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



JESUS MAFA, *Nicodemus*, 1973
from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

God so loved the world that he gave. God's love is self-giving and spontaneous. No body commanded God to give his love. It is just God's nature to give. God's gift to man was given not because God was asked to give it, but because he wanted to give it.

— Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

We Gather to Praise God

PRELUDE

I Want Jesus to Walk With Me

arr. Lynn Petersen (contemporary)

RINGING OF THE BELL AND WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: This is the day the LORD has made.

ALL: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

HYMN 14 (vv. 1 and 4)

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;

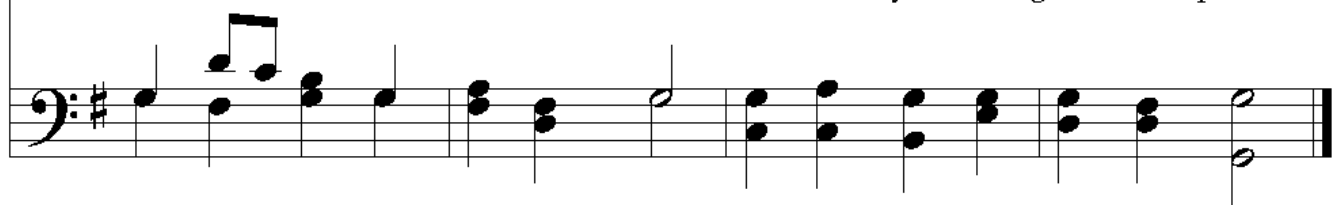


for the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies:
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:
for the mys-tic har-mo-ny link-ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild:
for that great, great love of thine,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

DRAW NEAR TO GOD'S LOVE AND GRACE

Almighty God,

you love us, but we have not loved you.

You call, but we have not listened.

We walk away from neighbors in need,
wrapped in our own concerns.

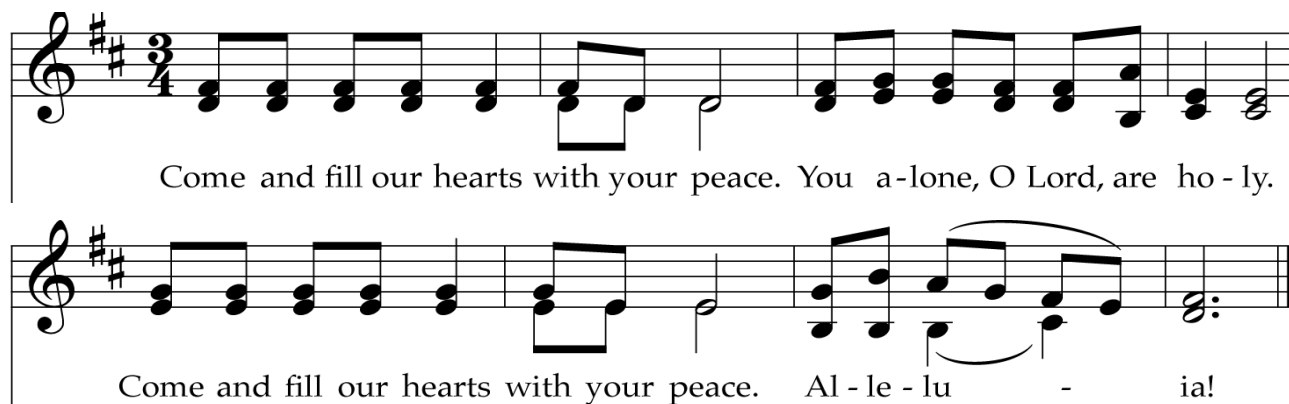
We condone evil, prejudice, warfare and greed.

God of grace, help us admit our sin,
so that as you come to us in mercy;

we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ our redeemer.

Silence

SUNG RESPONSE



Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al-le-lu - ia!

TEXT and MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1982

Text and Music © 1991 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

CONFITEMINI DOMINO

Irregular

RECEIVE GOD'S LOVE AND GRACE

SING GLORY TO GOD



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry in the high-est!
Glo-ri-a, glo-ri-a, in ex-cel-sis De-o!

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!
Glo-ri-a, glo-ri-a, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text

MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1979

Music © 1979, 1981 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

GLORIA (Taizé)

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



1 Give us light; give us light; give us light, O Lord.
2 Give us life; give us life; give us life, O Lord.

TEXT: Charles Vas

MUSIC: Charles Vas, alt.

Text and Music © 1990 Christian Conference of Asia (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

JYOTHI DHO

Irregular

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 139:13-18

- ¹³ For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- ¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.
- ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
- ¹⁶ Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.
- ¹⁷ How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
- ¹⁸ I try to count them—they are more than the sand;
I come to the end—I am still with you.

ONE: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC

O Love

arr. Elaine Hagenberg (b. 1978)

Chancel Choir

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 3:1-21

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹ But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

ONE: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

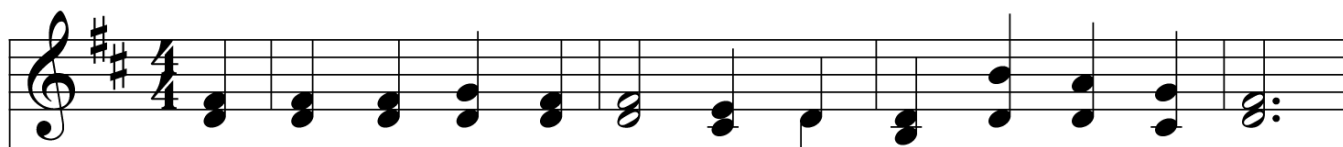
GOD SO LOVES THE WORLD

Becca Leland

We Respond to God's Word

HYMN 321 (vv. 1 and 4)

The Church's One Foundation



1 The chur-ch's one foun-da-tion is Je-sus Christ her Lord.
2 E-lect from ev-ery na-tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
3 Though with a scorn-ful won-der this world sees her op-pressed,
4 Mid toil and trib-u-la-tion, and tu-mult of her war,
5 Yet she on earth has un-ion with God, the Three in One,



She is his new cre-a-tion by wa-ter and the word.
her char-ter of sal-va-tion: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
by schis-ms rent a-sun-der, by her-e-sies dis-tressed,
she waits the con-sum-ma-tion of peace for-ev-er-more:
and mys-tic sweet com-mu-nion with those whose rest is won:



From heaven he came and sought her to be his ho-ly bride.
One ho-ly name she bless-es, par-takes one ho-ly food,
yet saints their watch are keep-ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
till with the vi-sion glo-rious her long-ing eyes are blest,
O hap-py ones and ho-ly! Lord, give us grace that we,



With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
and to one hope she press-es, with ev-ery grace en-dued.
And soon the night of weep-ing shall be the morn of song.
and the great church vic-to-rious shall be the church at rest.
like them, the meek and low-ly, may live e-ter-nal-ly.

This hymn was one of twelve written by an English curate to affirm the articles of the Apostles' Creed with biblical allusions such as 1 Corinthians 3:11 here. Though not created for this text, the tune was joined to it in 1868, and the two have been inseparable ever since.

RESPONSE OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Kirk Salpini

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.

Prayers of Joy

Congratulations to Jen Root and Alan Shankle on their marriage at FCPC on January 8

Prayer Concerns

Bill Darrow, after a recent hospitalization

Arnold Baker, friend of Carol and Bill Kercheval, recovering from back surgery

Sarah Barth, in treatment for cancer

Andrea Brown, in treatment for a benign tumor

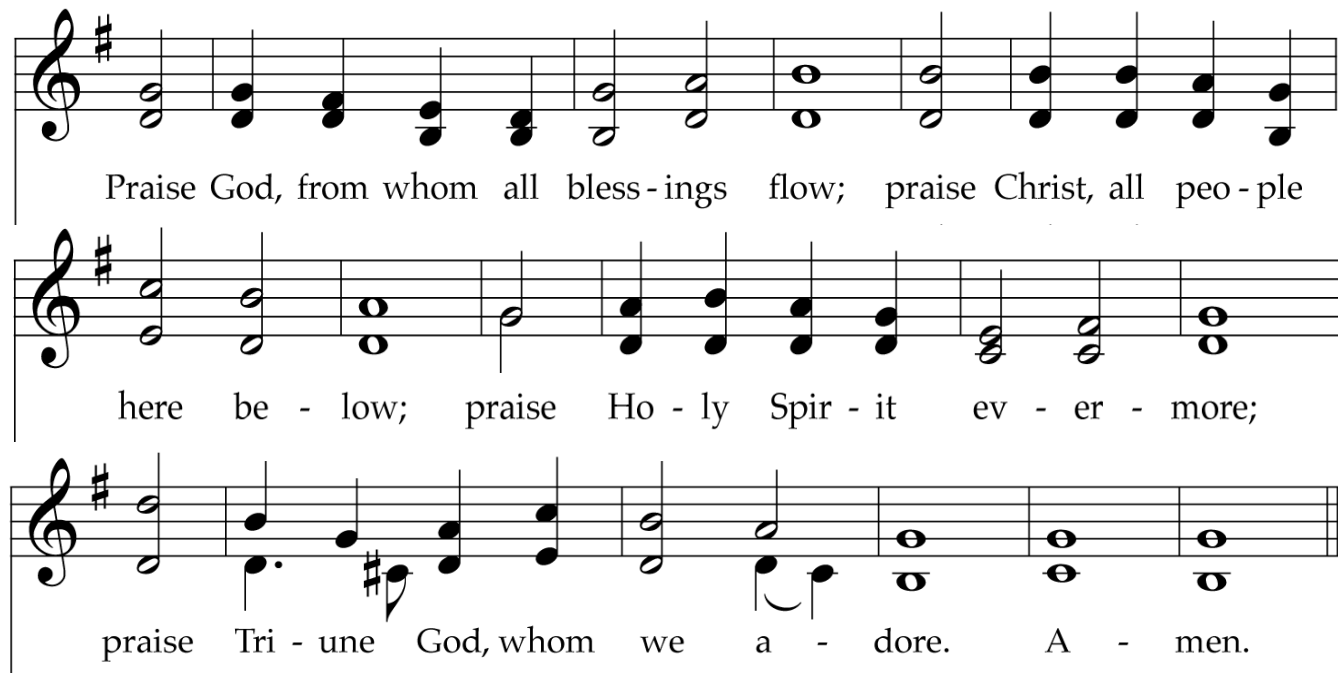
Continued Prayers

Kris Barth, Callie Brown, Allan Capon, Steve Graff, Emma Corina Granado, Mike Hugo, Nora Long, Ruth Mileham, Bob Moore, Sharane Patek, Cort Peret, Sabra Staley, Lawson Swift, Christa Young

Prayer requests can be sent to Pastor James at prayers@fallschurchpresby.org.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

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 716

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending



1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and
2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of
3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through powers your

(D)

F

(Bm)

Dm



end - less store, na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly
Christ, your Son: all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es
grace con - ferred: ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to

(G)

B \flat

(D)

F

(A)

C



cross, grave's shat - tered door: gift - ed by you, we turn
joined, the church made one. Now di - rect our dai - ly
spread the gos - pel word. O - pen wide our hands in

(Bm)

Dm

(F \sharp m)

Am

(Bm)

Dm

(G)

B \flat

(A)

C

(D)

F



to you, of - fer - ing up our - selves in praise; thank - ful song shall
la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone. Born with tal - ents,
shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call, heal - ing, teach - ing,

(Bm)

Dm

(G)

B \flat

(D)

F



rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

TEXT: Robert L. Edwards, 1961, alt.

MUSIC: *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; harm. James H. Wood, 1958

Text © 1961, ren. 1989 *The Hymn Society* (admin. Hope Publishing Company)

Music Harm. © 1958, ren. 1986 Broadman Press (admin. Music Services)

BEACH SPRING

8.7.8.7.D

OUR LIFE TOGETHER AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

arr. Marilyn Ham (contemporary)

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Supporting us in Worship

Worship Leader

Becca Leland, Kirk Salpini

Music

David Schoonover

Audio/Video

Andrew Jonas

A Warm Welcome

Thank you for joining us in virtual worship this morning. If you would like to learn more about our community of faith, please visit the church website.

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

Diane Maloney, Director of Spiritual Growth and Community Engagement

The Rev. Megan Klose, Parish Associate

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

David Schoonover, Acting Director of Music

Dr. Lisa Bloy, Organist

225 East Broad Street, Falls Church, VA 22046 • 703-532-6518

www.fallschurchpresby.org

Online Worship and Meetings

Worship Service – Sunday at 9:30 a.m. [Facebook Live](#), [YouTube](#),
www.fallschurchpresby.org/livestream, [Sermon.net Media Center](#)

Tuesday Morning Prayer – Tuesday at 8:45 a.m. [Zoom Meeting ID: 104 294 101](#)

Saturday Morning Bible Study & Fellowship Group – Saturday at 8:00 a.m.
Contact [Tom Koger](#) for meeting information.

Virtual only worship continues. With the high rate of Covid cases in our area, we are continuing to worship in a virtual-only format. We are monitoring the situation closely and hope to resume in-person worship soon. Also canceled, for now, are in-person Youth Group, The Bridge, and Godly Play. Watch the announcements for updates.

Drop & Dash, Jan. 16. Drop off donations Sunday from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Broad Street/front parking lot entrance. Donations help restock the shelves at Knox Presbyterian Food Pantry. Most-needed items can be found [here](#).

Generosity Team update. With gratitude for God's abundance made manifest through your generosity, the Generosity Team is pleased to share that Mary Salpini has received 97 estimates toward this year's giving, totaling \$657,120. Thank you to all who have already submitted your estimate. If you have not had a chance to do so, it's not too late; please take a moment and complete the [online form](#).

2022 offering envelopes are available in the church office for anyone who would like to use them. Please contact [Mary Salpini](#) to arrange pick up.

Welcome Table, Jan. 19. Our BIG Welcome Table is coming up soon and lots of helping hands are needed. Click [here](#) to sign up for your favorite volunteer spot. Financial gifts to support Welcome Table are always appreciated and can be mailed to the church or sent using the QR code below.

FCPC Cookbooks have arrived! We will begin distributing the cookbooks once in-person worship resumes. For those who pre-ordered, your copy/copies will be set aside. There are plenty of extras available for purchase. Cookbooks are a \$10 minimum donation each and all monies collected will help support our Hunger Ministries at FCPC. Payment can be made by using the QR code below or by sending a check to the church office.

Shout Out for Justice: Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Supporting Voting Rights, Saturday, January 22. As our nation honors Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Jan. 17, the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change (“The King Center”) and the King family are marking their observance with [a call to pass critical voting rights legislation](#). The King Center was founded “to empower people to create a just, humane, equitable and peaceful world by applying Dr. King’s nonviolent philosophy and methodology.” One of the ways The King Center strives for these goals is by [protecting voting rights](#). You can honor Dr. King’s legacy and support ongoing efforts to restore and secure voting rights for all Americans by joining FCPC and members of our community on **Saturday, Jan. 22, from noon to 1 p.m. along Broad Street** for our next Shout Out for Justice event. Learn more about the mission of The King Center [here](#). Read more about critical voting rights legislation [here](#) and [here](#).

Provide a meal for the Falls Church Homeless Shelter. Only two spots left! Thank you to all who have signed up to provide a meal for the staff and guests at the shelter. Only two spots remain open: Feb. 28 and March 28. Click [here](#) for more information and to sign up.

Sharing the joy of Advent and Christmas. Thanks to Jack Sarver and Marsha Schuyler, neighbors of FCPC and our Welcome Table guests were the grateful recipients of the beautiful poinsettias that we enjoyed throughout the Christmas season. Sharing the gift of nature’s beauty brings continuing joy to all. And thank you to Marnie Sarver for tending to the poinsettias throughout the Christmas season.

Sign up for 2022 Flowers. The Flower Committee invites you to sign up to provide flowers for worship while honoring, remembering, or celebrating an event or a loved one. Reserve your spot for 2022 [here](#). Suggested colors reflect special days on the church calendar and appear on the signup. Thank you for enhancing our worship services with your gift of flowers.

Scan the QR code at right to connect to the mobile version of FCPC’s Online Giving web page.

