



“Beseeching” by Hanna Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

4th Sunday in Lent

March 10, 2024

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Open Hands
We are born with the ability
to wrap our fingers around another,
to hold tight to what we know.
Maybe that's where the instinct comes from—
this clinging,
this sinking,
this holding on.
Maybe that's why Peter cries, "Never!"
when Jesus must leave.
From the very beginning
we've known how to hold tight.
So I pray:
open up my hands.
Uncurl my fingers
one by one.
Loosen the grip
that I hold unyielding.
Remind me that birds must fly
and children must grow
and leaves must fall.
And even though
we are born with the ability
to hold tight,
we can learn how to love
with open hands.

By Rev. Sarah Speed

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

BRINGING THE LIGHT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Vince Leseney

On our worst days,
God is good.

On our best days,
God is good.

When life is consistent,
God is good.

And when life turns on its head,
God is good.

Day and night, Monday through Sunday,
God is good. God is here. God is love.

Hold tight to that good news. Let us worship God!

*SONG OF PRAISE

To God Be the Glory

Hymnal, No. 634

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

Join me in prayer—

Holy God,

**We often find ourselves moving
through a world that does not make sense.**

Like Peter, we want to yell out,

"This should not happen!"

We want to control scenarios beyond our reach.

We want to hold your world in our hands.

Forgive us for the moments

when we lead with declarations instead of curiosity.

Forgive us for arguing when we could listen.

Forgive us for fixating on one truth,

when we could open ourselves up to many.

Soften our hard edges and teach us how to listen.

With hope in our hearts we pray, amen.

(Time of silent reflection)

*THE PEACE

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

*SONG OF RESPONSE Dear Lord and Father of Mankind (v.1)

Hymnal, No. 169

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,

forgive our foolish ways;

re clothe us in our rightful mind,

in purer lives thy service find,

in deeper reverence, praise

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Donna Vint

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Page No. 487

ANTHEM

Simple Thanks

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 16:21-23

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Page No. 798

MESSAGE

I'm Fixed Upon It

Tracy L. Evans

*SONG OF FAITH

The Way

Bulletin p. 7

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Col. 1:15–20

I believe in a God of second chances,
**a God who sees through my stubbornness
and holds my fear with tenderness.**

I believe that this God of second chances
uses ordinary people like Peter to do good in the world.
Therefore, I believe and hope that God can use me too.

I believe that from time to time, God invites us to imagine the impossible.
I believe that from time to time, God invites us to change our minds.
**This change is holy and important work, although challenging.
When fear and scarcity plague me,
or when the impossible feels out of reach,
I believe that God meets me with grace and invites me to follow.**

Thanks be to God for a love like that.
Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Response:... In your steadfast love, **O Lord, have mercy on us.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal, p. 35

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

THE OFFERING
OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing (v. 3) Hymnal, No. 475

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

*DEDICATION PRAYER

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG Come, Live in the Light Hymnal, No. 749

*TAKING LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*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 March 17: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33.

The Food & Shelter items of the month for March are travel-sized toothpaste and bar soap. **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.

Easter is coming!!!! Join us for an Easter Potluck Breakfast on March 31st at 9:30, before church service. We will also be having our **annual Easter egg hunt at 10:00am**. Either bring a potluck item to share, or just come hungry. **We also need small wrapped candy donated to fill the Easter Eggs for our hunt.** Please bring the candy and leave it in the office by March 27th. We will be filling the eggs during Kid's Club on March 27th.

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To God Be the Glory

1 To God be the glo - ry; great things he has done!
2 Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,

The first system of music features a treble and bass staff in 3/4 time with a key signature of three flats. The melody in the treble staff begins with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, a quarter note Bb4, and a quarter note C5. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with a quarter note G3, a quarter note Bb3, and a quarter note C4.

So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
and great our re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son;

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff melody moves to a quarter note D5, then E5, F5, and G5. The bass staff accompaniment continues with a quarter note D3, E3, and F3.

who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin,
but pur - er and high - er and great - er will be

The third system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff melody moves to a quarter note A5, then Bb5, C6, and D6. The bass staff accompaniment continues with a quarter note G3, A3, and Bb3.

and o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.
our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see.

The fourth system concludes the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff melody moves to a quarter note E6, then D6, C6, and Bb5. The bass staff accompaniment continues with a quarter note C4, D4, and E4.

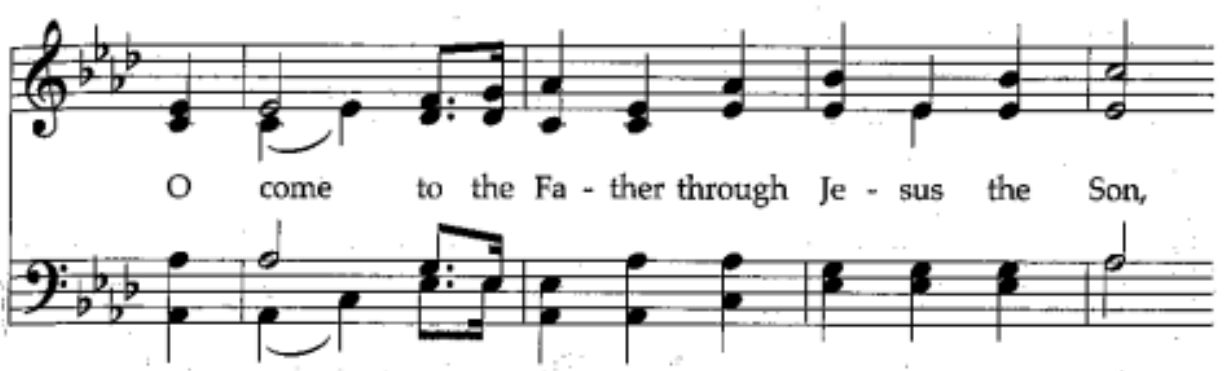
Refrain



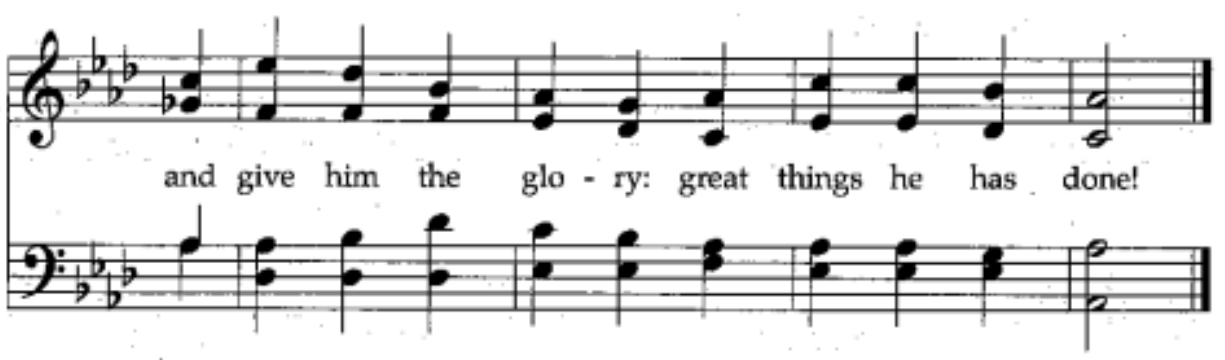
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!



Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!



O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,



and give him the glory: great things he has done!

The Way

RATHBUN 8.7.8.7

Words by Anna Strickland, 2023

Music by Ithamar Conkey, 1851

Faith - ful - ly I learned to fol - low Step by
 Life was ea - sy, faith was sta - ble Then the
 Thread by thread my faith un - rav - eled When the
 Though the way leads through steep can - yons I sur -

5

step and not to stray March - ing on with
 path - way climbed up - hill Life got hard - er
 way be - came un - known So - lid ground gave
 ren - der my con - trol Christ is still my

10

proud bra - va - do Claim - ing Je - sus as the way
 past the cra - dle Je - sus Christ I fol - lowed still
 way to gra - vel So I cling to Christ a - lone
 sure com - pan - ion As the path be - fore un - folds

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Come! Live in the Light!

We Are Called



1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the
 2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your
 3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that



joy and the love of the Lord! We are called
 mer - cy to all those in fear! We are called
 great day when all will be one! God will reign,



to be light for the king - dom, to live in the
 to be hope for the hope - less so ha - tred and
 and we'll walk with each oth - er as sis - ters and



free - dom of the cit - y of God.
 vio - lence will be no more.
 broth - ers u - nit - ed in love.

Refrain

We are called to act with jus - tice; we are called to



love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -



oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.