



unity **MATTERS**

*The Church: Called to be the salt of the earth
and the light of the world...*



WORSHIP AT THE COVENANT CONFERENCE
CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | DENVER, COLORADO
Thursday, November 5, 2015 7:00 p.m.

COVENANT NETWORK OF PRESBYTERIANS
WORSHIP AT THE COVENANT CONFERENCE

PRELUDE Tocatta in F, BuxWV 157

D. Buxtehude

GATHERING WORDS

Tricia Dykers Koenig

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

Through the work of the God's Spirit, unity is a binding force.

At the same time, unity must also be earnestly pursued and sought.

We must be continually built up to attain this unity.

Our unity must become visible to the world.

We give ourselves willingly and joyfully to one another.

We are a benefit and blessing to one another.

We share one body, and are of one soul and mind.

We have one God.

We are filled with one Spirit.

We confess one name and are obedient to one Lord.

We are one people, united by God's love and mercy.

We are one people, united in blessing and suffering,

in joy and in sorrow, in strength and in weakness.

We are one people, the church, united to God and to other believers.

We are the salt of the earth. We are the light of the world.

Come, friends, let the church be united in praise to God!

***GATHERING HYMN** Christ, Be Our Light

Glory to God, 314

***OPENING PRAYER**

Jocelyn Wildhack

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness,
shine in your church, as we pray together:

God, our fears and prejudices run deep. Sometimes we can see only our own point of view. We stick with those who are just like us, rarely venturing outside our comfort zones. We do not hear those crying for justice and true peace. We blame those who are suffering and in need, instead of standing by them. We deny the power of your gospel to unite us with those who are different from us.

But God, we believe that unity matters, and that is why we are here. Give us ears to hear and eyes to see. Open us to new possibilities for life for all your people, and use us to enact the new life given in Christ, in whose name we pray, 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 1 Samuel: 1-20

Glory Cumbow

SPOKEN RESPONSE

Holy wisdom, holy words,
thanks be to God.

HOLY SCRIPTURE Matthew 5: 13-16

SERMON Carriage

Paul Roberts

***HYMN** Together We Serve

Glory to God, 767

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

It is through Christ's reconciling work that we are united to God and to other believers. As the church, we are the salt of the earth; we are the light of the world. **We believe that God has revealed God's own self as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people; that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged; that God calls the church to bring justice to the oppressed and give bread to the hungry; that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind; that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, and blocks the path of the path of the ungodly; that for God, pure and undefiled religion is to visit the orphans and widows in their suffering; that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right.**

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 Thank You, Lord
PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

arr. Wm. Little

***HYMN** Come, Live in the Light!

Glory to God, 749

***BENEDICTION AND BLESSING**

***SENDING MUSIC** A Mighty Fortress is our God

Helmut Walcha

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS EVENING'S WORSHIP

The Reverend Paul Roberts

President of Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary

The Reverend Tricia Dykers Koenig

Notional Organizer, Covenant Network of Presbyterians

Jocelyn Wildhack

Columbia Theological Seminary, Class of 2019

Glory Cumbow

Columbia Theological Seminary, Class of 2018

Wil Smith

Director of Music, Central Presbyterian Church, Denver, Colorado

*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)*