered in Your love
Your grace is enough for me, for me

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

Call to Worship

Liturgist

Let us worship the Triune God.
Let us worship the One
who spoke in the beginning
and created something out of nothing.

Let us worship the Triune God.
Let us worship the One
who took on the clothing of humanity

to set those who were oppressed free.

Let us worship the Triune God.
Let us worship the One
whose Spirit rests continually upon us,
calling us from sorrow-filled endings
to bright new beginnings.

Let us worship our Triune God now with songs of praise!

Hymn of Praise:* **Standing on the Promises** **GTG #838*

1 Standing on the promises of Christ my king,
through eternal ages let his praises ring;
glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
standing on the promises of God.

Refrain:

Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior;
standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.

2 Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
by the living Word of God I shall prevail,
standing on the promises of God. [Refrain]

3 Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,
bound to him eternally by love's strong cord,
overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,
standing on the promises of God. [Refrain]

4 Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
listening every moment to the Spirit's call,
resting in my Savior as my all in all,
standing on the promises of God. [Refrain]

Preparing for the Word

Call to Confession

Sisters and brothers, let's not let sin control the way we live.
Let's not give in to sinful desires.
Rather, let's offer ourselves to God, who through his mercy has brought us from death to life.

Liturgist

Prayer of Confession

**God, we confess that we have sinned in your sight.
Despite our best efforts and intentions,
we have failed to consistently live in ways that bring honour to your name.
Forgive us, we pray
Through the grace of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit,**

set us free from the grip of sin—from attitudes and actions that do not lead to life.

— Time of silent reflection —

Assurance of Pardon

Liturgist

Once we were slaves to sin, living lives that led only to death.

But thanks be to God!

In God's mercy, God has set us free from the power of sin and death,
and has offered us forgiveness and eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Now we are free to choose life, and to use our lives to bring honour and glory to God!

Rejoice in the amazing grace of God!

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

Hearing the Word

Message for all God's Children:

Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

Prayer for illumination:

Liturgist

We have sought your presence here, O God.

We are listening now for your Word:

your Word that gives life;

your Word that heals the wounded heart;

your Word that speaks truth.

Teach us your Way, O Lord Jesus.

Lead us on your well-lighted path. Amen

Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Liturgist

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness. Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates...."

Anthem: In Christ Alone

New Testament Lesson: Philippians 3:17-4:1

Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will

transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Sermon: Stand Firm my Beloved

Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

Hymn: Great Is Thy Faithfulness GTG #39

1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

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!

2 Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]

3 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! [Refrain]

Responding to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

Liturgist

On our own what we have to give
doesn't amount to much
in the light of all God has given to us
But together as a congregation, as a part of the Body of Christ here on earth,
what we offer God in love becomes more, not simply added together,
but somehow multiplied in its usefulness.
We ask you, Lord, to bless our gifts
and with the addition of your blessing,
to make it enough.
Amen

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

**Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. AMEN**

Prayers of the people

Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

Dear Lord our God, we are thankful that you are constantly at work in our lives.

You are...

a help in times of difficulty
a strength in times of weakness
a guide when we feel lost and alone

We know that through Your Son, Jesus Christ,

You have the power...

to transform lives
to mend broken relationships
to bring strength to the weary
and hope to the broken hearted.

So we bring our worries and our burdens, our hopes and dreams,
before your throne of grace,
knowing that you are the Lord of our lives and the hope of the world.

Today we pray for world leaders

that they may always seek the peace and security of our world:

We pray for countries laid waste by war and conflict and dictatorship,
remembering especially, the plight of people in Ukraine

We pray for the police and the emergency services,
as they seek the peace and security of our nation;
and for ordinary people caught up in the events of world politics.

We pray for the world-wide Church,
recognizing our fellowship with faithful people in Africa, Asia
and throughout the developing world.

We ask your blessing upon ministers and missionaries,
medical workers and Aid Agencies
whose task it is to feed the hungry,
heal the sick and support the broken hearted.

Lord we pray for Westminster Presbyterian Church in Rehoboth Beach,
For those working to bring new leadership to this Your Church,
And for the leadership You have already chosen to come here.

We give thanks for our church and its people,
and gladly acknowledge all the gifts you have given us.
Grant us your help and guidance and support.

We too, have problems and needs and concerns—
worries about ourselves, our families and those we love.
We remember in our prayers today...
those who are worried about their health and what the future might hold
those who feel anxious or depressed or afraid
those who are in hospital
those with burdens they find impossible to share
those who still mourn the loss of someone dear to their heart.
We pray for those we name in our hearts and for those we name aloud now.

And we pray for ourselves—
that we might know the gentle authority of Jesus
in all parts of our lives—
leading us, guiding us, encouraging and directing us,
now and always.
Inspire us now, Lord, to pray with confidence the prayer that Jesus taught us:

The Lord's Prayer

Affirmation of Faith

(from Belhar Confession)

Liturgist

We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end.

We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family.

We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another; that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God's Spirit it is a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain.

We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ; that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells, that God's lifegiving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore that God's lifegiving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world.

We believe that God has revealed himself as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people; and that God calls the church to follow him in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry; that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind; that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows. the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering.

We believe that, in obedience to Jesus Christ, its only head, the church is called to confess and to do all these things. Jesus is Lord. To the one and only God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory for ever and ever.

Going forth in Joy!

Closing Hymn It Is Well with My Soul GTG #840

1 When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain:

It is well with my soul;
it is well; it is well with my soul.

2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
and hath shed his own blood for my soul. [Refrain]

3 He lives: O the bliss of this glorious thought.
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! [Refrain]

4 Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
even so it is well with my soul. [Refrain]

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

*Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep,
by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us
that which is pleasing in his sight*

The Lord bless you and keep you;

the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace

*Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at
work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever.
Amen.*

Postlude

Steven Johnson