



Service of Worship February 25, 2024 9:30am  
Second Sunday in Lent

## Gathering

PRELUDE "Praeludium in G minor" by J.S. Bach  
Linda Dover, organist

*In worship following reflective music, we are requesting a response of quiet or a contemplative "amen." Any music that elicits a response of applause is to the glory of God.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Karen Wright

INTROIT "There Is a Fountain" arr. Stan Pethel  
"A fountain will be opened to cleanse them from sin." Zechariah 13:1  
EncoreKC! Brass  
Jim Kelly & Darryl Prater, directors

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Let us worship God, who has done great things.

**ALL: We rejoice in our God, who made a way through the desert of this world.**

ONE: Let us worship God, who has caused streams of mercy to flow in the wasteland.


**ALL: We are the people God has formed through Christ; we worship him, and we rejoice!**

ONE: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.


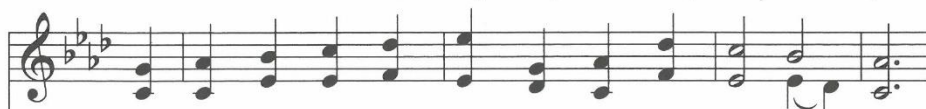
**ALL: We praise God for the grace that has saved us.**

GOD'S COVENANT WITH ISRAEL



## 49 The God of Abraham Praise





1 The God of A-braham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove,  
 2 Your spir - it still flows free, high surg - ing where it will.  
 3 Your good - ly land we seek, with peace and plen - ty blest,  
 4 You have e - ter - nal life im - plant - ed in the soul;


the An - cient of E - ter - nal Days, the God of love!  
 In proph-et's word you spoke of old and you speak still.  
 a land of sa - cred lib - er - ty and Sab - bath rest.  
 your love shall be our strength and stay, while a - ges roll.

The Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven con-fessed,  
 Es - tab-lished is your law, and change-less it shall stand,  
 There milk and hon - ey flow, and oil and wine a - bound,  
 We praise you, liv - ing God! We praise your ho - ly name:

we bow be - fore your ho - ly name, for - ev - er blest.  
 deep writ up - on the hu - man heart by your strong hand.  
 and trees of life for - ev - er grow with mer - cy crowned.  
 the first, the last, be - yond all thought, and still the same!



Shaped by its traditional Jewish tune, this selection of English stanzas conveys the essence of the *Yigdal*, a canticle based on a medieval Hebrew statement of faith about the nature of God and often used in synagogue worship, alternately chanted by cantor and congregation.

## A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

*(Children ages 4 through 1st grade may go to Awakening to Worship, our child-friendly worship time. Greeters at the back of the Sanctuary will go with children to Room 12 downstairs where parents may pick up their children following worship. Our Nursery welcomes young children and our ushers can assist families to the nursery located in the children's wing. Worship bags are available for children who stay in worship.)*

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Karen Wright

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

**Jesus calls us to deny ourselves. Yet we trust in our own works rather than in God's grace. Jesus calls each of us to take up our cross. Yet rather than allow our selfishness and sin to be put to death, we cling to what we know. Jesus calls us to follow him. Yet we fear where faith will lead and what it might change in our lives. In this moment of silence, we confess the sin that separates us from one another and from God. Amen.**

## SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

**ONE:** May the peace of Christ be with you.

**ALL:** **And also with you and all others!**

\*HYMN 819, *stanzas 1 & 2*

"Be Still, My Soul"

FINLANDIA

## 819

## Be Still, My Soul

1 Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.  
 2 Be still, my soul: thy God doth un - der - take  
 3 Be still, my soul: the hour is has - tening on

Bear pa - tient - ly the cross of grief or pain.  
 to guide the fu - ture sure - ly as the past.  
 when we shall be for - ev - er with the Lord;

Leave to thy God to or - der and pro - vide,  
 Thy hope, thy con - fi - dence let noth - ing shake;  
 when dis - ap - point - ment, grief, and fear are gone,

who through all chang - es faith - ful will re - main.  
 all now mys - te - rious shall be bright at last.  
 sor - row for - got, love's pur - est joys re - stored.

This meditative text seems to be rooted in Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God," while also reaching forward to 1 Thessalonians 4:17b, "we will be with the Lord forever." Much of the appeal of this hymn comes from its tune, named for the tone poem on which it is based.

TEXT: Katharina von Schlegel, 1752; trans. Jane Laurie Borthwick, 1855, alt.

MUSIC: Jean Sibelius, 1899; arr. *The Hymnal*, 1933, alt.

Music Arr. © 1933, ren. 1961 Presbyterian Board of Christian Education (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

FINLANDIA  
 10.10.10.10.10

Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heaven - ly Friend  
 Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know  
 Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past

through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.  
 his voice who ruled them while he dwelt be - low.  
 all safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 8:31–38 (NRSVue)

Cheryl Johnson

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

ANTHEM

+“More Love to Thee”

Words by Elizabeth P. Prentiss

Chancel & Exaltation! Singers

Music by Mark Shepperd

Bob Dover, clarinet

*More love to thee, O Christ, more love to thee!*

*Hear thou the prayer I make on bended knee.*

*This is my earnest plea: more love, O Christ to thee, more love to thee!*

*Once earthly joy I craved, sought peace and rest;*

*Now thee alone I seek; give what is best. More love to thee, more love to thee!*

*Then shall my latest breath proclaim thy praise;*

*This be the parting cry my heart shall raise.*

*This still its prayer shall be: More love, O Christ, to thee.*

*More love to thee, more love to thee!*

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

Romans 4:13–25 (NRSVue)

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression. For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So shall your descendants be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), and the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore “it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words

**Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

“Hoping Against Hope”

Rev. Karen Wright

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.**

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERING OF GIFTS & MUSIC “Come Just as You Are” Words & Music by Joseph Sabolick

Jubilation! Ringers – Kathy Bures, director

arr. Bill Ingram

*Come just as you are; hear the Spirit call. Come just as you are;*

*Come and see, come, receive; come and live forever.*

*Life everlasting, and strength for today;*

*Taste the Living Water; and never thirst again.*

*Come just as you are; hear the Spirit call. Come just as you are;*

*Come, receive Christ, the King; come and live forevermore.*

## Sending

\*HYMN 649

“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

AMAZING GRACE

*Stanzas 1, 3, & 5 All ... St. 2 High Voices ... St. 4 Low Voices*

THANKSGIVING

# 649 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I  
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his  
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 grace my fears re - lieved. How pre - cious did that  
 have al - read - y come. 'Tis grace has brought me  
 word my hope se - cures. He will my shield and  
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found, was blind, but now I see.  
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

**CHOCTAW**

*Shilombish holitopa ma!  
 Ishmminti pulla cha  
 hatak ilbusha pia ha  
 is pi yupalashke.*

**CREEK**

*Po ya fek cha he thlat ah tet  
 ah non ah cha pa kas  
 cha fee kee o funnan la kus  
 um e ha ta la yus.*

**NAVAHO**

*Nizhónígo joobá diits' a'  
 yisdáshítínigíí,  
 lah yóóiyá, k'ad  
 shénáhoosdzín,  
 doo eesh'íí da út'ée.*

As was his custom, the author wrote this hymn to accompany his sermon on 1 Chronicles 17:16–17, preached on January 1, 1773; he called it “Faith’s Review and Expectation.” Much of its current popularity comes from this now-familiar tune, an association that began in 1835.

TEXT: Stanzas 1–4, John Newton, 1772; stanza 5, *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790; Navaho, Albert Tsoie  
 MUSIC: *Columbian Harmony*, 1829; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1910, alt. AMAZING GRACE  
CM  
 Text Phonetic Transcr. Cherokee, Kiowa, Creek, and Choctaw © Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference;  
 Phonetic Transcr. Navaho © Albert Tsoie



CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Karen Wright

POSTLUDE

“Fuga”  
Linda Dover, organist

by J.S. Bach

*+Today’s choral anthem, “More Love to Thee” by Mark Shepperd,  
was donated by Celia & Mike Nicholas in recognition of  
the many gifts we receive from Chancel Choir.*

## GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

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