

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

FEBRUARY 28, 2021

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

WELCOME

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

Setting by Dale Wood

Based on the tune BEACH SPRING

CALL TO WORSHIP

This is a holy space.

Let us worship God.

HYMN

The God of Abraham Praise

LEONI

The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above,
The Ancient of Eternal Days, the God of love!
The Lord, the great I am, by earth and heaven confessed,
We bow before your holy name, forever blest.

Your spirit still flows free, high surging where it will.
In prophet's word you spoke of old and you speak still.
Established is your law, and changeless it shall stand,
Deep writ upon the human heart by your strong hand.

Your goodly land we seek, with peace and plenty blest,
A land of sacred liberty and Sabbath rest.
There milk and honey flow, and oil and wine abound,
And trees of life forever grow with mercy crowned.

You have eternal life implanted in the soul;
Your love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.
We praise you, living God! We praise your holy name:
The first, the last, beyond all thought, and still the same!

CONFESSING OUR SIN

Take what is closed in us and open it.
Take what is distracted in us and settle it.
Take what is hurting in us and hold it.
Take any and all parts of us that create distance from you.
For we are like Peter, O God.
We argue what we don't know. We fear what we cannot see.
And we almost always speak sooner than we listen.
So open us, settle us, hold us, and forgive us.
We long to hear you more clearly.
We long to know you more fully.
With hope we pray,
And with gratitude we confess.

Silence is kept for personal prayers of confession

CHORAL PETITION

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

HEAR MY PRAYER

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.
All my hope comes from you.
O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.
Come and listen to me.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Siblings in Christ,
We confess with gratitude because we know that God already has heard and forgiven us.
No matter what we have done or left undone, we are held in God's hand.
So rest in this good news:

God invites us in.

God meets us where we are.

God hears our prayers.

God forgives us.

Thanks be to God for a love like that

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Charlton Allen

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 22:23-31

MUSICAL OFFERING

GOSPEL READING

Mark 8:31-9:8

CHILDREN'S LESSON

SERMON

Again & Again, We Are Called to Listen

Rev. Camille LeBron Powell

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe.

Sometimes our belief is confident,
Like a child on a dance floor—
Unashamed and wildly genuine.

We believe.

**Sometimes our belief is distant,
Flickering and calling out to us
Like a lighthouse on the sea.**

We believe.

Sometimes our belief shows up as passion,
Guiding the way we vote, shop, give, live, trust, and hope.
We believe.

**Sometimes our belief is like a shadow—
Faith stitched to our heels, unmoveable, unloseable,
A gift for winding journeys.**

We believe.

Sometimes our belief exists like growing pains.
We step forward. We fall back.

But again and again,
Jesus invites us to listen,
To grow, and to take another step.

**So again and again,
We speak these truths out loud:**

We believe.

We believe.

Again and again, we believe.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF GOD'S CHURCH, COMMUNITY AND WORLD

MINUTE FOR MINISTRY

Caring for Creation

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Offertory Response

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

TALLIS' CANNON

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Prayer of Dedication

God is calling through the whisper of the Spirit's deepest sighs,
 Through the thrill of sudden beauties that can catch us by surprise.
 Flash of lightning, crash of thunder; Hush of stillness, rush of wonder:
 God is calling—can you hear? God is calling—can you hear?

God is calling through the voices of our neighbors' urgent prayers,
 Through their longing for redemption and for rescue from despair.
 Place of hurt or face of needing; Strident cry or silent pleading:
 God is calling—can you hear? God is calling—can you hear?

God is calling through the music of sublime and human arts,
 Through the hymns of earth and angels, and the carols of our hearts.
 Lift of joy and gift of singing; Days and nights our praises bringing:
 God is calling—and we hear! God is calling—and we hear!

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

BENEDICTION IN SONG

Peace of God Be With You

AS-SALAAMU LAKUM

Peace of God be with you.

Peace of God be with you.

Salaam, Salaam.

Peace of God be with you.

BENEDICTION IN MUSIC *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say "Come unto me and rest"*

Based on the English folk tune KINGSFOLD

Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, and Affirmation of Faith by Sarah Are

© A Sanctified Art, LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Notes on Today's Music

The **Opening Voluntary** is based on the tune BEACHSPRING attributed to Benjamin Franklin White. It first appeared in *The Sacred Harp* (Philadelphia, 1844), a compilation of hymns and songs written in shaped notes. The term "sacred harp" refers to the human voice — that is, the musical instrument you were given at birth. Sacred harp singing is a tradition of sacred choral music that originated in New England and was later perpetuated and carried on in the American South. The name is derived from the historically important tune book printed in shape notes, which is a musical notation that uses note heads in 4 distinct shapes to aid in sight-reading.

The arrangement is by Dale Wood (1934-2003), an American composer, organist, and choral director best known for his church music compositions.

The basis of the text of **The God of Abraham Praise** dates from the pen of the 12th century rabbi Moses Maimonides. The current English words convey the essence of the canticle *Yigdal Ewlohim chai ve'yishtabach*, a set of thirteen articles of Jewish faith which speak to the nature of God. The tune is a 17th century Jewish melody adapted by Meyer Lyon (1751-1796) and Thomas Olivers (1725-1799).

Authored by Mary Louise Bringle (b. 1953), **God Is Calling through the Whisper** was written at the request of the editor of a resource for corporate worship for a hymn on the theme of "calling". Her response with this text points out how God's call may not come to us in literal words, but may appear in the beauties of art and nature.

W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY is a traditional Polish carol which is believed to be as old as the 13th century. It's present day version was first published in *The Hymnal Companion to the Book of Common Prayer* (London, 1877)

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say "Come unto me and rest" was written by Horatius Bonar (1808 - 1889) and first published in *Hymns Original and Selected* (London, 1846). It is perhaps the best-known and best-loved of the six hundred hymns Bonar is said to have written. The first half of each stanza is devoted to something heard from Jesus, and the second half is the singer's response.

The tune KINGSFOLD is an English melody which was first published in *English Country Songs* (London, 1893) and harmonized by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) in *The English Hymnal* (London, 1906)