



# unity **MATTERS**

*The Church: Called to be witness  
to the new heaven and new earth...*



WORSHIP AT THE COVENANT CONFERENCE  
CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | DENVER, COLORADO  
Saturday, November 7, 2015 10:30 a.m.

COVENANT NETWORK OF PRESBYTERIANS  
WORSHIP AT THE COVENANT CONFERENCE

**PRELUDE** The Storm is Passing Over

Spiritual

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Randy Bush

Do you feel it?

God's kingdom is beneath our feet.

**We live in the new creation shaped by God out of our brokenness.**

Do you know it?

God's reconciling love in Christ has shattered our ways of viewing people.

**No longer do we label our sisters and brothers,  
we welcome them with open arms.**

Do you believe it?

God has made everything, including us, new,

**and sends us forth to share this good news with everyone!**

Come, friends, let us worship God!

**\*GATHERING HYMN** I'm Gonna Sit at the Welcome Table

Glory to God, 770

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

Susan Cottrell

**God, as you have taught us, we bow down before you in all humility,  
gentleness, and patience, supporting each other with love and trying to keep the  
unity of the Spirit by the bonds of peace, that we may become "one body and  
one spirit," according to our common calling and vocation.**

**With one voice, repenting of our divisions, we commit ourselves to working  
together for reconciliation, peace, and justice, and we stand together in  
imploring you: help us to live as your disciples, overcoming selfishness and  
arrogance, hatred and violence; give us the strength to forgive. Inspire our  
witness in the world, that we might be bearers of the hope which your gospel  
has implanted in us. This we pray in the name of Jesus, the Christ. Amen.**

**\*SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE**

Because God so generously loves us and so graciously welcomes us, we extend  
greetings to one another in the name of Christ. The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

*Let us greet one another in Christian love*

**HOLY SCRIPTURE** Isaiah 65: 17-25

Keith Phillips

**SPOKEN RESPONSE**

Holy wisdom, holy words,  
**thanks be to God.**

**HOLY SCRIPTURE** 2 Corinthians 5: 16-21, 6: 1-2

**SERMON** Better Than a Hallelujah

Marci Auld Glass

**\*HYMN** My Life Flows On

Glory to God, 821

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

As the church, we are called to be witness to the new heaven and new earth.  
**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; that unity is, therefore, 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; 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; Jesus is Lord.**

**To the one and only God be the honor and the glory, forever and ever.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** Better Than a Hallelujah

Amy Grant

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**\*HYMN** In the Midst of New Dimensions

Glory to God, 315

**\*BENEDICTION AND BLESSING**

**\*SENDING MUSIC** Now Thank We All Our God

Egil Hovland

**PARTICIPANTS IN THIS EVENING'S WORSHIP**

**The Reverend Marci Auld Glass**

Pastor, Southminster Presbyterian Church, Boise, Idaho  
Co-Moderator, Covenant Network of Presbyterians

**The Reverend Dr. Randy Bush**

Pastor, East Liberty Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
Co-Moderator, Covenant Network of Presbyterians

**Susan Cottrell**

Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Class of 2018

**Keith Phillips**

Columbia Theological Seminary, Class of 2017

**Wil Smith**

Director of Music, Central Presbyterian Church, Denver, Colorado

**Matt Amundson**

Drums

**Dwight Thompson**

Bass

**Blair Shiff**

Soloist

*Liturgical elements of worship during the Covenant Conference  
are adapted from, "Prayers, Affirmations of Faith, Prayers of Confession, Litanies"  
made available by the Special Committee on the Confession of Belhar  
and published through the Presbyterian Church (USA)*