

Grace *at home*

ORDER OF WORSHIP | SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2020 | 10 A.M ONLINE

Worship online at gpch.org

Welcome

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Great Things

Morning Prayer

Elder Ethan Tritt

Holy Spirit Have Your Way

Expressing our Gratitude

Hardie Morgan, Executive Director—Ministry Support

gpch.org/give

Stories of Grace

Kaela Beasley and Chip Conant

I Am Set Free

Sermon Text

Colossians 2:16-23

Vic and Nancy Condrey

Sermon

Freedom in Chris

The Rev. Chris French, Pastor of Missional Living

Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross

Benediction

Choral Postlude

Go Forth Into the World (Rutter)

Postlude

A Mighty Fortress is Our God (Michael Praetorius)

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HOUSE WORSHIP LITURGY | SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2020

Invitation and Gathering

Consider lighting a candle to signal that worship has begun and that God is present wherever and whenever two or more gather in God's name. When we gather for worship we acknowledge that God is the one who gathers us together.

Worship live at gpch.org

Application Questions

1. What ceremonies or religious rituals do we elevate too highly?
2. What is it in our community of faith and in the modern day church that places people on spiritual pedestals?
3. What is the problem with living out the kind of faith based on what we say we can't do?
4. What is keeping you from living in freedom under God's direction?

Call to Prayer

From Isaiah 26:3

You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast,
because they trust in you.

Prayer

Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and turn them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal us and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ.

Hear us now as we bring our own confessions before you...

Brief time of silence

Prayers of the People

You are the God of peace and the Father of mercy and comfort.
Hear us now as we pray not only for ourselves, but for those in our care
and for the world that you love.

(take a few minutes to lift up the needs of the world before God now)

We thank you that you hear our prayers and are always with us. Amen.

—continued—

Declaration of Faith

Our World Belongs to God, Stanzas 1, 2, and 6

As followers of Jesus Christ, living in this world— which some seek to control, and others view with despair— we declare with joy and trust: Our world belongs to God!

From the beginning, through all the crises of our times, until the kingdom fully comes, God keeps covenant forever: Our world belongs to God! God is King: Let the earth be glad! Christ is victor: his rule has begun! The Spirit is at work: creation is renewed! Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

We rejoice in the goodness of God, renounce the works of darkness, and dedicate ourselves to holy living. As covenant partners, set free for joyful obedience, we offer our hearts and lives to do God's work in the world. With tempered impatience, eager to see injustice ended, we expect the Day of the Lord. We are confident that the light which shines in the present darkness will fill the earth when Christ appears. Come, Lord Jesus. Our world belongs to you.

Sending

We do not worship for ourselves alone, but for the sake of the world. God gathers us, speaks to us, and feeds us so that we might be formed into people who look and act like Jesus in our everyday lives.

Benediction

Go now in peace, in the knowledge of God's power.
Go now in confidence, in the knowledge of God's strength.
Go now in joy, in the knowledge of God's love.
Go BE the church! Amen.

Live It Out:

Select at least one activity below to complete this week.

Pray: Pray for God to reveal the ways you've been placing higher value on ceremonies and religious rituals rather than on seeking Him through prayer and reading His Word. As He shows you, pray for Him to teach you how to remain connected in Him through a personal relationship with Him.

Journal: Continue to journal this week on how God has given you freedom; in prayer ask for vision where you could grow more or fly higher because of the freedom that God has given you.

Connect: Set aside time this week to connect with Jesus. Fill your time with Him with prayer, Scripture reading, and reflection.