Carmel Presbyterian Church Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost Fall Sermon Series: "What Does It Mean to Be Protestant, Presbyterian, and Reformed" September 11, 2022



Order of Worship * Please stand, as able. Congregation voices **Bold** responses.

WE GATHER TOGETHER

We gather as a community of faith to meet God in new ways, and we reflect on the hope and promise of God's gift to us through Jesus Christ.

Welcome and Greetings – Pastor Peter

Prelude

"In Green Pastures

Harold Darke (1888-1976)

* Call to Worship (Spoken responsively) – Pastor Peter

Calling all children of the Living God: the grace of God is good news for every age and every stage. Let us worship together, the young and the old.

- The grace of God is proclaimed in God's words, and also with crayons, silly songs, snacks, and rest time. Let us worship together, every generation.
- We come together with different abilities and disabilities, learning in a rainbow of ways and styles.
 - Let us worship together, with our family of faith.
- All are welcome in the arms of Christ who proclaimed, "Let the children come!"

Let us worship together, united in our eternal hope.

* Hymn 478

"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"

Lauda anima

Call to Confession (Seated) – Pastor Peter

Prayer of Confession (In unison) – Pastor Peter

When we put off until tomorrow our response to your call, forgive us, O God. When our good intentions are not followed by good actions, have patience with us, O God. When we harden our hearts, making all kinds of excuses why we should not serve you, O God, have mercy. Today when we hear your voice, may we rise up to hear and obey, through the grace of Jesus Christ...

(A moment of silence for personal reflection & confession...)

Amen. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (Read responsively) – Pastor Peter

Friends: hear and believe the good news of the gospel! God is love.

God reaches out in grace and pulls us in with love. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

* Gloria Patri – Hymn 567

"Glory to the Father"

John Weaver

* Passing of the Peace (Spoken responsively; adapted from 1 Timothy 1) – Pastor Peter

In our midst, God is present, yet beyond our comprehension.

By God's light, we see light;

By God's healing, we are made whole;

By God's mercy and grace, we know God's greatness.

Let us show God's love through the power of the Spirit that makes God's presence known.

Let us begin by greeting one another and sharing Christ's peace.

The peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you.

(Greet one another sharing God's peace now and throughout the week.)

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

We hear the stories of our faith in scripture, song, prayer, and sermon.

Children's Message – Jesus in Temple at Age 12 – Pastor Peter

(Following the Children's message and the blessing of the backpacks, children in third grade and below are invited to depart for Children's Worship downstairs in Carmel Hall.)

Presentation of the Bibles to Third-Graders – Janet Simon

Blessing of the Backpacks – Janet Simon and Pastor Peter

We want you to get off to a great start this school year, and as you go to school, we want you to know that your church loves you and will be praying for you. So, we'd like to bless you and your backpacks, to help get you ready. Ok?

Prayer for the Blessings of the Backpacks (In Unison) – Led by Janet Simon

Lift your hands and your hearts, and let us pray:

Loving God, be with these people - students, parents, teachers, administrators, custodians...

Be with them and help them as they begin a new year of learning, teaching, growing, and serving...

May their minds and their pencils be sharp; may their lunches never be forgotten at home; may their Pink Pearl erasers help them to remember that mistakes are okay – in fact, are the most important part of the process...

God, thank you for glue sticks and homework folders and laptops and crisp new notebooks waiting to be filled; thank you for schools and libraries and teachers; thank you for the gift of curiosity and for your Wisdom that is all around...

God of Wisdom, bless these backpacks...

We pray this and everything in the name of your Son, who left his parents so he could sit and learn at the feet of those rabbis in the temple...

We pray this and everything in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Unison Prayer for Illumination (In unison) - Led by Janet Simon

By your Spirit, Holy God, enlighten our hearts, open our minds, fill our vision with your sight, and give us life, as we hear your Word today. Amen.

First Reading — Read by Janet Simon

The first lectionary reading is Exodus, chapter 32, verses 7-14; p. 75). Seeing the golden calf, God's wrath burns hot; but Moses intercedes. Listen now for the Word of God to you!

The Lord spoke to Moses: "Hurry up and go down! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, are ruining everything! They've already abandoned the path that I commanded. They have made a metal bull calf for themselves. They've bowed down to it and offered sacrifices to it and declared, 'These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" The Lord said to Moses, "I've been watching these people, and I've seen how stubborn they are. Now leave me alone! Let my fury burn and devour them. Then I'll make a great nation out of you."

But Moses pleaded with the Lord his God, "Lord, why does your fury burn against your own people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and amazing force? Why should the Egyptians say, 'He had an evil plan to take the people out and kill them in the mountains and so wipe them off the earth'? Calm down your fierce anger. Change your mind about doing terrible things to your own people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, whom you yourself promised, 'I'll make your descendants as many as the stars in the sky. And I've promised to give your descendants this whole land to possess for all time." Then the Lord changed his mind about the terrible things he said he would do to his people.

This is the Word of the Lord! Thanks be to God!

* Hymn 195 (Stanzas 1-4) "Have Mercy on Us, Living Lord" Ptomey (The hymn is based on the lectionary Psalm of the day: Psalm 51, verses 1-10; p. XXX. God laments: I deliver and feed you, but you do not listen to me.)

New Testament Reading – Read by Janet Simon

The second lectionary reading is 1 Timothy, chapter 1, verses 12-17; p. 196. Christ came to save sinners; God's grace has overflowed for me. Listen now for the Word of God to you!

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength because he considered me faithful. So he appointed me to ministry even though I used to speak against him, attack his people, and I was proud. But I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and without faith. Our Lord's favor poured all over me along with the faithfulness and love that are in Christ Jesus. This saying is reliable and deserves full acceptance: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"—and I'm the biggest sinner of all. But this is why I was shown mercy, so that Christ Jesus could show his endless patience to me first of all. So I'm an example for those who are going to believe in him for eternal life. Now to the king of the ages, to the immortal, invisible, and only God, may honor and glory be given to him forever and always! Amen.

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

New Testament Gospel Reading – Read by Pastor Peter

The gospel reading from the lectionary is Luke, chapter 15, verses 1-10; p. 73. Jesus tells the parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin. Listen now for the Word of God to you!

All the tax collectors and sinners were gathering around Jesus to listen to him. The Pharisees and legal experts were grumbling, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

Jesus told them this parable: "Suppose someone among you had one hundred sheep and lost one of them. Wouldn't he leave the other ninety-nine in the pasture and search for the lost one until he finds it? And when he finds it, he is thrilled and places it on his shoulders. When he arrives home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Celebrate with me because I've found my lost sheep.' In the same way, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who changes both heart and life than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need to change their hearts and lives.

"Or what woman, if she owns ten silver coins and loses one of them, won't light a lamp and sweep the house, searching her home carefully until she finds it? When she finds it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Celebrate with me because I've found my lost coin.' In the same way, I tell you, joy breaks out in the presence of God's angels over one sinner who changes both heart and life."

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Fall Sermon Series – "What Does It Mean to Be Protestant, Presbyterian, and Reformed?" Sermon 1 "Grace—What It Means for You"

Pastor Peter

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Inspired by the promise of God's Word, let us give our thanks and praise – so we may continue God's work as we move into God's week.

* Hymn 280

"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

Amazing Grace

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession and The Lord's Prayer – (Using 'debts' & 'debtors')

Invitation to the Offering – Pastor Peter

(Our hearts are open, and our ministries are continuing seven days a week. Your contribution or pledge payment sustains our presence as the church in the local and global community. Please place your offering in the collection plate at the back of the sanctuary, give it online, or mail your offering envelope to the church office.)

Offertory	"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" Sanctuary Choir	David Ashley White (b. 1944)
	Come, thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace! Streams of mercy never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above. Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of Thy redeeming love.	
	Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by Thy help I'm come; and I hope, by Thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God; He, to rescue me from danger, interposed with precious blood.	
	Oh, to arace how areat a debtor daily I'm constrained to bel	

Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be! Let Thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to Thee: prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my heart, oh, take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above; prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my heart, oh, take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.

* Doxology 592 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

(An Usher will bring the Offering Plate forward, returning it to the rear of the Sanctuary.)

* Prayer of Dedication of Time, Gifts, and Tithes (In unison) – Led by Janet Simon Let us pray,

Who is like you, O Lord our God? You look with mercy upon the earth; you lift up the poor from the dust and give them a place at your table. Teach us to sing your praise forever and to show your love to those in need; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

WE ARE SENT TO SERVE GOD

Renewed and refreshed by our experience with God and God's congregation, we go into the world to share God's love.

* Hymn 413

"All Who Love and Serve Your City"

Charlestown

* Charge and Benediction – Pastor Peter

Sisters and Brothers, however dark the night gets—whatever you have squandered—know that you are held by a love like this:

Our Creator who made us still claims us in covenant love;

Our Redeemer who died for our sake lives again by the Word of God;

Our Sustainer of all creation yet breathes courage into our hearts.

Go, then, and serve boldly!

We go to serve, knowing God's desire encompasses the whole of creation. Amen.

Chimes – (You may sit in silent, reflective prayer as the worship leaders recess.)

Postlude

Processional (From the Water Music) G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

Announcements

Guests: You Are Welcome Here

WE CORDIALLY WELCOME THOSE WHO ARE VISITING TODAY. We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in our worship, mission, and programs; we are happy to share our ministry with you. We'd like to get to know you. Please introduce yourself to a person nearby and be sure to join us in Fellowship Lounge for refreshments and conversation after worship! We hope your worship experience is meaningful and you will gather with us again soon. Should you wish for Hearing Devices and/or Large Print Bibles & Hymnals, they are available from an usher. Sign our guest book at the sanctuary entrance (or share your email/contact information in the offering plate for a weekly email of future worship and activities). We invite you to speak with the Pastor if you are interested in membership. A Virtual Fellowship Time is also possible on Zoom. And, restrooms are located down the long hallway just past the Church Office in the Education Building.

Old Hundredth

CARMEL IS HAPPY TO PROVIDE FOR THE YOUNG MEMBERS of our congregation by offering **Nursery Care** and **Children's Worship (Grades K-3)** during the Sunday 10:00 am worship service. We request that if you desire **nursery care** for your child during Sunday worship, please call the **Church Office by Friday noon**, so that the nursery is staffed. **Children's Worship** does not require reserving ahead. Children leave the Sanctuary for Carmel Hall after the **Children's Message**. We welcome our young families, either in person or in virtual worship. Any questions may be addressed to Janet Simon, Christian Education Committee chair; or Melissa MacFarland, Children's Worship leader.

THIS MORNING, THE FLOWERS IN OUR SANCTUARY are given in loving memory of Helen and Hugh Logan by the Pinkowicz and MacFarland families.

A REFLECTION ON GRACE – Frederick Buechner, In Wishful Thinking: A Theological ABC, says:

"Grace is something you can never get but only be given. There's no way to earn it or deserve it or bring it about any more than you can deserve the taste of raspberries and cream or earn good looks or bring about your own birth."

CARMEL FALL KICKOFF – TODAY, SEPTEMBER 11 – RALLY DAY – "Welcome Back!" to Carmel today, with Carmel's Fall Kickoff: **Rally Day!** Worship with us at 10:00 am and then join in at 11:00 am for **Rally Day!** We'll celebrate the beginning of the return of Fall Carmel activities with a **light lunch** to eat with Carmel friends behind Carmel Hall (Take-Out also available). Learn about our **Fall Activities** and **games for kids**. Join in as we move from the summer months to the resumption of September's regular activities, special events, choir rehearsals, and worship leadership Sundays. Sponsored by your Congregational Life and Christian Education Committee.

THIRD GRADERS RECEIVING BIBLES THIS YEAR – Receiving their third-grade Bibles today are Brent O'Gara and Nathaniel Morton. Carmel presents their own Bible to children of our church family in third grade or up. For reading at home, with their families, and at church, they receive the Spark NRSV Bible designed for youth. Congratulations to Brent and Nathaniel on this part of their faith journey.

"PROTESTANT, REFORMED, AND PRESBYTERIAN" FALL SERMON SERIES begin TODAY – A series of sermons is planned by Pastor Peter on **What It Means to Be Protestant, Reformed, and Presbyterian**—that branch of the Christian tradition in which we Presbyterians find our home. For our focus, Pastor Peter has selected six **core convictions** of Presbyterians in our "Reformed Tradition" to preach on. The Series will run for six Sundays, beginning today, September 11th, and continuing through October 23rd (with a gap Sunday on **World Communion Sunday**, October 2nd). We'll start with "Grace—What It Means for You", then think together about the Bible, the sovereignty of God, the priesthood of all believers, the life of the mind, and finally, the worship of the heart. I believe understanding our faith more fully will not only enrich our lives but also give us a deeper meaning with which to enrich the lives of others. We will develop a deeper understanding of Jesus as we follow as his disciples.

Here is the line-up:

- 9.11.22 Grace—what it means for you!
- 9.18.22 Bible—Why?
- 9.25.22 Sovereignty of God
- 10.02.22 World Communion Sunday
- 10.09.22 Priesthood of All Believers (World Communion Sunday)
- 10.16.22 Life of the Mind, and
- 10.23.22 Worship of the Heart

Understanding our faith more fully will not only enrich our lives but also give them greater meaning. Let us hope we will develop a deeper understanding of Jesus as we grow together in faith and discipleship. If you have any questions or issues, you'd like covered in the sermon series, jot them down and drop them in the offering plate!

PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS SPECIAL OFFERING FOR MISSIONS – This is the season for the Peace & Global Witness special offering partnering with the Presbyterian Church (USA). Carmel will contribute 25% of our collection to Laurel House to provide safety for women and children escaping violence in their homes. Envelopes are at the end of the pews for your use and on the table in the back of the Sanctuary. Please be sure to include your name and/or envelope number with your contribution. While envelopes may be placed in the plate each Sunday, the special offering will be dedicated on World Communion Sunday, October 2, 2022.

CARMEL YOUTH MINISTRY (CYM) FOR GRADES 3-8 BEGINS SEPT 14 – Carmel Youth Ministry (CYM) will begin on Wednesday, September 14 from 6:30 – 7:30 in Carmel Hall for all kids in Grades 3-8. Starting with a spaghetti dinner we will have fun, fellowship, and grow together as a group. **CYM leaders** Joyce, Katey, Melissa, and Jed look forward to seeing you.

MUSIC NOTES FROM CARMEL'S BALCONY – Please hold the date for a new year of church choirs. A new season of singing and ringing will start in September. Please hold the following dates and times for our first rehearsals:

- **Children's Choir**, for anyone in Grades K-2, will begin on Wednesday, September 14, 2022, from 5:00 PM -5:40 PM.
- Junior Choir, for anyone in Grades 3-8, will begin on Wednesday, September 14, 2022, from 5:45 PM to 6:30 PM.
- Youth Choir, for anyone in Grades 9-12, will begin on Sunday, September 18, from 11:15 AM to 11:45 AM.
- **Sanctuary Choir**, for anyone in Grades 7-adult, will begin on Thursday, September 8, from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM.
- Handbell Choir, for anyone in Grades 7-adult, will begin on Monday, September 19, from 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM.

For questions about any of the choirs please contact **Abby Palmisano**, **Organist and Director of Music**. September is a great time of year to try it out.

"PRACTICE GENEROSITY" ADULT STUDY GROUP WEDNESDAYS BEGINS SEPT 21st—Pastor Peter will offer an Adult Group Study this fall called "Practice Generosity" for four weeks on Wednesdays from 7:30-9:00 pm on Zoom. We will meet Wednesdays (Note date changes): September 21 & 28, and October 5 & 12. Generosity is often understood as an act of kindness that involves giving out of one's abundance to others in need. Well, that's a narrow definition! The Carmel group will examine Biblical teachings describing the practice as a little different. Generosity is simply, and profoundly, love in action. A Zoom link will be emailed each week before the class. Pick up Practice Generosity—Adult Reflection Guide in the Church Office!

SPREAD THE WORD – CARMEL NURSERY SCHOOL HAS BEGUN CLASSES – The **Carmel Nursery School** began Fall school classes for the school year. There are still some openings for **Registration** as the year begins. If you have a neighbor or see a family who might need nursery school, please share our information with them. We offer school for ages 2 years 7 months to age 5. Our school hours are 9:30 am to 12:00 noon (and we are affordable). Our **website** can be found on the <u>www.presbycarmel.org</u> page and we can be found on **Facebook** at **Carmel Nursery School**.

"CHRIST IS CALLING" FOR MEDICAL SUPPLIES PROJECT FOR UKRAINE – Our CHRIST IS CALLING ministry for Ukraine continues with medical supplies only being accepted by the Ukrainian Education and Cultural Center in Jenkintown. Monetary donations are also accepted by the Center as well as Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. If you have any questions, contact Mary Ellen Thomas or Janet Simon. Thank you for your support of this mission opportunity.

INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP AT CPC—CONTACT PASTOR PETER – Have you thought about making Carmel your church home? Interested in learning more about what membership at CPC involves? We are planning to schedule our next adult membership class and would love to be in conversation with you about how you can take the next step toward membership. We do not have a date set but would appreciate you letting us know your interest by emailing <u>office@presbycarmel.org</u> or contacting Pastor Peter.

CARMEL'S NOMINATING COMMITTEE SEEKS CHURCH OFFICERS – The Nominating Committee will meet soon to fill upcoming vacancies on Session, the Board of Deacons, Shepherds, Audit Committee members, and non-church officer-members of the Nominating Committee. If you would like to serve or recommend a member to serve, please fill out the form and drop it in the offering plate or email the Church Office.

WONDER "WHAT'S GOING ON?" CHECK OUT CARMEL'S WEBSITE! Explore the wealth of information at <u>www.presbycarmel.org</u>. Easily find links for the current Livestream worship, past services, the daily lectionary, or to send a prayer request or make a financial donation—and not to miss the latest on the Carmel Calendar. Clicking on the upper circular church photo will always bring you back to the Home Page.

JOIN US EACH SUNDAY IN WORSHIP; CELEBRATE COMMUNION ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH! Live Streaming Worship continues on YouTube, via Zoom on the phone, and Zoom for virtual fellowship following worship for those unable to attend in-person worship due to health comfort levels or travel situations.

SIGN-UP TO HELP WITH WORSHIP – EACH SUNDAY WE HAVE several spots you can assist: liturgist, ushers, greeters, and host for coffee hour. We are not all we can be without you sharing your gifts as a volunteer! Speak with a pastor or sign up online here:

https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/904094ca8a62aa6f49-worship

WELCOME TO SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP LIVE STREAMING ON SUNDAYS AT 10:00 AM

YouTube (Carmel Presbyterian Church Glenside) at <u>https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2KnjuJryWjVkrJljIDvsRw</u> Those without Internet access may phone in via the Zoom phone link: <u>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8428511409</u> and Meeting ID: 842 851 1409 "Virtual Fellowship Time" may be accessed on Zoom only after the service ends.

WORSHIPING IN THE TIME OF COVID-19 – Masking in the building is now optional in accordance with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's revised guidelines. Those whose health is compromised should consult their healthcare provider as to whether to continue wearing a mask. Visitors and members are welcome to wear a mask if they wish. Masking requirements will automatically fluctuate accordingly as Montgomery County moves between the various CDC levels of low, medium, and high, with masks required when at the high level. Members will be notified as levels change and updated signs will be placed on the church's front door.

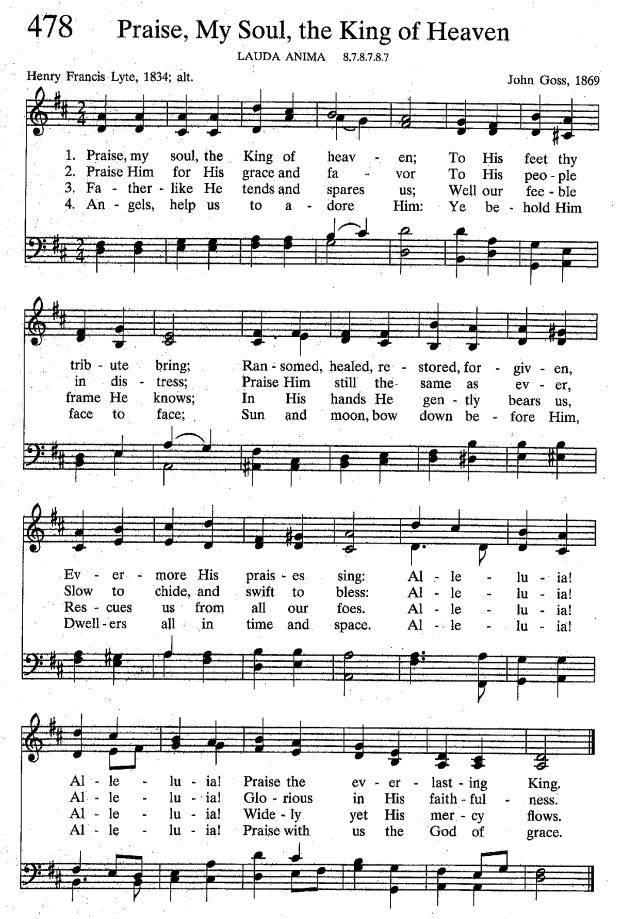
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Participants Serving the Church in Worship

Peter Sulyok, Transitional Senior Pastor James D. Eby, Pastor Emeritus Abigail Vander Hart Palmisano, Organist and Director of Music Janet Simon, Liturgist Barbara Podrost, Greeter/Ushers Linda MacFarland, Shepherd Walter Newman, Chancel Preparation and Emergency Procedure (CPEP) Member

Tom Bohlander, Jay Raulinaitis, Dave Rice and Kerri Strike-Stahller, Live-Streaming Operators Melissa Deacon/Congregational Life, Coffee Fellowship Host: Fellowship Lounge (11:00 AM)

Carmel Presbyterian Church 100 Edge Hill Road Glenside, PA 19038 215-887-1074 www.presbycarmel.org MORNING AND OPENING HYMNS



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SERVICE MUSIC



*May be sung as a canon.

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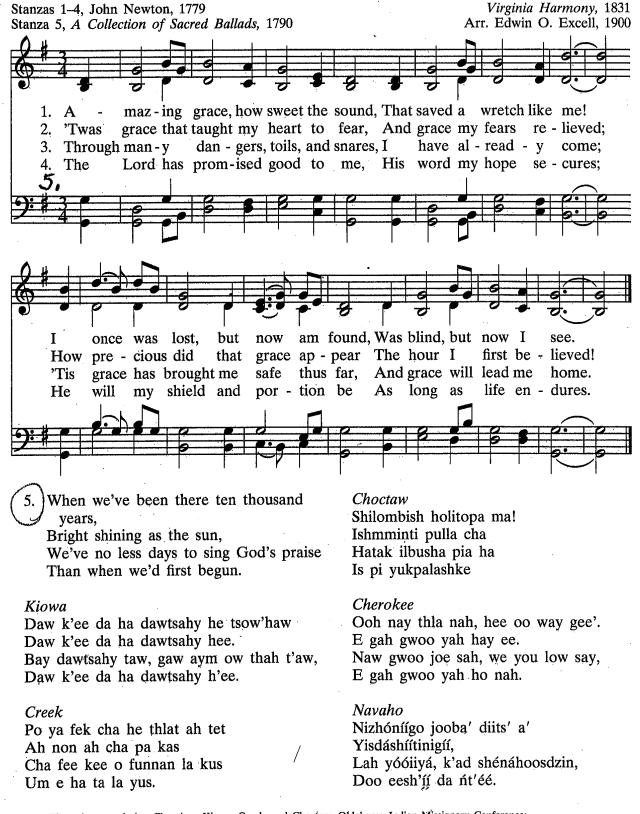
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Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound 280

AMAZING GRACE CM



Text: Phonetic transcription Cherokee, Kiowa, Creek, and Choctaw: Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference; Navaho: phonetic transcription by Albert Tsosie. SERVICE MUSIC

592 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



* Or "God."

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John 9:4 🕰

CHARLESTOWN 8.7.8.7 The United States Sacred Harmony, 1799 Erik Routley, 1966 Harm. Carlton R. Young, 1964 who love and serve your cit - y, 1. All All who bear its dai - ly stress, 2. your day of wealth and plen - ty, In Wast - ed work and wast - ed play, 3. For all days are days of judg-ment, And the Lord is wait - ing still, 4. Ris - en Lord, shall yet the cit - y Be the cit - y of de - spair? All for peace and jus - tice, All who curse and all who bless: who cry Call mind the word of Je - sus, "You must work while it to is day." Draw - ing near a world that spurns Him, Of - fering peace from Cal-vary's hill. Come to - day, our judge, our glo - ry. Be its name "The Lord is there!"

All Who Love and Serve Your City

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413