

OPENING WORSHIP

Thursday, July 6, 2017 7:00 p.m.
Graham Chapel

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 103:1–2, 20–22)

One: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me,
bless God's holy name.

**Many: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all God's
benefits.**

One: Bless the Lord, O you God's angels, you mighty ones who do
God's bidding.

**Many: Bless the Lord, all God's hosts, God's ministers that do
God's will.**

One: Bless the Lord, all God's works, in all places of God's dominion.

Many: Bless the Lord, O My Soul!

All: Let us worship God!

OPENING SONG "What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine" (*page 52*)

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(based on the Confessions of 1967 and of Belhar)

O Lord our God,

**you call us to proclaim the gospel,
but our proclamation lacks credibility.**

**You call us to be reconciled to you and one another,
but we are content to live in separation.**

**You call us to seek the good of all,
but in our love for order we uphold oppressive structures.**

**You call us to fight pretensions and injustice,
but we sit idly by, endangering human welfare.**

Forgive us, O Lord.

**Reconcile us to you by the power of your Spirit,
and give us the courage and strength**

to be reconciled to others;

through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior.

Thursday, July 6, 2017

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (2 Cor 5:17–18)

One: Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:

Many: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

SONG OF RESPONSE “God Welcomes All” (page 53)

*God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God’s love is strong and it never ends.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION IN SONG “Speak O Lord”

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE Joshua 24:14–18

ANTHEM “Follow Me”
Composer Leon Roberts Jr.
Big Tent Community Choir

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE Luke 9:47–62

SERMON *When Our Backs Are Against the Wall*

SONG OF RESPONSE “Will You Come and Follow Me” (page 54)

STATEMENT OF FAITH

(Excerpt from the Confession of 1967 [Inclusive Language Version])

God has created the peoples of the earth to be one universal family. In reconciling love, God overcomes the barriers between sisters and brothers and breaks down every form of discrimination based on racial or ethnic difference, real or imaginary.

The church is called to bring all people to receive and uphold one another as persons in all relationships of life: in employment, housing, education, leisure, marriage, family, church, and the exercise of political rights. Therefore, the church labors for the abolition of all racial discrimination and ministers to those injured by it. Congregations, individuals, or groups of Christians who exclude, dominate, or patronize others, however subtly, resist the Spirit of God and bring contempt on the faith which they profess.

CALL TO GIVING

OFFERTORY “Use Me”
Composer Ron Kenoly
Big Tent Community Choir

SONG OF PRAISE “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” (page 55)

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERING

SUNG INVITATION TO THE TABLE “Come to the Table” (page 56)

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

CLOSING SONG: “God of Grace and God of Glory” (page 57)

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE “Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo” (page 58)

The Big Tent Community Choir, under the direction of Paul Vasile, gathers singers from faith communities around St. Louis, giving audible witness to our unity in Christ. Singers pray that their singing and learning together, with open ears and hearts, plants seeds of hope, reconciliation, and peace in this city and the world.

Today’s Offering:

The offering received at this worship service will be divided as follows:

- Fifty percent is designated for Amen St. Louis (made in consultation with the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery leadership). Amen St. Louis is a ministry of Oak Hill Presbyterian Church and provides programs and lodging for mission groups coming to St. Louis. We are grateful for their role in the Stated Clerk’s “Hands and Feet” initiative. More here: <https://amenstlouis.org/>
- Twenty-five percent is designated for Freedom Rising. Freedom Rising is a witness to the reconciling ministry of Jesus Christ. Recognizing the symptoms of systematic oppression damaging the lives of African American men; including mass-incarceration, high rates of unemployment, and state violence committed against our black brothers, the 222nd General Assembly (2016) established the Freedom Rising fund to facilitate the church’s response. A \$5 million goal was established to fund pilot initiatives in five cities – New York, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Charlotte, and Baltimore – that will respond to the needs for support, development, and healing, and result in the thriving of African American men.
- Twenty-five percent is designated for Peace and Global Witness programs of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

CLOSING WORSHIP

Saturday, July 8, 2017 1:30 p.m.
Graham Chapel

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 65:9–13 (Selections)

One: O God you care for the land and water it.

Many: The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain.

One: You drench its furrows and level its ridges; you soften it with showers and bless its crops.

Many: You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance.

One: The grasslands of the desert overflow; the hills are clothed with gladness.

Many: The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with grain. They shout for joy and sing!

All: Let us worship God!

OPENING SONG “We Hail You, God’s Anointed” (page 60)

CALL TO CONFESSION (from Hosea 10:12–13)

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God you created the world and named it very good, yet we turned away from you and others almost immediately. Again and again you shower us with the good news of the Gospel in Jesus Christ, but we stereotype others and build walls between us. You throw your seed on all types of people and situations, but frequently we make hesitant steps toward racial justice, instead of bold moves. All too often we bear no fruit. Forgive us, O God of mercy and hope. By your Spirit transform us into good soil, where seed grows into great fruits of reconciliation. Hear us now as we continue to pray...

SONG OF CONFESSION “Forgive Us, Lord” (page 61)

Saturday, July 8, 2017

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (from Hosea 10:12b)

One: Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:

Many: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION IN SONG

“As Dew Falls Gently at Dawn” (page 62)

(v.1; sung through once by leader and then worshipers repeat)

SCRIPTURE Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

SERMON

SONG OF RESPONSE *“For Everyone Born” (page 64)*

STATEMENT OF FAITH (based on The Confession of Belhar)

Worship

**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 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.**

**We believe that unity is, therefore,
both a gift and an obligation
for the church of Jesus Christ.**

**We believe that,
through the working of God’s Spirit,
it is a binding force,
yet simultaneously 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 the church must together
come to know the height and the breadth
and the depth of the love of Christ.
We believe that together we are built up
to the stature of Christ, the new humanity.
We believe that we must together
know and bear one another's burdens,
thereby fulfilling the law of Christ.
We believe that we are called
to admonish and comfort one another;
to suffer with one another
for the sake of righteousness;
to pray together;
and together serve God in this world.**

TIME OF COMMITMENT *"O God, by your Spirit equip me to..."*

CONTEMPLATIVE MUSIC *"Let My Heart Be Good Soil" (page 68)*

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

SHARING OUR COMMITMENTS BEFORE GOD

CLOSING PRAYER

CLOSING SONG *"My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout" (page 66)*

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE Refrain from *"My Soul Cries Out
with a Joyful Shout" (page 66)*