



A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

July 4, 2021
11:00am
Hymn Sing

PEACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

301 Guinness Drive ▪ Winterville, North Carolina 28590-9943 ▪ (252) 355-2273

www.peacepresbyterian.org

Grow in Grace, Live in Peace, Serve the Lord

We Gather as God's People

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 150, selected verses

Jesse Riggs, liturgist

Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament!

Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness!

Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with tambourine and dance;

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

*HYMN #625

How Great Thou Art (Stanzas 1 and 2)

This hymn became familiar when it was sung at the Billy Graham Crusade in London in 1951. The text is originally Swedish from a poem entitled "O Store Gud," written by a Swedish pastor Carl Boberg in 1886. He was considered one of the leading evangelistic preachers of his day. His inspiration for the text is said to have come from a visit to a beautiful country estate on the southeast coast of Sweden. He was suddenly caught in a midday thunderstorm with lightning of flashing violence, followed by a clear brilliant sun. Soon afterwards he heard the calm, sweet songs of birds in nearby trees. The experience prompted him to fall to his knees in humble adoration of his mighty God. The tune to this hymn is an old Swedish folk melody.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Holy God, we confess that we have failed to live as your beloved sons and daughters. We have set our minds on the things of this world, and we have neglected the inheritance of love. We have pursued selfish goals, we have harbored uncharitable thoughts, and we have avoided difficult responsibilities to our neighbors. Forgive us and strengthen us to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

(Silent Prayer)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, hear the good news: Christ is merciful to all who turn to him in repentance.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE TO GOD'S FORGIVENESS**Hymn #188 Jesus Loves Me**

Written in 1860 by Anna Bartlett Warner in collaboration with her sister Susan as a part of one of the best-selling novels of the day. The text is actually a poem spoken by one of the characters in the novel. Both sisters were highly educated and deeply devoted Christian young women who lived all their lives along the Hudson River in New York. Their home was near the US Military Academy at West Point. Both taught Sunday School for many years with the West Point cadets and were buried with military honors. Dr. William Bradbury is the composer for the music of the text. Born in Maine, he moved to Boston where he became friends with Lowell Mason, considered the father of American public school and church music. Bradbury served as choir director and organist of several large Baptist churches in the East. From 1841 to 1868 he was involved in the publishing of 59 collections of sacred and secular music. Other hymns by Bradbury include: "He Leadeth Me," "Sweet Hour of Prayer," and "The Solid Rock."

A SHARING OF GOD'S WORD THROUGH SONG**Hymn #375 Shall We Gather at the River (Stanzas 1 and 2)**

Written by Robert Lowry in 1864 while he was a pastor in Brooklyn. It was an extremely hot day when his imagination took flight and he began to picture the end times. It is one of the most familiar of gospel hymns and was sung at the funeral of William Douglas in the National Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC. The words are based on Revelation 22:1.

Scripture Reading Revelation 22: 1-3, 5

"Then the angel showed me the river of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there anymore. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or the sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever."

Hymn #337 My Country, 'Tis of Thee (Stanzas 1 and 3)

This hymn, also known as "America" was written by Samuel F. Smith in 1832, while a student at Andover Theological Seminary in Andover, Massachusetts. The melody has been known throughout Europe in several variations including "God Save the King." Even Beethoven and Haydn had used the music in some of their own compositions. Smith wanted to create a national hymn for the United States and it was first performed on July 4, 1832 at the Park Street Church in Boston, Massachusetts. About 500 Sunday school children premiered the piece at the Independence Day celebration. Samuel Smith was a Baptist minister, author and journalist. He was born in Boston in 1801 and later became a student at Harvard. He married and had six children. In addition to this hymn, Smith wrote over 150 other hymns which were compiled into a Baptist hymnal, "The Psalmist."

Hymn #338 O Beautiful for Spacious Skies (Stanzas 1, 2, 3)

Katherine Lee Bates, a life-long teacher at Wellesley College, will long be remembered in the hearts of Americans for this patriotic song she wrote in 1893. Two events in her life inspired this hymn. In the summer of 1893 she traveled west, first stopping at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago. There she was struck by the exposition's exhibits. From there she traveled to Colorado and climbed Pike's Peak.

Hymn #339 Lift Every Voice and Sing (Stanzas 1 and 3)

This song was written by James Weldon and J. Rosamond Johnson in 1921. It was first sung by a children's choir in Jacksonville, Florida to celebrate the birthday of Abraham Lincoln. Though the text comes particularly out of the African-American experience of slavery, that part of our nation's history is a shared experience and struggle. We all strive to be true to our God, and true to our native land, seeking to overcome the tragedy and violence of our past and affirm and celebrate liberty and justice.

Hymn #321 The Church's One Foundation (Stanzas 1,3,4)

Written by a Church of England pastor, Samuel Stone, in 1866. It was during this time that much turmoil existed with the Anglican Church over a book written three years earlier by one of the influential Anglican bishops in which he attacked the historic accuracy of the first five books of the Old Testament. The theological dispute which followed became a widespread controversy. Samuel Stone was deeply disturbed by the conflict and he wrote this hymn and others based on the Apostles' Creed, "the holy Catholic (universal) church. The composer of the hymn was Samuel Wesley, born in London and the grandson of Charles Wesley. He was considered one of the finest musicians of his day. This hymn calls us to humbly remember that it is Jesus Christ who is the head of the church.

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 3: 10-11, 16

"According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?"

PRAYER FOR THE NATION AND OUR LORD'S PRAYER (from *Chalice Hymnal*)

Almighty God, you have given us this good land as our heritage. Make us always remember your generosity and constantly do your will. Bless our land with honesty, industry, truthful education and an honorable way of life. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance and from every evil course of action. Make us who came from many nations with many different languages a united people. Defend our liberties, not just for some but for all people, and give those we have entrusted with leadership the spirit of wisdom, that there might be justice and peace in our land. When times are prosperous, let our hearts be thankful, and in troubled times, do not let our trust in your fail. We ask all this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who teaches us to pray together saying, *Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.*

We Go Forth As God's People

*HYMN #463

How Firm a Foundation (Stanzas 1 and 3)

This hymn first appeared in 1787 in a hymnal compiled by John Rippon. The tune comes from the American folk tradition of the earth 19th century.

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

May the Love of the Lord

SOON TI

May the love of the Lord rest upon your soul.

May God's love dwell in you, throughout every day.

May God's countenance shine upon you and be gracious to you.

May God's Spirit be upon you as you leave this place.

***You are invited to stand.**

Worship Leadership Jesse Riggs, Liturgist Peggy Vaughan, Music Director John Holter, piano
Ushers: Ruth Hines, Jan Skinner Ron Skinner, audio & video Joanne Lang, Worship Ministry Team Chair