



Grace First

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Together – Worshipping, Witnessing, Working



The Reverend Ashley Drake Mertz, Pastor
The Reverend David A. Slyter, Associate Pastor
Marialice Parish, M.M., Organist and Director of Music

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 14, 2021

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Welcome and Announcements

As you prepare for worship today you are invited to light a candle in your worship space or gaze upon the Christ candle in the Sanctuary to center yourself for the worship of God.

Prelude

Beecher

arr. Dale Wood

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

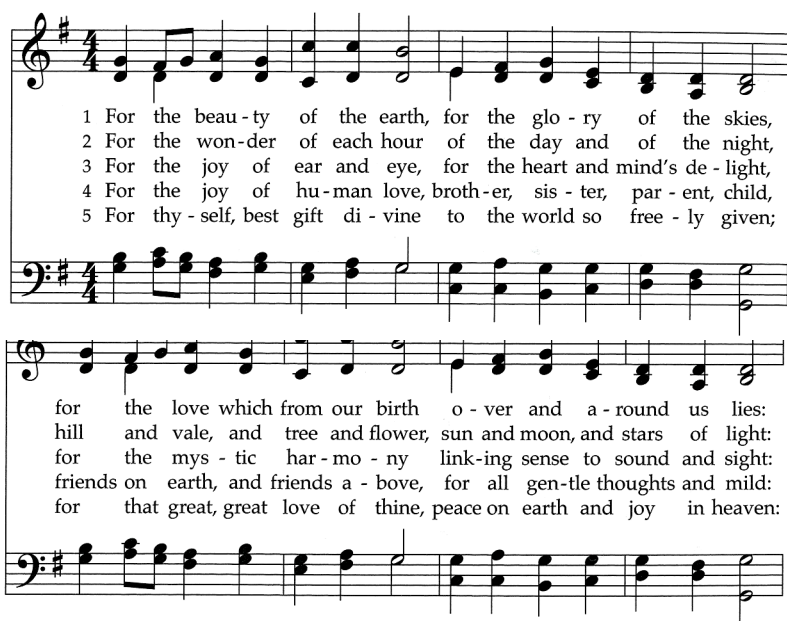
Call to Worship (Responsive)

O give thanks to the Lord, who is good;
God’s steadfast love endures forever.

Prayer of Invocation

Almighty God, through Jesus Christ you bring salvation to the world. Give us strength to believe in him that we may share in his victory over the power of death and fulfill the purpose for which you have made us, for he dwells with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

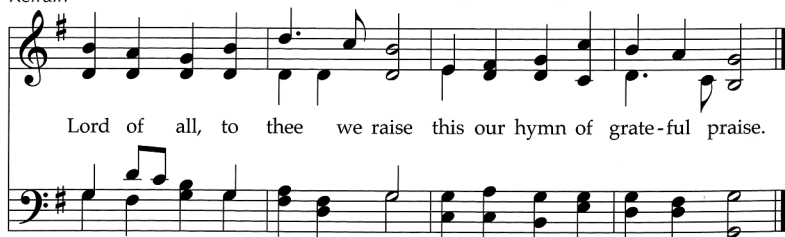
14 For the Beauty of the Earth



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
 4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
 5 For thy - self, best gift di - vine to the world so free - ly given;

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
 hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
 friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
 for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:

Refrain



Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

In the course of many revisions, the original eucharistic emphasis of this text has shifted to a hymn of thanksgiving for a wide range of human experience, with a Christological summation. It is set here to the tune that is customary in North America, though not elsewhere.

TEXT: Follitt Sandford Pierpoint, 1864, alt.

MUSIC: Conrad Kocher, 1838; abr. William Henry Monk, 1861; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

DIX

7.7.7.7.7.7

Children's Moment

The Rev. David Slyter

Call to Confession

This is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, for people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. Let us uncover our sin before the liberating light of Christ. Please join me in the prayer of confession printed in the bulletin followed by your own silent prayer of confession.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Merciful God, we confess the folly of our sin and the hypocrisy of our complaints. We grumble about the evils in our world, even as we commit injustices and profit through deceit. We fret about the scarcity of resources while hoarding earth's goods and cheating the poor. We protest the problems of the world, but we do not actively work to address them. Merciful God, expose our sins before the light of your grace. Heal our sin and free us from our foolish ways that we may know the joy of eternal life in Christ, in whose name we pray.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Prayer of Illumination

Loving Creator, by the power of the Holy Spirit,
open your Word and illumine our shadow-filled world,
that we may see clearly and live faithfully by the light
of your truth in Jesus Christ. Amen.

First Reading

Numbers 21:4-9

The word of God for the people of God

Thanks be to God

Music Ministry

Faithfulness

arr. Anna Laura Page

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Handbell Quintet

Second Reading

John 3:14-21

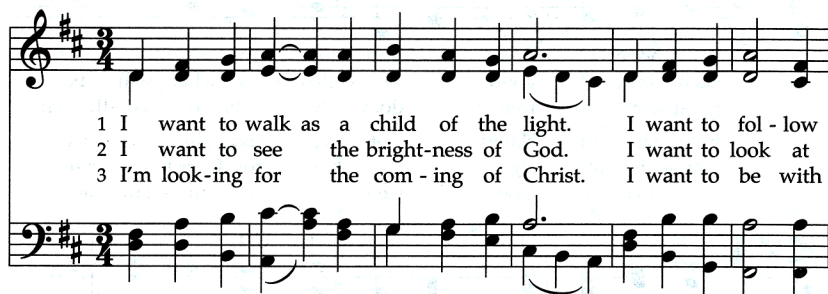
The word of God for the people of God

Thanks be to God

Sermon

The Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz

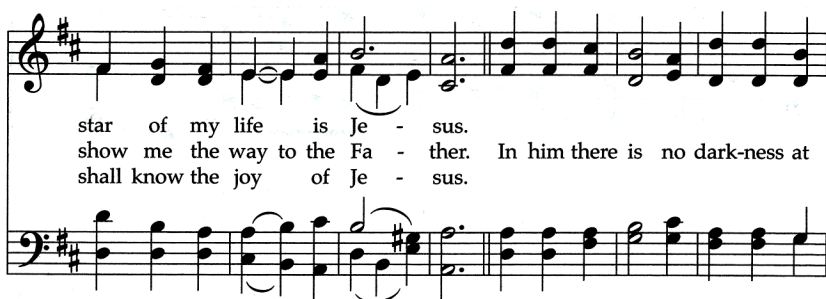
377 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



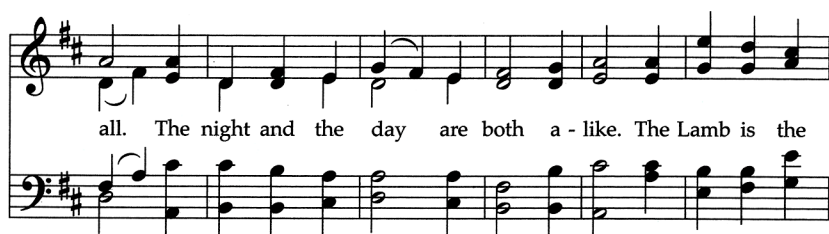
1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to fol - low
 2 I want to see the bright-ness of God. I want to look at
 3 I'm look-ing for the com - ing of Christ. I want to be with



Je - sus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The
 Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ-teous-ness, shine on my path, and
 Je - sus. When we have run with pa-tience the race, we



star of my life is Je - sus.
 show me the way to the Fa - ther. In him there is no dark-ness at
 shall know the joy of Je - sus.



all. The night and the day are both a - like. The Lamb is the



The author/composer of this unrhymed hymn regards it as a meditation and prayer deeply rooted in many scriptures, most connected with the theme of light: Genesis 1:17; Psalm 139:12; Isaiah 60:19; Malachi 4:2; John 14:8; Ephesians 5:8; Hebrews 12:1-2; 1 John 1:5; Revelation 21:23.

TEXT and MUSIC: Kathleen Thomerson, 1966
Text and Music © 1970, 1975 Celebration

HOUSTON
10.7.10.8 with refrain

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer for the People and 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.

Call to Stewardship

People of God, let us offer our sacrifice of thanksgiving, telling of God's deeds with songs of joy.

Offertory

Southwell

arr. Robert Lau

"Lord Jesus, Think on Me"

Congregational Response Hymn 606 *Old Hundredth* Doxology

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Offertory Prayer

Merciful God, we thank you for your wonderful works among humankind. Accept this offering with the dedication of our lives and help us be for the world an emblem of your steadfast love, in Christ. Amen.

ADORATION

610 O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing'. It features a treble and bass staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 3/2. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, aligned with the notes. The lyrics are: 1 O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my 2 The name of Je - sus charms our fears, and 3 Christ speaks, and lis - tening to his voice new 4 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - 5 To God all glo - ry, praise, and love be

dear Re - deem - er's praise, the glo - ries of my
 bids our sor - rows cease, sings mu - sic in the
 life the dead re - ceive; the mourn - ful wak - en
 sist me to pro - claim, to spread through all the
 now and ev - er given by saints be - low and

God and King, the tri - umphs of God's grace!
 sin - ner's ears, brings life, and health, and peace.
 to re - joice; the poor in heart be - lieve.
 earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy name.
 saints a - bove, the church in earth and heaven.

This text comes from an eighteen-stanza hymn the author wrote to mark the first anniversary of his life-changing conversion experience. It is now customarily the first hymn in Methodist hymnals worldwide. This tune, adapted from a German composer, is the usual North American setting.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.; Spanish trans. Federico J. Pagura;

Korean trans. The United Methodist Korean Hymnal Committee, 2001

MUSIC: Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839

Spanish Trans. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House (admin. The Copyright Company)

Korean Trans. © 2001 The United Methodist Publishing House (admin. The Copyright Company)

AZMON
CM

Benediction

The Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you
 And also with you

Postlude

Samuel Scheidt

“God The Father, Be Our Stay”

Music Notes

The Music Ministry of Grace First Presbyterian wishes to honor Kay Sheffield for her many years of dedicated service to the Sanctuary Handbells. Kay has shared her time and talents for many programs, and we are truly appreciative of all that she has done.

We wish Kay and Gary God's blessings
as they move to Colorado.

Thanks, Kay!

Worship Notes

How is God speaking to me today?
(Music, Sermon, Scripture, Prayers, etc.)

What are the takeaways for today's Service?
What is standing out to me?

How did the service challenge me?

Living in faith is something we do daily.
What actions will I take based on today's service?