

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

October 27th 2024

Portage Lake United Church

Lectionary Year B

Liturgical Color: Green
Proper 25(30)



O taste and see
that the LORD is
good; happy are
those who take
refuge in him.

Psalm 34:8

Mulungwishi Trinity Cross
Mulungwishi Mission
Democratic Republic of Congo

Welcome and Announcements

We gather in the name of the Holy Trinity, one God, source of all goodness and mercy. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

- The Fall meeting of the Congregation/Corporation will be held on Sunday, November, 3, 2024.
- Holiday Decoration Rummage Sale: Saturday, November 2nd, 10 am-2 pm. Help is needed after the service today to set up tables and move boxes of decorations to the back of the sanctuary.
- The “Coat the Copper Country Project” winter wear give away sponsored by the CC Angel Mission is taking place on Friday, October 25 5:00-7:00 P.M. and Saturday, October 26 10:00 AM.-2:00 P.M. at the Salvation Army Building located at 408 Ravine St. In Hancock, MI Volunteers are needed to help with this project. If you have the time and interest to help either day, you can contact Lois Jambekar: Phone # 906 360-6064 or Email: loisjambekar@gmail.com
- Angel Mission needs: Brown Rice
- ***Are there any other announcements?***

Presider: Rev. Peter Norland

Musician: Ardys Maki

Greeter: Judy Albee

Reader: Beth Smock

Prayer Writer: Carl Vilmann

Coffee: Nancy Byers Sprague, Dianne Sprague

Children's Church: Lois Jambekar



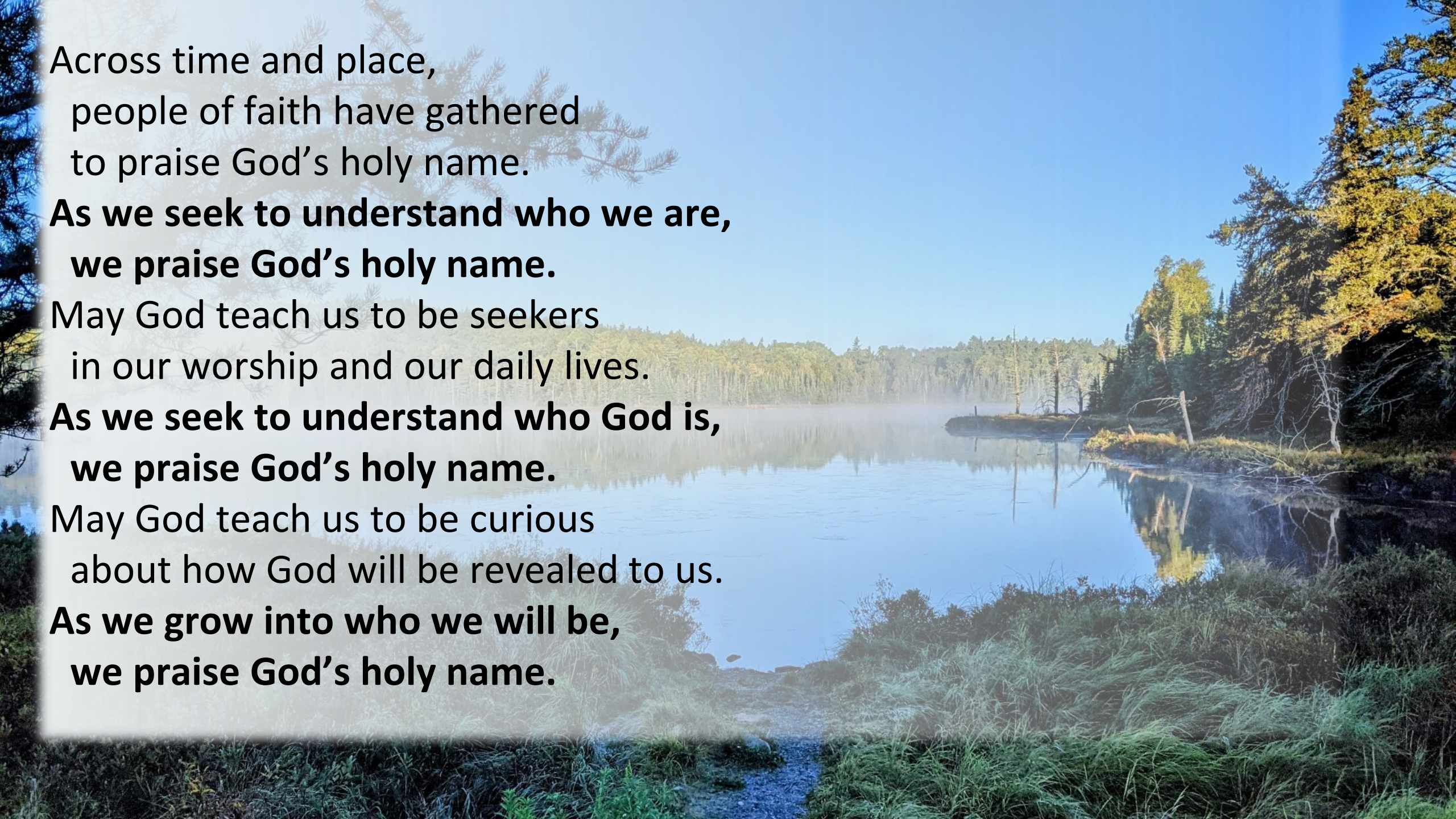
Sherry Middlemis-Brown

MEDITATION

Every once in a while, each of us senses,
for a moment,
this rare blessing of the touch of God.

(Joyce Rupp)

PRELUDE



Across time and place,
people of faith have gathered
to praise God's holy name.

**As we seek to understand who we are,
we praise God's holy name.**

May God teach us to be seekers
in our worship and our daily lives.

**As we seek to understand who God is,
we praise God's holy name.**

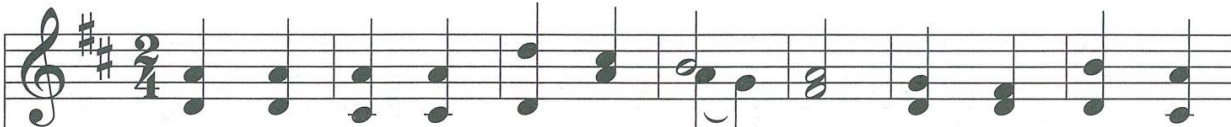
May God teach us to be curious
about how God will be revealed to us.

**As we grow into who we will be,
we praise God's holy name.**

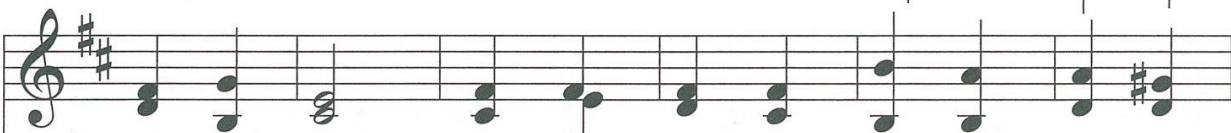
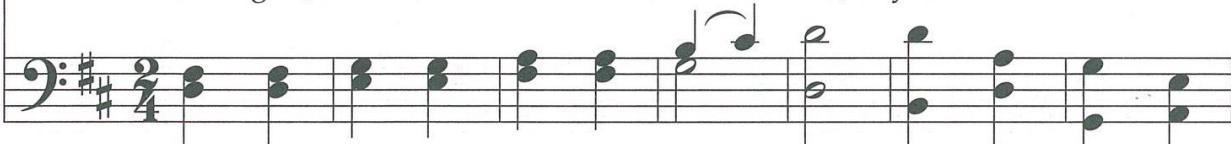
ADORATION

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven 619

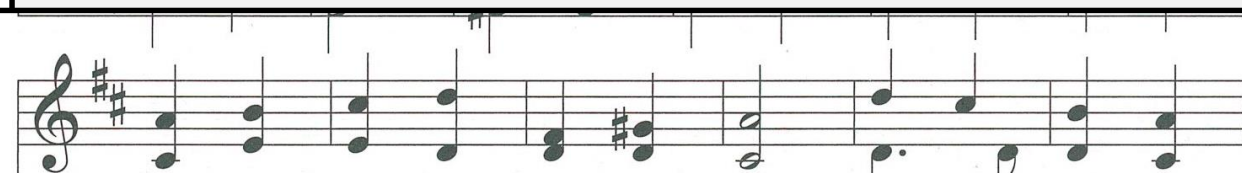
(Psalm 103)



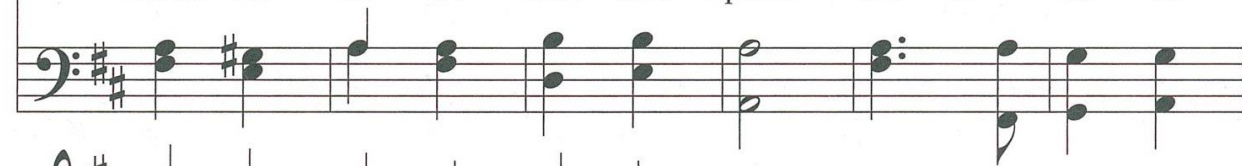
1 Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en; glad of heart your
2 Praise God for the grace and fa - vor shown our fore - bears
3 Like a lov - ing par - ent car - ing, God knows well our
4 An - gels, teach us ad - o - ra - tion; you be - hold God



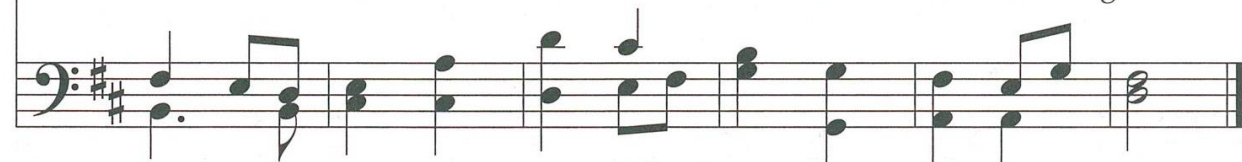
car - ols raise; ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
in dis - tress; God is still the same for - ev - er,
fee - ble frame, glad - ly all our bur - dens bear - ing,
face to face. Sun and moon and all cre - a - tion,



who, like me, should sing God's praise? Al - le - lu - ia!
slow to chide, and swift to bless. Al - le - lu - ia!
still to count - less years the same. Al - le - lu - ia!
dwell - ers all in time and space: Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the Mak - er all your days!
Al - le - lu - ia! Sing our Mak - er's faith - ful - ness!
Al - le - lu - ia! All with - in me, praise God's name!
Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!



This adaptation of an older paraphrase of Psalm 103 (see no. 620) is informed by an awareness that much of the received language of religious traditions enshrines social values that obscure the goodness of God, which far transcends all our labels and categories and hierarchies.

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TEXT: Henry Francis Lytè, 1834; adapt. Ecumenical Women's Center, 1974

MUSIC: John Goss, 1869

Text Adapt. © 1974 Ecumenical Women's Center

LAUDA ANIMA

8.7.8.7.8.7

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of restoration,
help us to recognize your healing work in our lives
and strengthen our faith for the seasons
when that work is still in progress.
May we cultivate the kind of hope
that teaches us of your love.
As a prism spills colors through light,
may we share your restoring love
everywhere we go.
Amen.



Sherry Middlemiss-Brown

+ **Prayer of Confession** (unison)

Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on us.

Heal us of our blindness, O Lord,

for it is a blindness we have chosen.

We close our eyes when faced with

the suffering of the world,

turn our gaze away from the needs of our neighbors,

and blur our faces in the mirror,

lest we recognize your image.

Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on us.

Heal us of our blindness,

and open our eyes to the beauty of your grace.

Amen.

+ PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

We greet one another with a sign of God's peace.

Children of God, we are the body of Christ.

By one spirit we were baptized into one body.

Keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of Peace.

Amen. We are bound by the love of Christ.



WORD

God speaks to us in scripture, reading, preaching and song



*Healing of the Blind Man of Jericho
Master of the Gathering of the Manna*

Jeremiah 31:7-9

The remnant of Israel is gathered

31:7 For thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel."

31:8 See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor together; a great company, they shall return here.

31:9 With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back; I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path where they shall not stumble, for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Word of God, Word of Life. Thanks be to God

Hebrews 7:23-28

23 Furthermore, the former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; **24** but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. **25** Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

26 For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. **27** Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself. **28** For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

Word of God, Word of Life. Thanks be to God

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God of the Sparrow

ROEDER 5.4.6.7.7

Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983

Carl F. Schalk, 1983



- 1. God of the spar - row God of the whale
- 3. God of the rain - bow God of the cross
- 5. God of the neigh - bor God of the foe



God of the swirl - ing stars	How does the crea-ture say
God of the emp - ty grave	How does the crea-ture say
God of the prun - ing hook	How does the crea-ture say



Awe	How does the crea-ture say	Praise
Grace	How does the crea-ture say	Thanks
Love	How does the crea-ture say	Peace

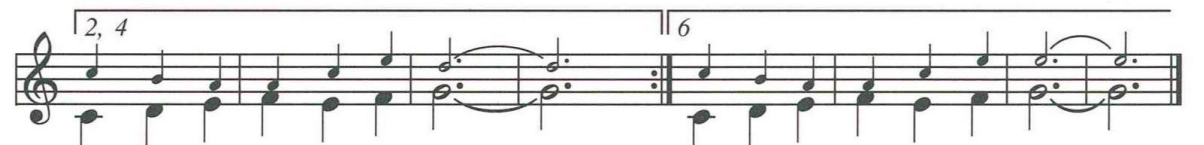
Descant on stanzas 2, 4, 6



- 2. God of the earth-quake God of the storm God of the trum - pet
- 4. God of the hun - gry God of the sick God of the prod - i -
- 6. God of the a - ges God near at hand God of the lov - ing



blast	How does the crea-ture cry	Woe
gal	How does the crea-ture say	Care
heart	How do your chil-dren say	Joy



How does the crea-ture cry	Save	How do your chil-dren say	Home
How does the crea-ture say	Life		

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+ GOSPEL READING Mark 10:46-52

The Healing of Blind Bartimaeus

46 They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. 47 When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” 48 Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” 49 Jesus stood still and said, “Call him here.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart; get up, he is calling you.” 50 So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. 51 Then Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man said to him, “My teacher, let me see again.” 52 Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.” Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. Thanks be to God

Sermon



Lord, That I Might See!
Matyas Church, Budapest, Hungary



OFFERING PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

Holy God, bless our offerings with healing
that comes from your work and our hands.
We give with joy and thanks for what we have,
in the name of Jesus, our great high priest.
Amen.



Ann Campbell

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I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

1 I want to walk as a child of the light;
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God;
3 I'm look-ing for the com-ing of Christ;

I want to fol-low Je-sus.
I want to look at Je-sus.
I want to be with Je-sus.

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

the star of my life is Je-sus.
and show me the way to the Fa-ther.
we shall know the joy of Je-sus.

Refrain

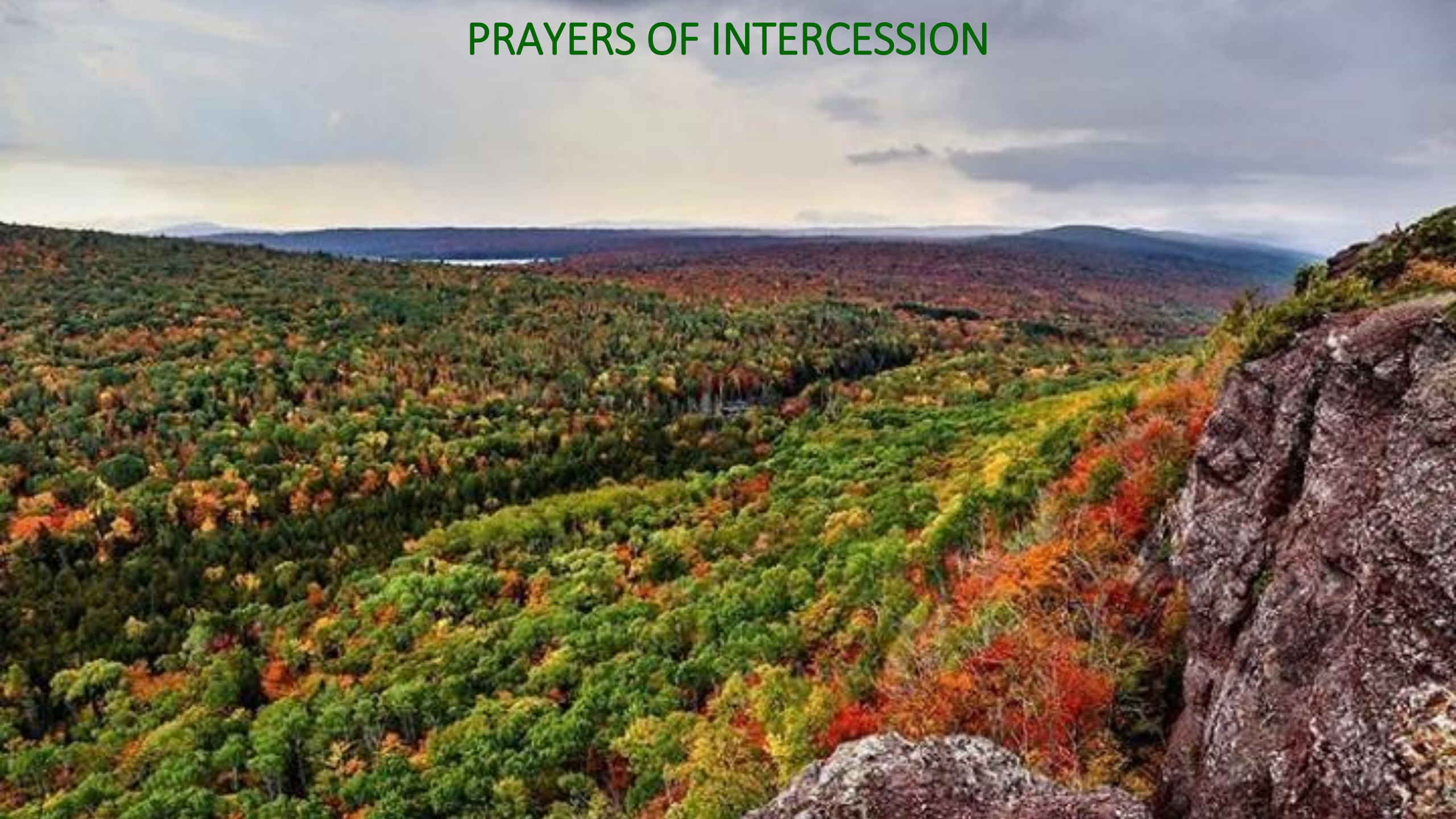
In him there is no dark-ness at all;

the night and the day are both a-like.

The Lamb is the light of the cit-y of God;

shine in my heart, Lord Je-sus.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION



PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

ECUMENICAL

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 for ever.
Amen.



Sherry Middlemis-Brown

This Is My Father's World 293

TERRA BEATA SMD

Maltbie Davenport Babcock, 1901

Franklin L. Sheppard, 1915
Harm. 1953 for *The Hymnbook*; alt. 1988

1. This is my Fa-ther's world, And to my lis-tening ears All
2. This is my Fa-ther's world: Oh, let me ne'er for - get That

na - ture sings, and round me rings The mu - sic of the spheres.
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Rul - er yet.

This is my Fa-ther's world: I rest me in the thought Of
This is my Fa-ther's world: The bat - tle is not done; Je -

rocks and trees, of skies and seas; His hand the won - ders wrought.
sus who died shall be sat - is - fied, And earth and heaven be one.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

CHARGE AND BLESSING

People of God,
As you go from here,
walk in the way of the Lord:
with thanksgiving,
with gladness,
with insight.

Beloved, may the healing love of Christ,
the wisdom of God,
and the strengthening power of the Spirit
be with you this day and always.



The Blind Man's Meal (detail) 1903
Pablo Picasso 1881-1973
Metropolitan Museum of Art

Postlude

Questions for Reflection

What particular vision do you seek?

What do you want to understand?

And when you do see and understand, how will that knowledge, that insight, pull you closer to following Jesus on the way of faith and of peace?



Christ Healing the Blind Man

This particular sarcophagus is known as the Dogmatic Sarcophagus, or the "sarcophagus of the two Testaments." Flanked by Daniel in the Lions' Den.

4th century

Vatican City. Direzione generale dei musei

Thanks to:

Presider: Rev. Peter Norland

Musician: Ardys Maki

Greeter: Judy Albee

Reader: Beth Smock

Prayer Writer: Carl Vilmann

Coffee: Nancy Byers Sprague, Dianne Sprague

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Portage Lake United Church

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1400 East Houghton Avenue, Houghton Michigan 49931
www.PLUC.org office@pluc.org (906)482-5224

Rooted in the Trinity. Growing in God's Word.
Branching out to those in need. Nourished by many waters.

Visio Divina

Photos by

Ann Campbell

Sherry Middlemis-Brown

Matthew Monte

Artwork

The Humble Seat © Jan Richardson

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