

John Calvin Presbytery

Service of Worship

May 16th, 2024

Centering Prayer

Butterflies by Patricia Bulko

*Gentle as rainbows kissed by the sun,
Soft as moon beams when each day is done.
Fluttering butterflies dance in the air,
And give me the feeling that God's breath is there.*

Prelude

Stephen Foreman

Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 1)

Elder Lyle Lomas

One: Make us like trees planted by streams of water

All: that do not follow the advice of the wicked or take the path that sinners tread or sit in the seat of scoffers,

One: Help us yield fruit in its season.

All: Our delight is in the Lord. On your word we meditate day and night

One: The Lord watches over the way of the righteous

All: and in all that they do they prosper.

Opening Prayer

One: Lord, transform us – not for our benefit, but for the benefit of the world. Do your work in us – molding us, making us, shaping us, changing us to be the new creation you have called us to be in Jesus Christ. Do your work in our church – help us to be the Body of Christ engaged in mission, testifying to the power of our faith, witnessing to the presence of our living and loving Savior, Jesus Christ. Do your work in our world - give to us a vision of transformed lives, neighborhoods, and communities and how we can partner with you to see what can happen when people of faith make an eternal difference – living and loving like Jesus and giving themselves fully – heart, mind, and strength – to be the very presence of Jesus Christ in our world, bringing blessings and redemption for the glory of God!

All: Alleluia! Amen.

*Hymn of Praise

Christ is Alive

Bulletin Insert

*Call to Confession

The Rev. John Anderson

We stand in need of forgiveness. Everyone of us is a flawed, hurtful, confused, and beloved child. We stand next to a metaphorical roll of fully unraveled toilet paper, a crayon masterpiece on the hallway wall, and we keep willfully crossing that invisible barrier down the middle of the back seat, and I am pretty sure God would be justified if they threatened to pull the car over. But God doesn't. God listens and God forgives. Let us come before God now with the confidence of beloved children.

*Prayer of Confession (**Unison**)

God, the problems we cause are too big to be solved with a scrub brush or a new coat of paint. The people we hurt aren't ready to move on and play with us by recess

time. There are bigger fears that exist outside of our comfortable realm of existence. There is war, famine, and images on the news that our brains process, but our hearts and minds fail to understand. Sometimes we act out because of those fears, continuing to hurt others. God, help us to be helpers in this world. Help us to create goodness where we can and forgive ourselves with the same kind of love that you have called us to share with others.

Affirmation of God's Grace

One: As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted.

All: Great is our comfort in the arms of our God, who has adopted us as sons and daughters.

One: In God's loving name, we are forgiven.

*Sung Response (2x)

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Halle, halle, hal-le-lu-jah!

Halle, halle, hal-le-lu-jah!

Halle, halle, hal-le-lu-jah!

Hallelujah! Hal-le-lu-jah!

Prayer of Illumination

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Boucher-Payne

Give us open hearts and minds. Make us like clay vessels. Mold us to your purpose.

Shape us into lamps. Prepare us to shine. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Mark 4:26-34

Sermon

"Beautiful to Behold"

*Affirmation of Faith

The Confession of 1967

Sections 9.48 & 9.53

Jesus Christ has given the church preaching and teaching, praise and prayer, and Baptism and the Lord's Supper as means of fulfilling its service of God among all people. These gifts remain, but the church is obliged to change the forms of its service in ways appropriate to different generations and cultures.

God's redeeming work in Jesus Christ embraces the whole of humankind's life: social and cultural, economic and political, scientific and technological, individual and corporate. It includes humankind's natural environment as exploited and despoiled by sin. It is the will of God that the divine purpose for human life shall be fulfilled under the rule of Christ and all evil be banished from his creation.

*Hymn of Response

Be Thou My Vision

Bulletin Insert

Commissioning of GA Commissioners and YAAD Delegate

The Rev. Daniel Davis

Sentences of Scripture

Ephesians 4:1-6

One: Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as we were called to the one hope of our calling,

All: one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

Call to Discipleship

Commissioning Prayer

Holy Communion The Rev. Becky Schwandt & The Rev. Dr. Peggy Wobbema

Invitation to the Table

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us continue to pray...

The Lord's Prayer

The Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

Invitation to the Offering

Elder Bill Martin

The first words of the Bible are about God's own generosity. God gave us the gifts of a beautiful creation, our home, the good green earth and the animals that live here with us. On this spring morning in a small brick church in a vale, we come together to thank God and to offer our gifts so that the ministry of this church and the larger church may be a blessing in the world. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

Offertory

Stephen Foreman

*Sung Response (2x)

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks Refrain

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the Risen Lord

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

*Prayer of Dedication (**Unison**)

God, do more with these gifts that we could hope to do on our own. Move in the space between, amplifying our efforts, imbuing our tithes with love and grace. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

In the Midst of New Dimensions

Bulletin Insert

Charge and Benediction

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Boucher-Payne

* Indicates to please stand as you are comfortable in body or in spirit

John Calvin Presbytery gives thanks to all of those leading us in worship this day and Brick Church for their wonderful worship space.

All hymns and sung responses come from *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal* and have been reproduced under CCLI License number #822823

Our liturgy today comes from the Rev. John Anderson, pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Joplin, Missouri and the Book of Common Worship from Westminster John Knox Press.

Christ Is Alive!

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1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing, The cross stands
 2 Christ is a - live! No lon - ger bound to dis - tant
 3 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war where col - or,
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to


emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
 this and ev - ery age, till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - ery place and time.
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

In 1968 Easter fell ten days after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., and this text was written to express an Easter hope while mindful of that terrible event. Buoyed by a triple-arched tune, it affirms the presence of a wounded, risen Christ with all who suffer.

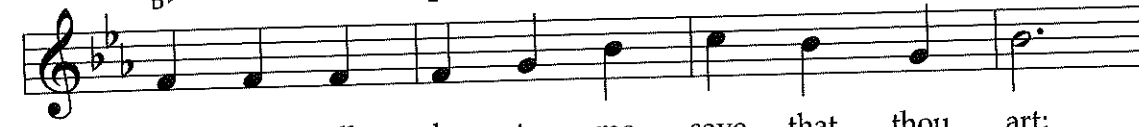
Be Thou My Vision

Capo 1: (D) E^b (G) A^b (D/F#) E^b/G (A7) B^b7 (D) E^b




1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true Word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;
 4 High King of Heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

(A) B^b (D) E^b (G) A^b (A) B^b




naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

(G) A^b (D) E^b (F#m7) Gm7 (G) A^b (A) B^b



thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tower;
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

(Bm) Cm (D/F#) E^b/G (G) A^b (D) E^b

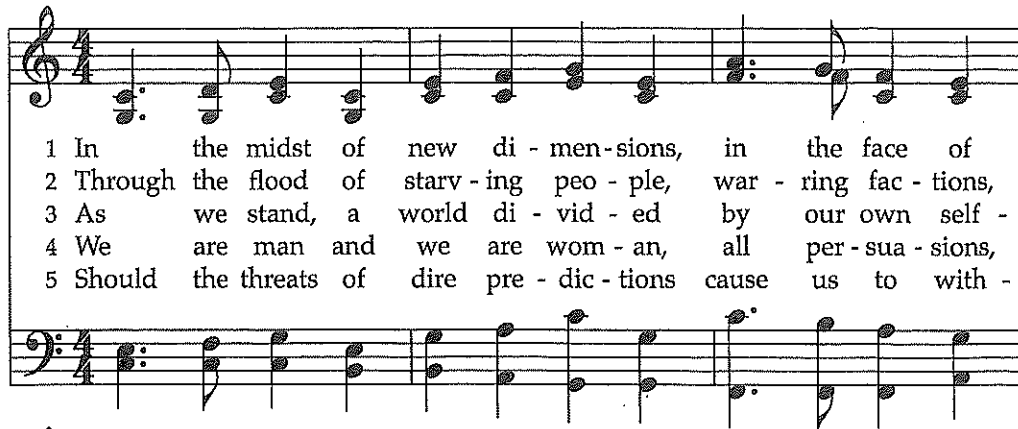


wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heaven - ward, O Power of my power.
 High King of Heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

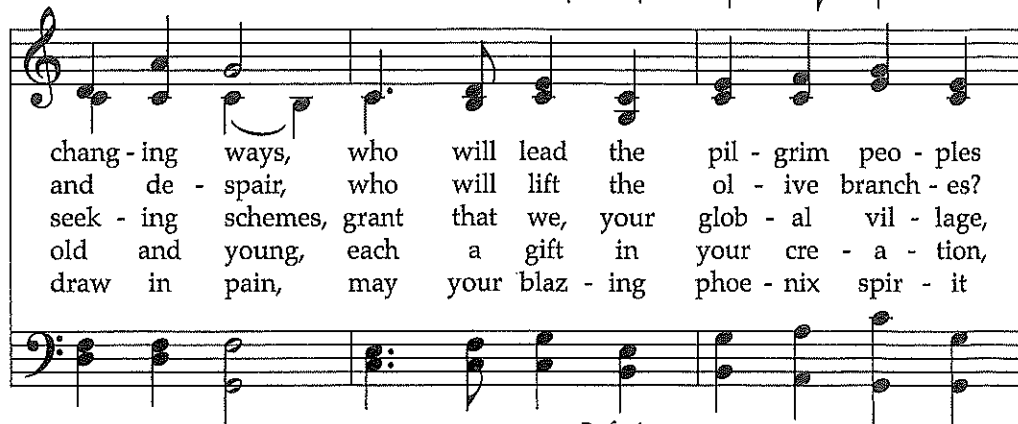
Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

These stanzas are selected from a 20th-century English poetic version of an Irish monastic prayer dating to the 10th century or before. They are set to an Irish folk melody that has proved popular and easily sung despite its lack of repetition and its wide range.

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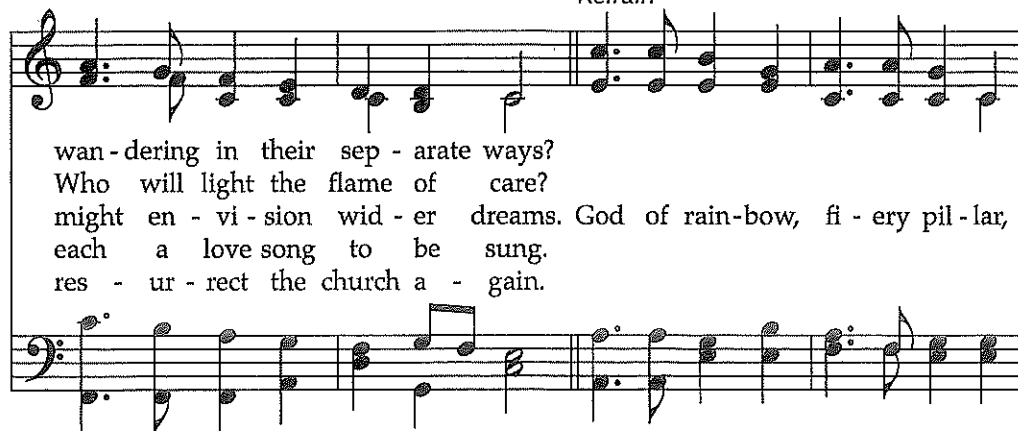


1 In the midst of new di - men - sions, in the face of
 2 Through the flood of starv - ing peo - ple, war - ring fac - tions,
 3 As we stand, a world di - vid - ed by our own self -
 4 We are man and we are wom - an, all per - sua - sions,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre - dic - tions cause us to with -

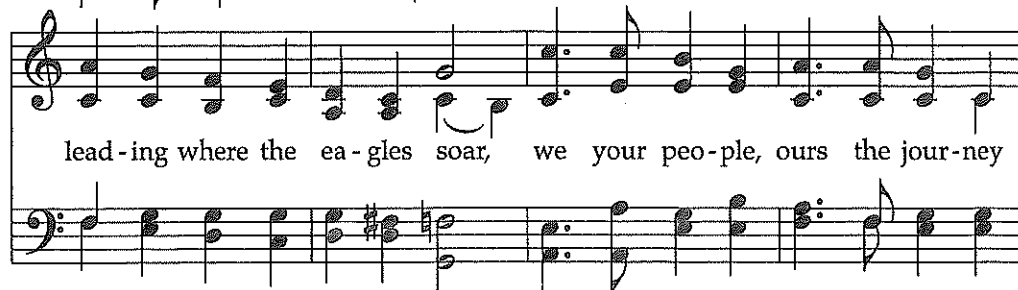


chang - ing ways, who will lead the pil - grim peo - ples
 and de - spair, who will lift the ol - ive branch - es?
 seek - ing schemes, grant that we, your glob - al vil - lage,
 old and young, each a gift in your cre - a - tion,
 draw in pain, may your blaz - ing phoe - nix spir - it

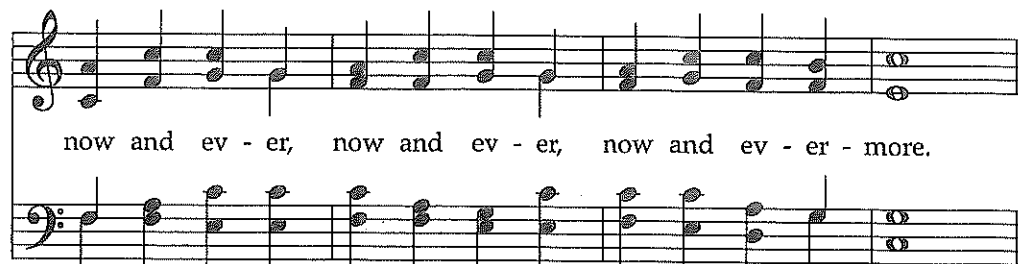
Refrain



wan - dering in their sep - arate ways?
 Who will light the flame of care?
 might en - vi - sion wid - er dreams. God of rain - bow, fi - ery pil - lar,
 each a love song to be sung.
 res - ur - rect the church a - gain.



lead - ing where the ea - gles soar, we your peo - ple, ours the jour - ney



now and ev - er, now and ev - er, now and ev - er - more.

In this simultaneously-created text and tune, the author/composer was seeking to incorporate imagery from both Native American and Hebrew spiritual traditions. Also included is the mythological phoenix, which had received a Christian interpretation as early as the first century.