

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

MARCH 21, 2021

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

WELCOME

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Fairest Lord Jesus

17th century Silesian melody
Setting by Dale Wood

CALL TO WORSHIP

Every week is a new week,
Another chance to say:

“Here I am. Use me.”

Every day is a new day,
Another chance to say:

“Thank you for yesterday. Thank you for tomorrow.”

Every hour is a new hour,
Another chance to say,

“Again and again, make me new.”

We do not come to this place to stay the same.

We come to this place to be changed.

So let us worship holy God,

Who created yesterday, will create tomorrow, and even now is creating something new.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

HYMN 692

Spirit, Open My Heart

WILD MOUNTAIN THYME

Refrain: Spirit, open my heart
To the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love,
In receiving and in giving.
Spirit, open my heart.

2. Write your love upon my heart
as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed,
may my living bring you glory. (*Refrain*)

1. God, replace my stony heart
With a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear
To your grace I now surrender. (*Refrain*)

3. May I weep with those who weep;
Share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ,
May we welcome one another. (*Refrain*)

CONFESSING OUR SIN

Gracious God,

We want to see you.

We want to be known as the people who looked for Jesus;

But not only that, we want to be people who have your covenant written on our hearts.

Why do we feel so far away from that at times?

What went wrong?

Where did we lose our way?

Could you, would you, once again, write on our fragile hearts?

We would be so grateful.

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

Friends, despite our wonderings,

Despite our distractions,

Despite wrong turns time and time again,

We are known and loved by God.

Like a lighthouse keeper by the sea,

Continued

God will never stop waving us home.
So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:
Our fragile bones are held by the Great Creator.
Our fragile hearts are loved by the Great Creator.
Our tender spirits are forgiven by the Great Creator.

Today is a new day.
Again and again, we are forgiven;
Again and again, we are reformed.
Thanks be to God.
Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Youth Reader

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 31:31-34

MUSICAL OFFERING

GOSPEL READING

John 12:20-33

CHILDREN'S LESSON

SERMON

Again & Again, We Are Reformed

Rev. Camille LeBron Powell

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that flowers need the rain.
We believe that humans need community.
We believe that bodies need rest.
We believe that hearts need connection.
We believe that mornings need sunrise.
We believe that seasons need change.
We believe that grief needs space.
We believe that change needs time.
We believe that love needs security.
We believe that pain needs art.
We believe that joy needs company.
We believe that our spirits need God.
Again and again, our spirits need God.
Fortunately for us, we trust that God is here.
God is at work in our lives.
God is a lighthouse keeper that never gives up.
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
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.

TALLIS' CANNON

Prayer of Dedication

Together we serve, united by love,
Inviting God’s world to the glorious feast.
We work and we pray through sorrow and joy,
Extending God’s love to the last and the least.

We seek to become a beacon of hope,
A lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.
We learn, year by year, to let love shine through
Until we see Christ in each person we meet.

We welcome the scarred, the wealthy, the poor,
The busy, the lonely, and all who need care.
We offer a home to those who will come,
Our hands quick to help, our hearts ready to dare.

Together, by grace, we witness and work,
Remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong.
Together we serve in Spirit and truth,
Remembering love is the strength of our song.

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
Peace of God be with you.
Peace of God be with you.
Salaam, Salaam.
Peace of God be with you.

AS-SALAAMU LAKUM

BENEDICTION IN MUSIC

Schönster Herr Jesu

Hermann Schröder

Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, and Affirmation of Faith by Sarah Are
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Notes on Today's Music

Although the **Opening Voluntary** and the **Benediction in Music** share the same title and text (albeit in different languages), that's where the similarity ends.

The music for the Opening Voluntary was first published in a collection *Schleisische Volkslieder mit Melodien* (Silesian folk songs with melodies) published in Leipzig, 1842. The version we sing was harmonized by Richard Willis for *Songs of the Church* (New York, 1862). Willis mistakenly attributed the tune to the twelfth century when in fact it was from the early 1800's. The tune earned the moniker CRUSADER'S HYMN when Franz Liszt used it in his oratorio *The Legend of St. Elizabeth* (1862) for a march of Crusader knights.

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

The text for our **First Hymn**, "Spirit, Open My Heart," was written by Ruth Duck (b. 1947) which she first published in *Circles of Care: Hymns and Songs* (Cleveland, 1998). This text emerged from the authors spiritual journey and a discipline of writing a new hymn every Sunday whenever possible. Based in Scripture, drawing on verses from Ezekiel, Jeremiah, and Romans, it is a prayer for openness to human, not only in our own lives but also in the lives of those around us.

WILD MOUNTAIN THYME is an Irish folk melody arranged by Alfred V. Fedak (b.1953) for *Glory to God* (Louisville, KY, 2013).

The text and music for "Together We Serve" was composed by Daniel Charles Damon (b. 1955) and was first published in his *The Sound of Welcome: Twenty-five New Hymns* (Carol Stream, IL, 1998). As a part of the 1997 centennial celebration of First Presbyterian Church in San Anselmo, California (hence the name of the tune) the author was asked to create this text. Although it grew out of the life of a particular congregation, it speaks to the experience of many people in many places.

The melody and text for "Schönster Herr Jesu" were first published in the *Münsterisch Gesangbuch* [Münster hymnbook] (Münster, 1677), a German Roman Catholic hymnal. The original source of the words is unknown.

The setting is by Hermann Schröder (1904-1984), a German composer, Catholic church musician and choral conductor. He served as a professor of choral conducting, counterpoint, and composition at several universities. His main accomplishments as a composer were in Catholic church music. His catalog includes much organ music as well as folk-song settings, German settings of the Ordinary and Proper of the Mass, and chamber music (especially with the organ).