

Service of Worship March 23 , 2025 9:30am
Third Sunday of Lent

Gathering

*The prelude, the first act of worship, sets the tone for what is to follow.
So, we invite you as worshipers to gather, to transition from your busy lives
into a sacred place of communion with God and with each other. – Dr. Kimo Smith, adapted*

PRELUDE

“Gymnopedie No. 1”
Linda Dover, organist

by Erik Satie
arr. by Alan Ridout

*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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Come to the Lord, who is rich in grace;

ALL: approach our God, who is full of mercy.

ONE: We will praise God with all our heart

ALL: We will glorify the name of the Most High forever.

*HYMN 720

“Jesus Calls Us”

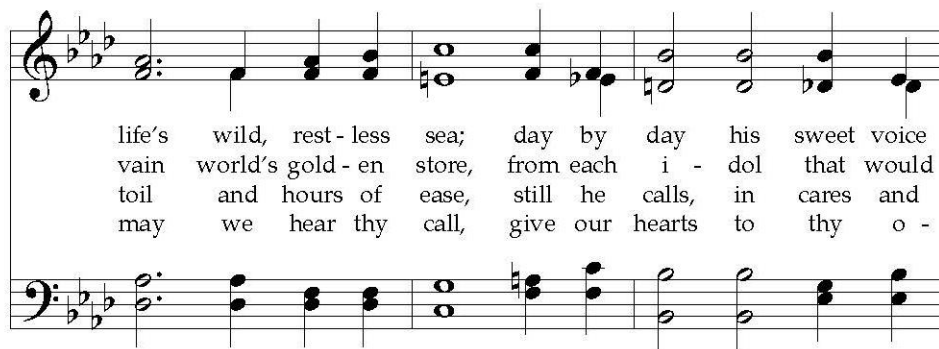
GALILEE

Jesus Calls Us

720



1 Je - sus calls us: o'er the tu - mult of our
 2 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
 3 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
 4 Je - sus calls us: by thy mer - cies, Sav - ior,



life's wild, rest - less sea; day by day his sweet voice
 vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would
 toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and
 may we hear thy call, give our hearts to thy o -



sound - eth say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me."
 keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."
 plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."
 be - dience, serve and love thee best of all.

Like many hymns that adults have come to cherish, this text based on Jesus' calling of the disciple Andrew was written for a 19th-century collection of hymns for children. The popular tune used here was composed for these words more than a quarter of a century later.

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

Emily Nelson Dixon

We continue on our way with Jesus to the cross. As we journey, may our attention focus more on Christ and less on ourselves. Prepare our hearts that we might be a people of prayer. With open and contrite hearts let us confess our sin together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

We are always uncomfortable, Almighty God, when you notice how we want to sit in the seats of honor. We can be so proper, so good, so well-off that it is easy to imagine we are superior to the poor. We are so busy completing our "To Do" list each day, that we forget to do good when we have the chance.

Forgive us. Fill our emptiness with your grace and humility that we would spend our lives alongside Jesus, our Lord and Savior, throwing a party for the poor, the damaged, the prisoner, the lost, the oppressed.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

What can anyone or any thing do to us? We are new people, graced by our loving God. Forgiven, embraced, welcomed by our God, we will offer open hearts and serving hands to everyone we meet. **Thanks be to 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 432

"How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord"

REPTON

How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord 432

Capo 1: (D) (A) (Bm) (G) (D) (A)(D)
 Eb Bb Cm Ab Eb Bb Eb

1 How clear is our vo - ca - tion, Lord, when once we heed your call
 2 But if, for-get - ful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear;
 3 We mar - vel how your saints be-came in hin-dranc-es more sure:
 4 In what you give us, Lord, to do, to - geth-er or a - lone,

(G) (Em) (A) (F#m) (Bm) (G) (Em)
 Ab Fm Bb Gm Cm Ab Fm

to live ac-cord-ing to your word and dai - ly learn, re-freshed, re -
 if world-ly pres-sures fray the mind and love it - self can - not un -
 whose joy - ful vir-tues put to shame the ca-sual way we wear your
 in old rou-tines or ven-tures new, may we not cease to look to

(A7) (D) (A7) (B) (Em) (G)(A7) (D)
 Bb7 Eb Bb7 C Fm Ab Bb7 Eb

stored, that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.
 wind its tan-gled skein of care: our in-ward life re - pair.
 name, and by our faults ob - scure your power to cleanse and cure.
 you: the cross you hung up - on, all you en - deav-ored, done.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This reflection on Christian vocation was written to provide a new text for a pre-existing tune, and the poet has crafted his words so well that the two parts mesh smoothly. The tune is named for a noted British boarding school, whose music director was a friend of the composer.

Equipping

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Hebrews 13:1–8, 15–16 (NRSVue)

Bob Bonney

Let mutual affection continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, “I will never leave you or forsake you.” So we can say with confidence,

“The Lord is my helper;
I will not be afraid.
What can anyone do to me?”

Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

ANTHEM

“Speak, Lord”

by Tom Trenney

Chancel Choir with Allen York, soloist
*You are the way, the truth, and the life.
You are our hope, our victory o’er the strife.
You are our peace, our calm upon the sea.
Bringing good news to the oppressed, you call us to set the captive free!*

*Speak, Lord, for your servants are listening.
Speak, Lord, how we need to hear from you.
Give us courage to speak, Lord, till injustice is silent.
Speak your words of love in all we say and do.*

*You come to heal our broken heart,
to comfort as we mourn, just mercy to impart.
You call to us to preach the Gospel, dream the dream
till justice rolls down like water, righteousness like a mighty stream.
Give us sight to see the world through the eyes of a stranger.
Help us hear the beauty of a language not our own.
Set our hearts to beat with compassion for our neighbor.
When we love each other, you are seen and known.*

Lord, teach us to live and love like you.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 14:1, 7–14 (NRSVue)

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Status Check”

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 AND MUSIC

“Be Thou My Vision”
Linda Dover, organist

arr. by Paul Manz

Sending

LORD'S SUPPER

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly 509

1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad - ly; ho - ly man-na is our bread.
 2 All who hun-ger, nev - er strang-ers, seek-er, be a wel-come guest.
 3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er; Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.

Come from wil-der-ness and wan-dering. Here, in truth, we will be fed.
 Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
 Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here, in peace, we have been led.

You that yearn for days of full - ness, all a - round us is our food.
 We that once were lost and scat-tered in com - mu - nion's love have stood.
 Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat-i - tude.

Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

The United Church of Canada minister who wrote this text was introduced to shape note tunes at the 1990 Hymn Society conference in Charleston, South Carolina. Afterwards she vacationed with friends nearby and worked out this text while humming this tune as she walked up and down the beach.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Karen Wright

PRELUDE

“Holy Manna”
Linda Dover, organist

arr. by John Leavitt

**Stand in body or spirit*

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

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