

We Gather as the People of God

Musical Call to Worship

Greeting and Invitation to Discipleship

Opening Sentences

Leader: We come to worship bringing joy and hope, dreams and prayers.

People: **We come to worship bringing grief and doubt, memories and heartache.**

Leader: God meets us here.

People: **God hears our prayers and sees us as we really are.**

Leader: With open hearts, let us worship God.

Hymn No. **687** Our God, Our Help in Ages Past ST. ANNE

(HYMN ON FOLLOWING PAGE)

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

(Let us pray with one voice.)

God of creation, humanity is capable of such evil. For the moments when we choose violence over peace, exclusion over inclusion, and fear over hope—forgive us. When we choose pride over what is right, and comfort over justice—Show us mercy. And when we numb our pain instead of leaning into empathy—Unravel us, for we long to be changed. Gratefully we pray. Amen.

(Moment for Silent Prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Exchange of the Peace

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Greet one another in the peace of Christ.

We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading - Catherine II Samuel 3:7, 21:1-14

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *Unraveled: Public Grief that Inspires Action*

Catherine Neelly Burton

687 Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

(Psalm 90)

1 Our God, our help in a - ges past, our
 2 Be - neath the shad - ow of thy throne thy
 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or
 4 A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are

hope for years to come, our shel - ter from the
 saints have dwelt se - cure; suf - fi - cient is thine
 earth re - ceived its frame, from ev - er - last - ing
 like an eve - ning gone, short as the watch that

storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
 arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
 thou art God, to end - less years the same.
 ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever rolling stream,
 bears all our years away;
 they fly forgotten, as a dream
 dies at the opening day.

6 Our God, our help in ages past,
 our hope for years to come,
 be thou our guard while life shall last,
 and our eternal home.

Many people sing this hymn unaware that it paraphrases Psalm 90, partly because this text speaks so immediately to the human condition. Since the middle of the 19th century, it has usually been joined to this tune named for the London parish where the composer was organist.

We Respond to God's Word

Affirmation of Faith

(from *The Belhar Confession*)

We believe that unity is both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; 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 this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted. Amen.

Mission Trip

Offertory Sentence

Offertory

Cry No More

Forrest

Joys and Concerns of the People

Ministry: Bus Tickets

Care and Comfort: Andy Barker, Mendie McArthur Brown,
Alan Phares, Norman Tice

Sympathy: to the Schumann Family at the death of Betsy's father

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

(Traditional)

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.

We Are Sent as God's Servants into the World

Hymn No. 649 *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

AMAZING GRACE

(HYMN ON FOLLOWING PAGE)

Charge and Blessing

Leader:

Alleluia! Amen.

People:

Alleluia! Amen.

The Postlude

Leading and Serving in Worship Today

Catherine Neelly Burton, Senior Pastor

Kirk Anderson, Director of Student Ministries

Sean Foster, Director of Music Ministries

Jennifer Snook, Director of Children's Ministries

Kelsey Wise, Organist

Liturgy comes from: *A Sanctified Art* – written by Sarah Are

649 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved. How pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come. 'Tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures. He will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found, was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

CHOCTAW

*Shilombish holitopa ma!
 Ishmminti pulla cha
 hatak ilbusha pia ha
 is pi yukpalashke.*

CREEK

*Po ya fek cha he thlat ah tet
 ah non ah cha pa kas
 cha fee kee o funnan la kus
 um e ha ta la yus.*

NAVAHO

*Nizhónígo jobá diits' a'
 yisdáshítinígí,
 lah yóóiyá, k'ad
 shénáhoosdzin,
 doo eesh'í da ní'ée.*

As was his custom, the author wrote this hymn to accompany his sermon on 1 Chronicles 17:16–17, preached on January 1, 1773; he called it “Faith’s Review and Expectation.” Much of its current popularity comes from this now-familiar tune, an association that began in 1835.