



How does a
weary world
rejoice? *We trust our
belovedness*



"Beloved" by Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Baptism of the Lord

January 7, 2024

HOW DOES A WEARY WORLD REJOICE?

The Bravest Thing We Can Do

*Trust your belovedness.
Let it be a protest,
an act of resistance,
a song of celebration.
Trust your belovedness in a world
that is rarely satisfied.
Wear it like a badge of honor.
Speak it as confidently as your last name.
Tattoo it to your heart.
When outside forces
chip away at your sense of self,
when life asks you
to hand over the keys,
remember the water.
Remember creation.
Remember how it was good,
so very good.
Let that truth hum through your veins.
Sing it so loud
that it drowns out the weariness of the world,
for the bravest thing we can ever do
is trust that we belong here.*
Prayer by Rev. Sarah Speed/ A Sanctified Art LLC/Sanctifiedarts.org

WELCOME

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Vince Leseney

There are some days
when I need the reminder
that I belong to God.
Do you ever feel that way?

Yes. We do.

**The world can be a harsh place;
we often need that reminder.**

Well then, let us care for one another.
Let us speak the truth we each need to hear.
Church, you belong to God.
You are God's beloved.

Friend, you belong to God.

You are God's beloved.

Let us worship the God who knows our names.

Let us worship the God who calls us beloved. Amen.

*SONG OF PRAISE

Here in this Place

Hymnal, No. 401

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

Vince Leseney

Let us pray:

**Loving God,
From the very beginning, you breathed life into us and called us good.
However, somewhere along the way we replaced “good” with “not
enough.” Somewhere along the way we turned the volume up on that
phrase and began to doubt our own self-worth.
Forgive us, for this is not what you have taught us.
For when the world tells us we are not enough, you call us beloved.
Show us how to return to that truth.
Show us how to let go of our weariness and rest in that good news. Amen.**
(Time of silent reflection)

...So say these words of grace with me:

**Our story begins with belovedness.
Even when we lose our way,
even if we stumble and fall,
God never stops breaking through the clouds to claim us.
We are known. We are forgiven. We are beloved.
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

*THE PEACE

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

*SONG OF RESPONSE

Glory to God

Hymnal, No. 582

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen

World without end, without end. Amen (x3)
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Melissa Gill

SCRIPTURE READING

Page No. 1

Genesis 1:1-5

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READING

Page No. 815

Luke 3:21-22

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

We Trust Our Belovedness

Tracy L. Evans

*SONG OF FAITH

Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice

Hymnal, No. 163

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**I believe that the God I see in scripture is a God of love.
I believe that God created me and delights in that creation.
I believe the psalmist who says,
"I am fearfully and wonderfully made."
I believe that, just as God called Jesus "beloved,"
God extends this same term of endearment to us.
I believe that no matter our earthly challenges,
nothing could strip me of that sacred title.
I could fail every test, miss every goal,
drop every ball,
and I would still be God's beloved.
Therefore, I cling to this promise like a rock in the storm.
I anchor myself with this good news,
allowing the anxiety of the day to roll over me
as best I can,
because I know where I belong.
I am a child of God.
I am beloved.
I strive to live this way.
Amen.**

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE OFFERING
OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

In the Lord I'll be Ever Thankful

Hymnal, No. 654

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful;
in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God; do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE LORD'S SUPPER
INVITATION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal, Page 35

*Please pray the Lord's Prayer
in the language and wording most familiar to you.*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

BREAKING THE BREAD, SHARING THE CUP

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

As the communion elements are distributed, ushers will also pass baskets containing Star Words. After you receive the bread and cup, you are invited to draw a star from the basket as it is passed to you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*SENDING SONG Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice Hymnal No. 163

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

*POSTLUDE

*Please rise in body or spirit.

We invite anyone who wishes to consider membership in this church to contact the pastor or a member of the session. You may also indicate interest in membership by checking the appropriate column in the ritual of friendship booklet. Membership in this church is a step made by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith or transfer of church letter.

Lectionary Readings for January 14: 1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20); Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51.

The Food & Shelter item of the month for January is peanut butter. **Please place your donations in the box by the church information table.**

Hearing-assistance devices and **large print hymnals** are available from the head usher.

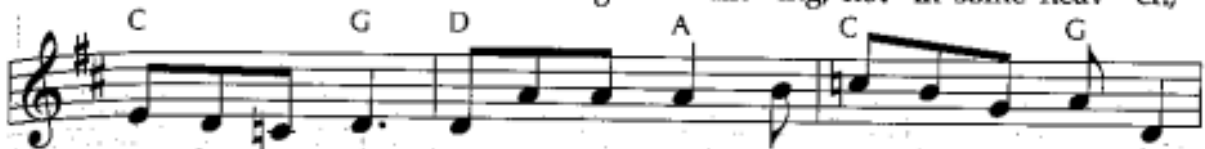
Here in This Place

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Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way; here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

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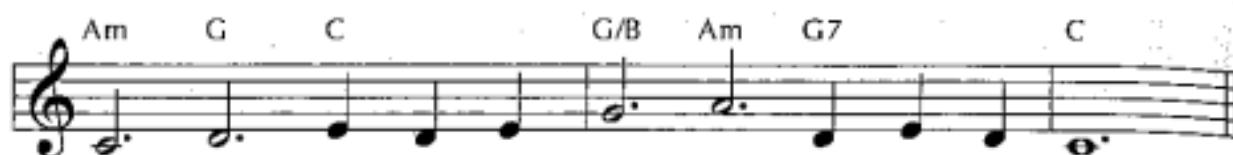
Baptized in Water



1 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the
 2 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the
 3 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the



blood of Christ our King; heirs of sal - va - tion, trust - ing the
 tomb with Christ our King; one with his ris - ing, freed and for -
 sign of Christ our King; born of the Spir - it, we are God's



prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.
 giv - en, thank - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.
 chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.

163 Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice



- 1 Wild and lone the proph-et's voice ech-oes through the des - ert still,
- 2 "Bear the fruit re - pen-tance sows: lives of jus - tice, truth, and love.
- 3 With such preach-ing, stark and bold, John pro-claimed sal - va - tion near,



call - ing us to make a choice, bid - ding us to do God's will:
Trust no oth - er claim than those; set your heart on things a - bove.
and his time-less warn-ings hold words of hope to all who hear.



"Turn from sin and be bap-tized; cleanse your heart and mind and soul.
Soon the Lord will come in power, burn-ing clean the thresh-ing floor:
So we dare to jour-ney on, led by faith through ways un - trod,



Quit-ting all the sins you prized, yield your life to God's con - trol,
then will flames the chaff de - vour; wheat a - lone shall fill God's store."
till we come at last like John to be - hold the Lamb of God.

