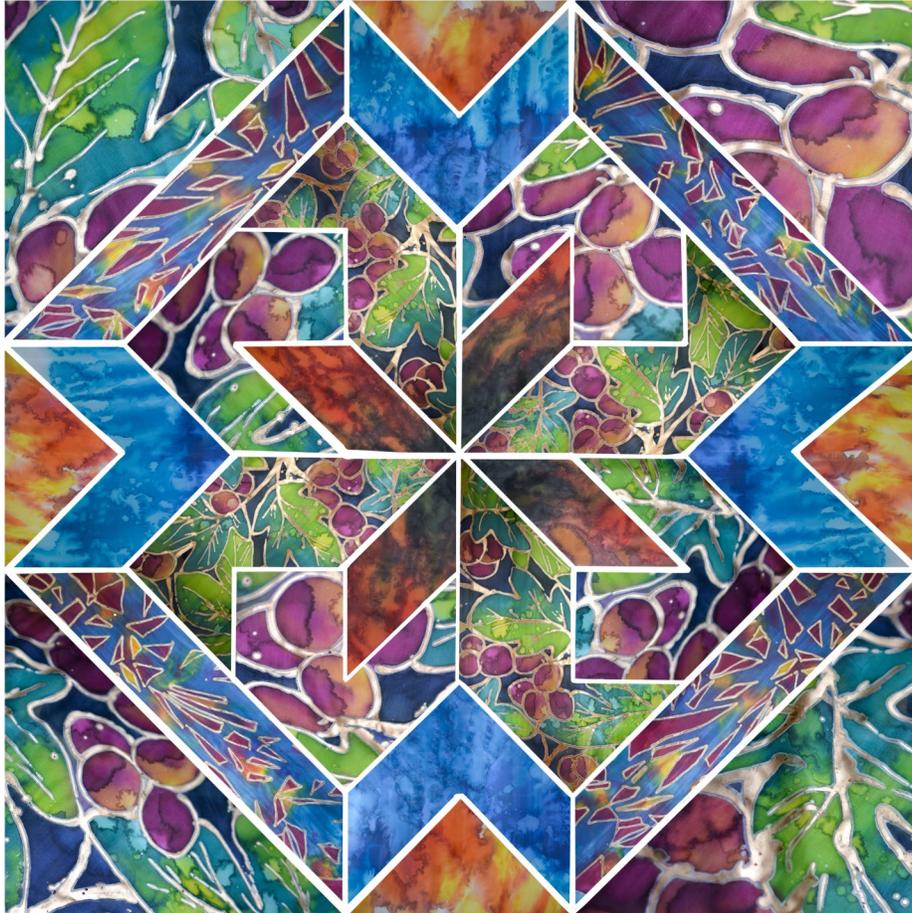




FOR THE BEGINNING

— DO THE GOOD THAT —
IS YOURS TO DO



Lisle

Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

3rd Sunday in Advent

December 15, 2024

WORDS FOR THE BEGINNING

HARVEST

Maybe none of it matters.

Maybe you can't make a difference.

Or maybe that watermelon seed you spit out over the summer will grow into a green orb, full of

sticky sweet fruit. Maybe the rain will nourish it. Maybe your moth-

er's hands will pull it from the vine, slice it into wedges, and place it on the dining room table. Maybe the neighbors will come over and chomp into that soft pink fruit, juicy water running down their chins. Maybe you will laugh at the shared experience, at this garden-grown communion and maybe the stars will shine brighter that night.

People say the problems of the world are too big to make a difference, but surely those people have forgotten the fruit that grows from one little seed.

Poem by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

PRELUDE Chorale Prelude on Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen Johannes Brahms

BRINGING THE LIGHT

*CALL TO WORSHIP Vince Leseney

"Teacher," the crowd asked, "What should we do?"

If you have two shirts, give one away.

Hold onto hope.

Live like we belong to one another.

Speak the truth.

Look for God.

Do the good that is yours to do.

It's all that easy, and it's all that hard.

Let us worship our present and active God.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

*SONG OF PRAISE Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn Hymnal, No. 107

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

Liberating God,

There are days when the world can feel like it's crumbling.

There are days when I doubt that I can make a difference.

I ask myself,

What could these two hands do?

What could this one voice say?

Shake me free of my own paralysis and self-doubt.

Remind me that I am not called to fix everything.

I am simply called to do the good that is mine to do.

With hope in my heart and a fire in my bones, I pray.

Amen.

(Time of silent reflection)

Trusting in this good news, join me in proclaiming these words of forgiveness:

We are loved. We are forgiven. We are invited to do the good that is ours to do. Thanks be to God for this new beginning. 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 Angels We Have Heard on High (Refrain) Hymnal, No. 113
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Joan Cole

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 58:9b-12

Page No. 601

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Peace, Hope, Light, Love

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 3:7-16

Page No. 834

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Do the Good that is Yours to Do

Tracy L. Evans

SONG OF FAITH

O Lord, How Shall We Meet You

Hymnal No. 104

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

John the Baptist's followers once asked him, "What shall we do?"

Church, knowing the state of the world, what is your answer?

In the Spirit of Jesus Christ, we say:

Do not be discouraged by the weight of the world.

Instead, hold fast to hope.

Roll up your sleeves.

Feed the hungry.

Tend the garden.

If you have two coats, give one away.

Do the good that is yours to do.

In doing so, you will see God.

For this we believe: small acts of love can make a difference.

Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal, p. 35

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

THE OFFERING

107 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for an - gels
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em - man - u -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when all the
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night. Though dark the



her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for soon he is
el comes a - sing - ing; his hum - ble song is qui - et and
world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so qui - et and
win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall crown you with



born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing. Come as a ba - by
near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing; mu - sic to heal the
free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing. Then shall the mute break
light; be strong and lov - ing and fear - less. Love be our song and



weak and poor, to bring all hearts to - geth - er, he o - pens
bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing - kind - ness. The thun - der
forth in song, the lame shall leap in won - der, the weak be
love our prayer and love our end - less sto - ry; may God fill



wide the heaven - ly door and lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
of his an - thems rolls to shat - ter all ha - tred and vio - lence.
raised a - bove the strong, and weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
ev - ery day we share and bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You 104



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel-come you a - right?
2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me;
3 You come, O Lord, with glad - ness, in mer - cy and good-will,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro-cured my lib - er - ty.
to bring an end to sad - ness and bid our fears be still.



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, a lamp with - in my breast,
O love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
In pa - tient ex - pec - ta - tion we live for that great day



to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
in love, all loves ex - cel - ling, our lost and fal - len race.
when your re - newed cre - a - tion your glo - ry shall di - play.



Do the Good That's Yours to Do

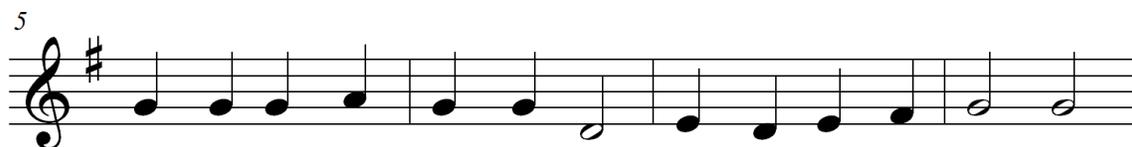
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Words by Anna Strickland, 2024

Music from the *Piae Cantiones*, 1582



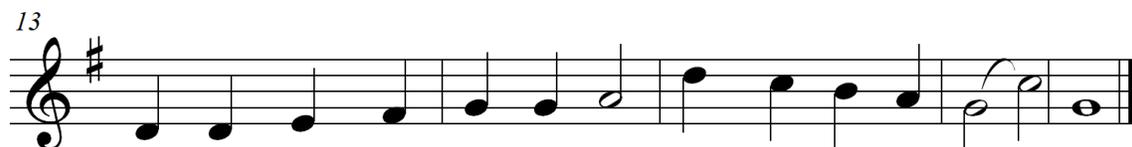
Peo - ple came from all a - round just to see the tea - cher
"Tell me, John, what should I do as a tax col - lec - tor?"
Some are called to of - fer care, some to ex - hor - ta - tion



Liv - ing in the wil - der - ness, speak - ing to the see - kers
"Take on - ly what's yours to take; don't a - buse your debt - ors"
Some to hos - pi - tal - i - ty, some to ed - u - ca - tion



He had no pre - ten - tious - ness; he would tell you blunt - ly
Sol - diers, shep - herds, fish - er - men asked him the same ques - tion
All our gifts col - lec - tive - ly work to bring sal - va - tion



So they sought out his ad - vice on how to live just - ly
John re - spond - ed all the same, "Share all your pos - ses - sions"
Do the good that's yours to do with de - ter - min - a - tion