



January 29, 2023
4th Sunday after Epiphany
8:30 a.m.

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

Preparing Our Hearts for Worship

The kingdom, Jesus taught, is right here—present yet hidden, immanent yet transcendent. It is at hand—among us and beyond us, now and not-yet. The kingdom of heaven, he said, belongs to the poor, the meek, the peacemakers, the merciful, and those who hunger and thirst for God. It advances not through power and might, but through missions of mercy, kindness, and humility. In this kingdom, many who are last will be first and many who are first will be last. The rich don't usually get it, Jesus said, but children always do. This is a kingdom whose savior arrives not on a warhorse, but a donkey, not through triumph and conquest, but through death and resurrection. This kingdom is the only kingdom that will last.

— Rachel Held Evans

Gathering Song #399 (sung twice)

God Welcomes All

God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;

God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

TEXT: John L. Bell, 2008
MUSIC: South African song; transcr. John L. Bell, 2008
Text and Music Transcr. © 2008 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

THEMBA AMEN
4.4.9

Welcome

* Song #669

Let's Sing unto the Lord



1 Let's sing un - to the Lord a hymn of glad re - joic-ing.
2 Let's sing un - to the Lord a hymn of ad - o - ra - tion,



Let's sing a hymn of love, at the new day's fresh be - gin-ning.
which shows our love and faith and the hope of all cre - a - tion.



God made the sky a - bove, the stars, the sun, the o - ceans;
Through all that has been made, the Lord is praised for great-ness,

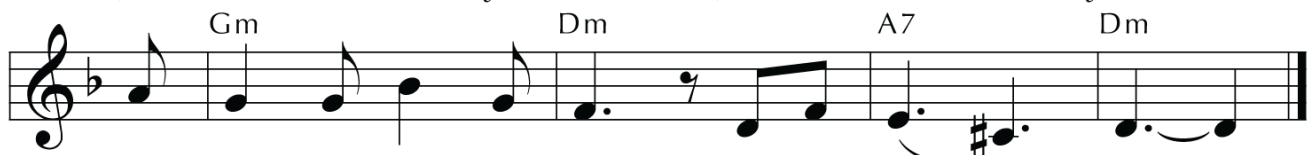


and God saw it was good, for those works were filled with beau-ty.
and so we sing to God, who be - stows such love - ly bless-ings.

Refrain / Estribillo



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - le - lu - ya!



Let's sing un - to the Lord. Al - le - lu - ia!
Can - te - mos al Se - ñor. ¡Al - le - lu - ya!

Showing the apparent influence of Genesis 1 and Psalm 19, this cheerful hymn was created as the entrance hymn for a mass setting by the author/composer. The joyful tone of this music needs not to be rushed but savored, more like an accentuated dance than a hasty gallop.

TEXT: Carlos Rosas, 1976; English trans. Roberto Escamilla, Elise S. Eslinger, and George Lockwood, 1983, 1987
MUSIC: Carlos Rosas, 1976; arr. Raquel Mora Martínez, 1980
Text and Music © 1976 OCP
English Trans. © 1989 OCP
Music Arr. © 1983 OCP

CANTEMOS AL SEÑOR
6.7.6.8.D with refrain

Opening Prayer

* Please stand in body or spirit

Scripture

Matthew 5:1-12

This reading is the opening of the Sermon on the Mount, an extended set of teachings that spans Matthew 5:1-7:29. These verses, referred to as the Beatitudes (from the Latin for blessing), form a kind of preamble to the teachings that follow.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

ONE: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**



Laura James, Sermon on the Mount, 2010
from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library

Reflection

James Sledge

Offering Gifts and Song #731

Give Thanks for Those Whose Faith is Firm



1 Give thanks for those whose faith is firm when all a -
 2 Give thanks for those whose hope is clear, be - yond mere
 3 Give thanks for those whose love is pure, a spar - kling
 4 Give thanks for saints of a - ges past and saints a -

(D) (A) (D) (G) (Em) (A) (F#m)
 E^b B^b E^b A^b Fm B^b Gm



round seems bleak: on God's good prom - ise they re - ly, so
 mor - tal sight: who seek the cit - y God has planned, the
 pre - cious stone: they show by what they say and do an
 live to - day: though of - ten by this world de - spised, their

(Bm) (G) (Em) (A7) (D)
 Cm A^b Fm B^b7 E^b



while they live and when they die how force - ful -
 true, e - ter - nal prom - ised land, and steer on
 in - ward beau - ty, warm and true, for God's con -
 hearts by God are rich - ly prized. Give thanks that

(A7) (B) (Em) (G) (A7) (D)
 B^b7 C Fm A^b B^b7 E^b



ly they speak: the strong, who once were weak!
 toward that light, a bea - con ev - er bright.
 cerns they own: God's love through them is known.
 we may say we share their pil - grim way.

The first three stanzas of this text are organized around the three great virtues—faith, hope, and love—mentioned in 1 Corinthians 13:13. These have indeed been the marks of the faithful people of God always and everywhere, and the final stanza sums up our gratitude for them.

Prayers of the People

Darryle Brown

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.

At the end of each petition, we will sing:

Come, O Ho - ly Spir - it, come;

Come, al - might - y Spir - it, come;

Come, come, come.

TEXT: Nigerian song; English trans. I-to Loh, 1986
MUSIC: Nigerian melody, taught by Samuel Solanke; transcr. I-to Loh, 1986
English Trans. and Music Transcr. © 1995 General Board of Global Ministries t/a GBGMusik

WA EMIMIMO
Irregular

Prayer Concerns

Lowell Schuyler, following knee replacement surgery on Jan. 23

Anne Peret on the death of her brother, Cort Peret, on Jan. 7

Cathy Johnson and family on the death of Mary Lou Johnson on Jan. 5

Continued Prayers

Kris Barth, Sarah Barth, Allan Capon, Neill Ferill, Mike Hugo, Miss Latifa, Rusty Lynn, Ruth Mileham, Bob Moore, Sharane Patek, Dick Rowberg, Michael Volpe, Ken Waugh, Christa Young

Prayer requests can be sent to Pastors James and Megan at prayers@fallschurchpresby.org.

Communion of the People

Invitation to the Table, Prayer of Thanksgiving, the Lord's Prayer

ALL: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Distribution of the Elements

Communion is by intinction. Receive bread into your open hand and dip it in the cup. Bread is gluten-free and cup is non-alcoholic. Those joining us on livestream are invited to use whatever elements you have at home to join in the Lord's Supper.

Communion Song #507

Come to the Table of Grace

1 Come to the ta - ble of grace. Come to the
ta - ble of grace. This is God's ta - ble; it's
not yours or mine. Come to the ta - ble of grace.

Post-Communion Prayer

* Song #740

Lead Me, Guide Me

Refrain

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way, for if you
 lead me, I can - not stray. Lord, let me walk each
 day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.
 I am weak and I need your strength and power to help me
 o - ver my weak - est hour. Help me through the dark-ness your
 face to see. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Fine
to Refrain

TEXT: Doris Akers, 1953
 MUSIC: Doris Akers, 1953; arr. Richard Smallwood
 Text and Music © 1953, ren. Doris Akers (admin. Chappell & Co., Inc./Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.)

LEAD ME, GUIDE ME
 Irregular

Our Life Together as the Body of Christ

The Peace

ONE: The peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

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

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Supporting us in Worship

Worship Leader	Darryle Brown
Music	Wendy Hellmann, piano
Audio/Video	Alex Hess

A Warm Welcome

Thank you for joining us in worship this morning. If you would like to learn more about our community of faith, please visit www.fallschurchpresby.org.

Farewell Reception for James Sledge, February 5

Please join us in Fellowship Hall following the 10:45 a.m. worship on Feb. 5 as we bid farewell to Pastor James Sledge. For those attending 8:30 worship, there will also be refreshments and a time to say goodbye after that service.

Forming a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)

Your Congregational Nominating Committee is beginning the process of putting together a PNC. If there is someone you would like to suggest or if you are interested in serving, contact Jay Campbell or the church office.

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. Megan Klose, Associate Pastor

Diane Maloney, Director of Spiritual Growth and Community Engagement

Dr. Don Armstrong, Director of Music

Dr. Lisa Bloy, Organist

Falls Church Presbyterian Church

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