



The mission of GPPC is to embody God's love
by cultivating community, practicing hope, repairing harm, and doing justice as Jesus did.

November 19, 2023

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

11:00am

+ indicates you are invited to stand

Bold print indicates congregation in unison

GATHERING

The act of assembling in Jesus' name bears witness to the Church's identity and mission as Christ's body in the world. Gather your thoughts and feelings. Entrust yourself to God's saving grace.

Prelude

Tiento de falsas. 6º tono

Pablo Bruna

Greeting and Announcements

+ Call to Worship

[inspired by a Call to Worship in *Liturgies from Below*]

One: Hallelujah, hallelujah, praise be to God!

**All: To the God of land, God of the sea, God of the sky, God of the mountains,
the God of rain, the provider of manna, God of our ancestors.**

One: Come and meet us this morning, as we bring our hearts to worship you.

**All: We come with hearts that are dry, hopeless, and heavy.
We come with hearts that are joyful, grateful, and light.**

One: We come with hope that you are the God who provides.

All: You are the God of yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

+ Hymn 42 Your Faithfulness, O Lord, Is Sure

Prayer of Confession

[from the Iona Community]

Kenyan traditional

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major and 2/4 time. The first staff is for the Leader and the second for the All. The lyrics are: 'Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing, through the Word in - vit - ing, of - fer - ing for - give - ness, com - fort and joy. 1.(lis - ten) 2. joy.'

Eternal God, gladly we live and move and have our being in you.

**Yet always in the midst of this creation-glory, we see sin's shadow and feel death's darkness:
around us in the earth, sea, and sky – the abuse of creation,
beside us in the broken, the hungry, and the poor – the betrayal of one another,
and often, deep within us – a striving against your Spirit.**

**O Trinity of love, forgive us that we may forgive one another,
heal us that we may be people of healing,
and renew us that we also may be makers of peace.**

Silent prayer

Assurance of Forgiveness

+ Gloria (Hymn 582) *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

WORD

Where the scriptures are read and proclaimed, Jesus Christ, the living Word, is present by the power of the Holy Spirit. God's Spirit also evokes our response. Through singing, affirmation, and prayer, with the help of God's Spirit, we discern Jesus Christ, receive Christ's grace, and resolve to follow Christ's way.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Luke 22:54-62 (NRSV)

Then they seized Jesus and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. But Peter was following at a distance. When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said, "This man also was with him." But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." A little later someone else, on seeing him, said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not!" Then about an hour later still another kept insisting, "Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean." But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about!" At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Why We Tell the Story

Carla Pratt Keyes

+ Hymn 226 *There in God's Garden*

+ Affirmation of Faith

[from *A PCUSA Brief Statement of Faith*]

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls all kinds of people to all ministries of the Church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

+ Somos Uno (Hymn 322)

We are one in Christ Jesus, all one body, all one spirit, all together.

Somos uno en Cristo, somos uno, somos uno, uno solo.

We share one God, one mighty Lord, one abiding faith, one binding love,

One single baptism, one Holy Comforter, the Holy Spirit, uniting all.

Prayers of the People

EUCHARIST

Though we are not sharing the bread and cup today, we remember with thanksgiving (eukharistia) the grace (kharis) with which Jesus welcomes us to sit at his table, eat what will satisfy our deepest hungers, and feed others as we've been fed. We offer ourselves in response to Christ's wonderful offering of love.

Offering



Everyone is invited to place tithes, offerings, visitor cards, or any other communications to the Pastor or staff in the designated wall boxes beside each door at the back of the Sanctuary or signal an usher to bring you the offering plate.

Monetary gifts and pledges to GPPC may also be given online at <https://www.ginterparkpc.org/giving>, or by using the QR Code to the left.

Offertory

Improvisation on HANKEY

+ Doxology (Hymn 607)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below; praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore.

+ Prayer of Thanksgiving and 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.

SENDING

Our worship and service do not end with the postlude; we go forth to love and serve God in our daily lives.

+ Hymn 691 Lord, When I Came into This Life

+ Charge and Blessing

+ The Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

+ Postlude

Improvisation on "Why We Tell the Story"

ABOUT WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADERS: GPPC's Director of Music is Doug Brown. Our liturgist is Seminary Intern, Caitlin Culp. Today's lector is Youth Intern, Sam Smith. Our livestream operator today for Facebook and YouTube is Chuck Webb. Owen Sharman will follow church procedures in moving your offerings from the boxes at the back of the Sanctuary to the offices of GPPC.

HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES are available in the Narthex. Please see today's greeter or an usher.

PLEASE TAKE THE PAPER BULLETIN YOU HAVE USED home for reference and/or recycling. Thank you!!

ANNOUNCEMENTS about events in the life of GPPC are available through a weekly e-newsletter. If you would like to be added to the distribution, please contact Karen Mitscherlich at ginterparkpc@gmail.com.