Gathering

PRELUDE
“Scherzetto” by William Walton
Linda Dover, organist

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (spoken together)
Only the hungry search for bread. Only the thirsty look for water. This is a time for those who are hungry and thirsty in spirit.

Only those who ache for meaning will pursue it.
Only those who yearn for a deeper life will seek it.
This is a time for those who ache and yearn for something more.

So let us come together in spirit today with our hunger and thirst, our unsatisfied longings, our heart-felt yearnings, and let the God of life satisfy our souls.

HYMN #463 “How Firm a Foundation” (sing verses 1, 2, & 5)
How Firm a Foundation

1 How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
2 "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
3 "When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
4 "When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
5 "The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,

... is laid for your faith in God’s excellent Word!
... for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
... the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
... my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
... I will not, I will not desert to its foes;

What more can be said than to you God hath said,
I’ll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,

to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.
I’ll never, no, never, no, never forsake.”

It seems odd now to think of singing this text to ADESTE FIDELES, but mainline churches did so well into the 20th century because of a cultural bias against shape note music. The vigor of the present tune seems especially right for the final line’s reference to Hebrews 13:5.

TEXT: "K" in John Rippon's A Selection of Hymns, 1787, alt.
MUSIC: American folk melody; Funk's Genuine Church Music, 1832, alt.
TIME WITH STEWART

WHAT WE BRING TO GOD – A PRAYER (video)

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST
One: May the peace of Christ be with you.
All: And also with you and all others!

HYMN #462 “I Love to Tell the Story” HANKEY
I Love to Tell the Story

1 I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
   Of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.

2 I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat
   What seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet!

3 I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
   Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest.

I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,

It satisfies my longings as nothing else could do.
The message of salvation from God's own holy Word.
'Twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.

This text is drawn from the second part of a fifty-stanza poem on the life of Christ written in 1866, during the author's recovery from a serious illness. The tune named for her first appeared three years later, and the composer was responsible for the creation of the refrain.

TEXT: Katherine Hankey, 1866; ref. William G. Fischer, 1869
MUSIC: William G. Fischer, 1869
13 When Jesus heard about John, he withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. When the crowds learned this, they followed him on foot from the cities. 14 When Jesus arrived and saw a large crowd, he had compassion for them and healed those who were sick. 15 That evening his disciples came and said to him, “This is an isolated place and it’s getting late. Send the crowds away so they can go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” 16 But Jesus said to them, “There’s no need to send them away. You give them something to eat.” 17 They replied, “We have nothing here except five loaves of bread and two fish.” 18 He said, “Bring them here to me.” 19 He ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves of bread and the two fish, looked up to heaven, blessed them and broke the loaves apart and gave them to his disciples. Then the disciples gave them to the crowds. 20 Everyone ate until they were full, and they filled twelve baskets with the leftovers. 21 About five thousand men plus women and children had eaten.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words.
Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM
“O Come, Let Us Sing”
Music by Cindy Berry
Chancel Ensemble
Psalm 95:1-2, adapted
O come, let us sing with joy to the Lord. Come bow down before him, kneel and adore him and praise him with music and song.

SERMON
“My Kind of Miracle”
Rev. Mitch Trigger

Sending

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

HYMN #698
“Take, O Take Me as I Am”
TAKE ME AS I AM
(sing 3 times)
DEDICATION AND STEWARDSHIP

698 Take, O Take Me as I Am

Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be; set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

The brevity of this text and tune invite repeated singing, either as a sustained chain of sound or as a sung response in a series of prayers. It offers a more reflective approach to the same theme of self-dedication evident in older hymns such as “Just as I Am” (see no. 442).

TEXT and MUSIC: John L. Bell, 1995

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Linda Dover, organist

arr. J. Wayne Kerr

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