
Gathering those who fear they are not enough,
so we may experience grace, wholeness, and renewal as God's beloved.



Jesus healing the blind man – Unknown Ethiopian artist

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

Living is easy with eyes closed, misunderstanding all you see.

– John Lennon

“We do not know what things look like, as you say,” the beast said. “We know what things are like. It must be a very limiting thing, this seeing.”

– Madeleine L'Engle

We Gather to Praise God

PRELUDE

Still, Still With Thee

arr. Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

WELCOME, CENTERING, AND RINGING OF THE BELL

* CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: The wind of the Spirit is blowing.

ALL: **We want to catch the wind.**

ONE: Jesus is calling.

ALL: **We want to hear his voice.**

ONE: We gather for worship, longing for God. Come into God's presence.

ALL: **We come with joy and singing. Let us worship the Lord!**

* HYMN 803

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need



1 My shep-herd will sup - ply my need; Je - ho - vah is his name.
2 When I walk through the shades of death your pres-ence is my stay;
3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me all my days;



In pas - tures fresh he makes me feed, be - side the liv - ing stream.
one word of your sup - port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.
O may your house be my a - bode, and all my work be praise.



He brings my wan - dering spir - it back when I for - sake his ways,
Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread;
There would I find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers go and come;



and leads me, for his mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.
my cup with bless - ings o - ver - flows; your oil a - noints my head.
no more a strang - er, or a guest, but like a child at home.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.

MUSIC: U.S.A. folk melody; Lewis's *Beauties of Harmony*, 1828; harm. Dale Grotenhuis, 1986
Music Harm. © 1990 Dale Grotenhuis

RESIGNATION

CMD

(alternate harmonization, 74)

* *Please stand in body or spirit*

DRAW NEAR TO GOD'S LOVE AND GRACE

Loving God, you are at work in our midst.

The Spirit is moving and inviting us to be a part of your work in the world.

Yet all too often, we miss what you are doing.

We think we know what is possible, and what isn't, and so we cannot see.

O God, heal our spiritual blindness. Open our eyes and our ears.

Help us to see you and to sense you, so that we may show you to the world.

Silence for personal reflection

SUNG RESPONSE

Kyrie eleison (Lord, Have Mercy)

The musical notation consists of two staves in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The first staff has the lyrics: Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. The second staff has the lyrics: Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
MUSIC: Dinah Reindorf, 1987; arr. Sing! A New Creation, 2001
Music © 1987 Dinah Reindorf
Music Arr. © 2001 Faith Alive Christian Resources

KYRIE ELEISON (Reindorf)

RECEIVE GOD'S LOVE AND GRACE

* SING GLORY TO GOD

The musical notation is in 12/8 time, key of B-flat major. It consists of four staves with the following lyrics: 1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me, and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free. As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text; adapt. Paul M. Vasile, 2008
MUSIC: Paul M. Vasile, 2008
Text Adapt. and Music © 2008 Paul M. Vasile

GLORY TO GOD (Vasile)

* PASSING THE PEACE

ONE: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

We Listen for God's Word

SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am God.

John Bell, ©1989 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GLA Publications, Inc.)

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 23

¹ *The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.*

² *He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;*

³ *he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.*

⁴ *Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff —
they comfort me.*

⁵ *You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.*

⁶ *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.*

ONE: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

ALL: Go now in peace, go now in peace, may the love of God surround you, everywhere, everywhere, you may go.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 9:1-41

As (Jesus) walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷He answered them,

“I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸*Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.”* ³⁰*The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”* ³⁴*They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.*

³⁵*Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”* ³⁶*He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.”* ³⁷*Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.”* ³⁸*He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.”* ⁴⁰*Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?”* ⁴¹*Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”*

ONE: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

HERE IS AN ASTONISHING THING

James Sledge

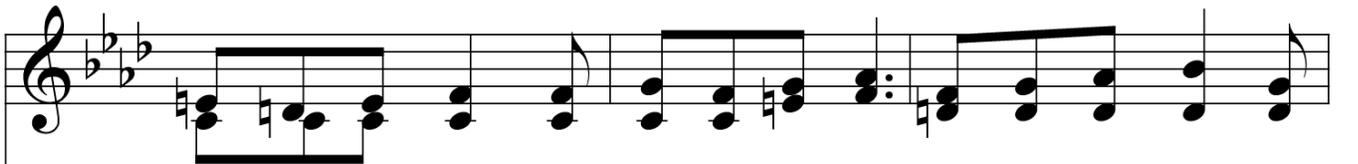
We Respond to God's Word

* HYMN 451

Open My Eyes, That I May See



1 O-pen my eyes, that I may see glimps-es of truth thou hast for me.
2 O-pen my ears, that I may hear voic - es of truth thou send-est clear.
3 O-pen my mouth, and let me bear glad - ly the warm truth ev-ery-where.



Place in my hands the won-der-ful key that shall un - clasp and
And while the wave notes fall on my ear, ev - ery-thing false will
O - pen my heart, and let me pre-pare love with thy chil-dren



set me free. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy
dis - ap-pear. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy
thus to share. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy



will to see. O - pen my eyes; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!
will to see. O - pen my ears; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!
will to see. O - pen my heart; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!

The first woman to publish a collection of her own anthems, this author/composer has created in this hymn a sung prayer for illumination. It not only asks God to help us understand Scripture but also prays for the strength and courage to make God's love known to others.

* **RESPONSE OF FAITH**

from A Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ONE: Lord in your mercy,

ALL: Hear our prayer.

The Prayers of the People are offered on behalf of and with the congregation, usually by an elder currently serving on Session (governing council) or other members of the congregation.

Please keep in your prayers...

Wendy Bognar, daughter of Tobi Brock, recovering from disc fusion surgery
Suzanne Martin and family on the death of her mother, Phyllis DeMass, on March 6
Sgt. John R. Goldsmith, nephew of Frank Burdette, upon his second deployment in
the Middle East

Janet Bickel, undergoing surgery for sciatica on March 23

Chuck and Marty Campbell, parents of Jay Campbell, as Chuck struggles with
Parkinson's Disease and as Marty cares for him

The Ammons and Schwartz families upon the death of Gail's mother, Marilyn
Gauzza, and Doug's recent hospitalizations

James Steele, suffering from Alzheimer's Disease

Continued prayers for...

Paige Bach, Kris Barth, Cameron Brown, Judy Cornier, Steve Graff, Mike Hugo,
Merry Huley, Linda Issacson, Doug Jonas, Nora Long, Nancy Lundien, Ruth
Mileham, Bob Moore, Cheryl Naderman, Ruth Nowjack-Raymer, Barbara Peret, Cort
Peret, Stanley Rusher, Cathy Stewart, Lawson Swift, Doris Webb, Doris Williams,
Christa Young

Prayer Requests: If you have a prayer request, there are cards in the pew racks that
can be filled out and placed in the offering plate.

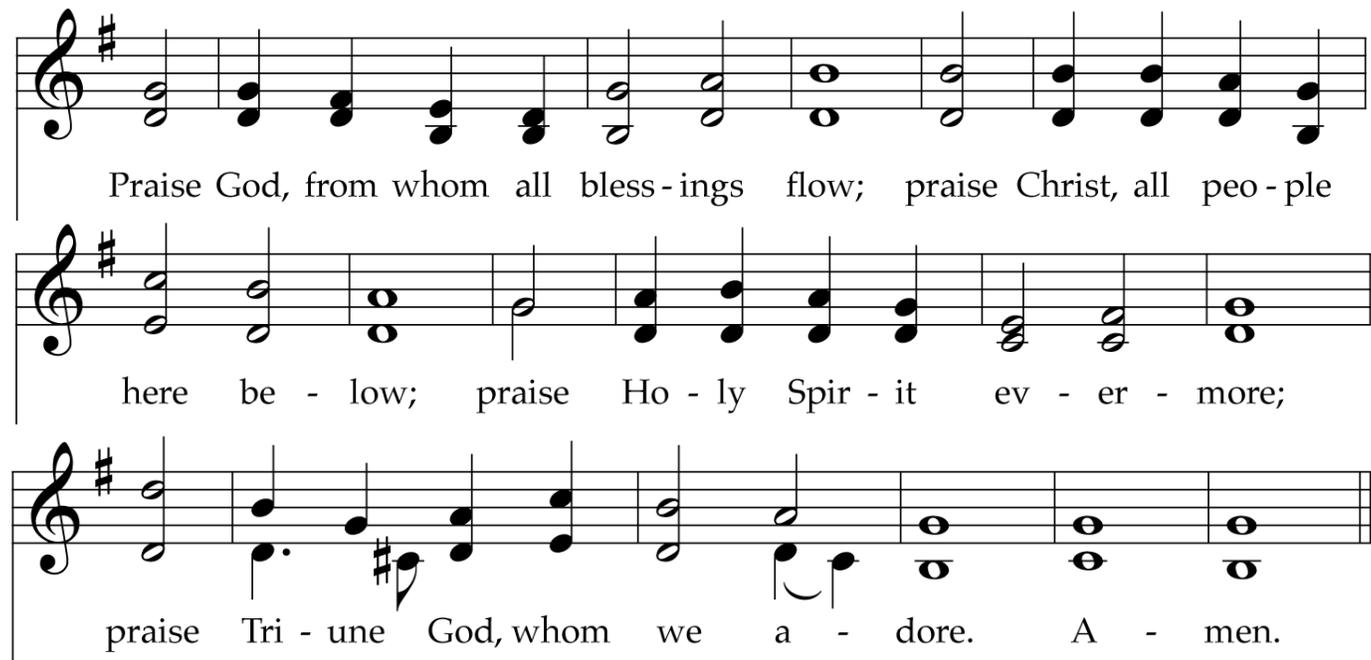
OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Danny Boy

arr. Mark Hayes (b. 1953)

David Schoonover, baritone
Andrew Jonas, saxophone

* DOXOLOGY



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise Christ, all peo - ple
here be - low; praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more;
praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore. A - men.

TEXT: Neil Weatherhogg, 1988
MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551
Text © 1990 Neil Weatherhogg

OLD HUNDREDTH
LM

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING 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.

* HYMN 450

Be Thou My Vision

Capo 1: (D) (G) (D/F#) (A7) (D)
 Eb Ab Eb/G Bb7 Eb

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) (D) (G) (A)
 Bb Eb Ab Bb

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) (D) (F#m7) (G) (A)
 Ab Eb Gm7 Ab Bb

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) (D/F#) (G) (D)
 Cm Eb/G Ab Eb

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.

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.

*** OUR LIFE TOGETHER AS THE BODY OF CHRIST**

*** CHARGE AND BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

“Somewhere” from *West Side Story*

Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)

Songs reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-721003

Supporting us in Worship

Video Streaming
Music

Diane Maloney
Andrew Jonas, David Schoonover

Falls Church Presbyterian belongs to the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, “working for the unity of the church, furthering the inclusion of LGBTQ persons, seeking understanding and reconciliation, and joining with others seeking a still more just and inclusive church.”

The Rev. James Sledge, Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Diane Walton Hendricks, Pastor for Spiritual Growth

Diane Maloney, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry

The Rev. Megan Klose, Parish Associate

The Rev. Rusty Lynn, Hon. Ret., Parish Associate

Dr. Lisa A. Billingham, Chancel Choir Director

Dr. Lisa Bloy, Organist