Twenty-fourth Sunday After Pentecost

November 12th, 2023



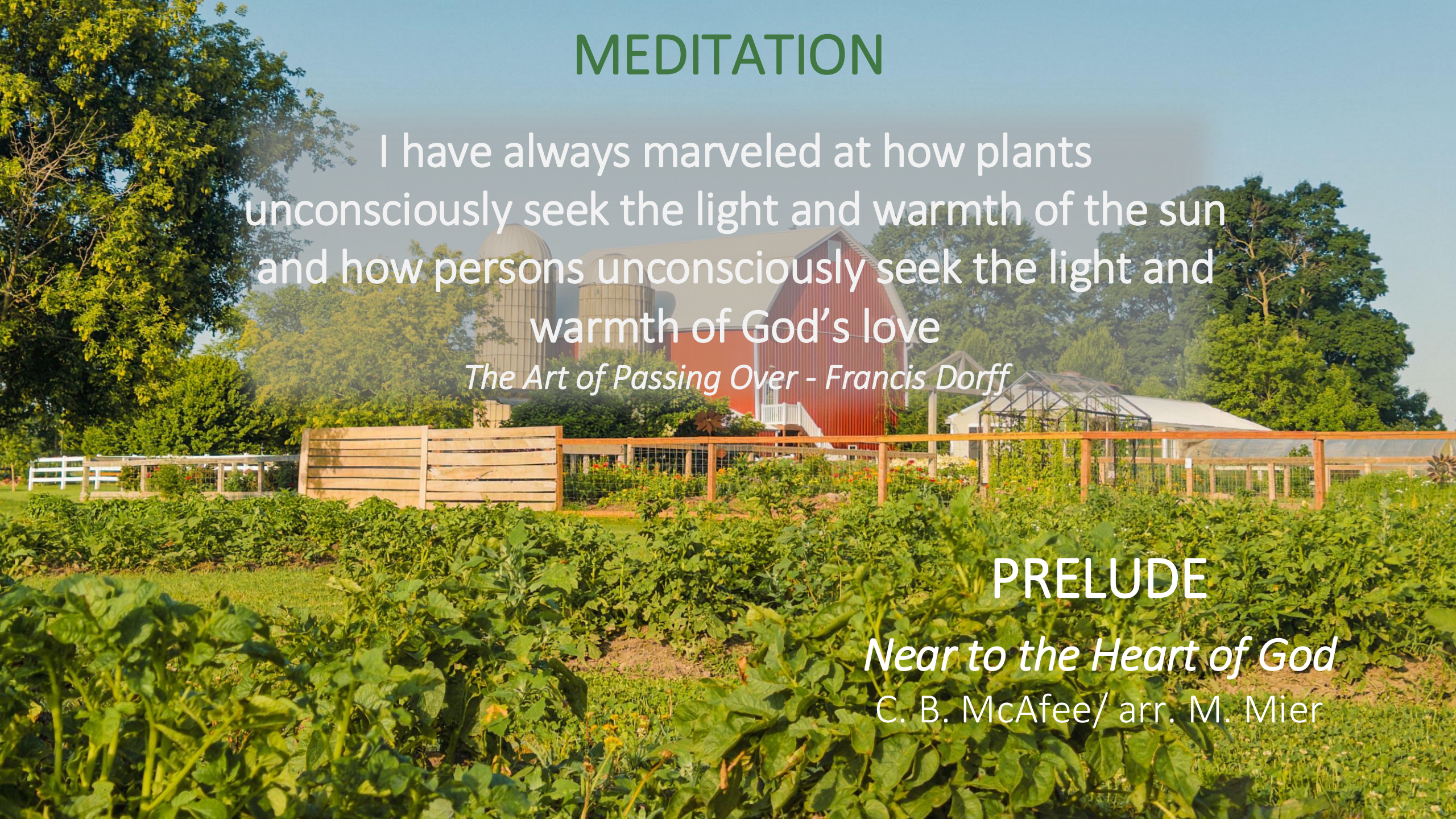
Welcome and Announcements

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.

- Thank you to everyone who helped with the PLUC Holiday Decorations Sale yesterday.
- The Angel Mission needs: unsalted nuts.
- ***Are there any other announcements?***

Liturgical Color Green – Ordinary Time
Lectionary Year A Proper 23(28)

Presider: Peter Norland
Musician: Jennifer Wenger
Greeters: Mary & Al Eckhart
Reader: Christina Norland
Prayer Writer: Jim Northey
Coffee hour:



MEDITATION

I have always marveled at how plants unconsciously seek the light and warmth of the sun and how persons unconsciously seek the light and warmth of God's love

The Art of Passing Over - Francis Dorff

PRELUDE

Near to the Heart of God

C. B. McAfee/ arr. M. Mier

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

✣ CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

The Lord is coming. Whom you will serve?

As for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.

What has God done for you?

Wondrous works. Unforgettable deeds.

Strength in the wilderness; paths of liberation!

Say more.

We'll never stop telling our story.

The next generation will hear it.

Children not yet born will know it.

Hope in God, whose story will never end.

Forever we will praise

our faithful helper and deliverer!



Photo by Ann Campbell

HYMN "You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim" #477 Blue

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1 Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,
And publish abroad His wonderful name;
The name all victorious of Jesus extol,
His kingdom is glorious, He rules over all.

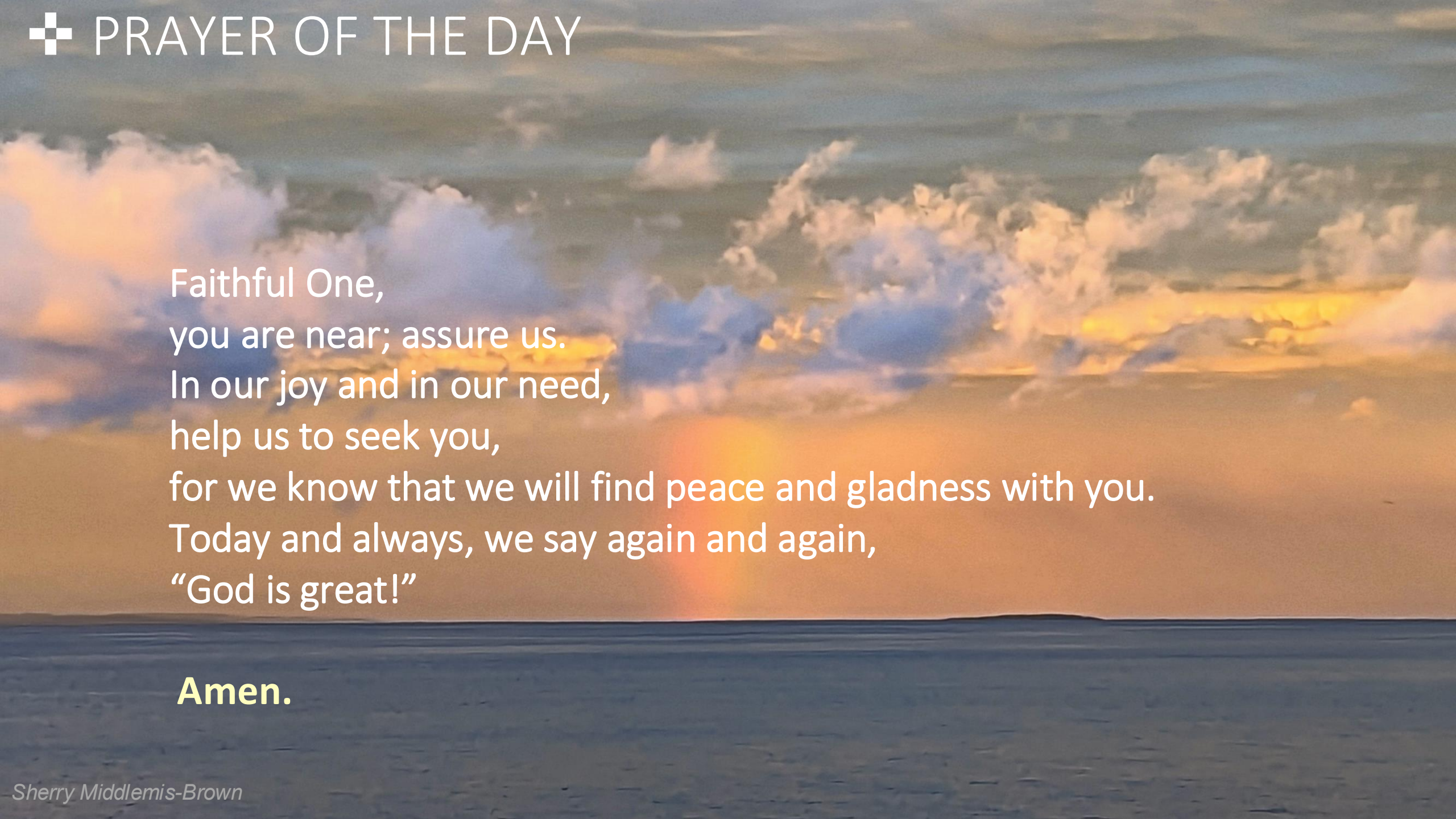
2 God ruleth on high, almighty to save;
And still He is nigh--His presence we have;
The great congregation His triumph shall sing,
Ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.

3 "Salvation to God, who sits on the throne,"
Let all cry aloud, and honor the Son;
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
Fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.

4 Then let us adore, and give Him His right,
All glory and power, all wisdom and might,
All honor and blessing, with angels above,
And thanks never ceasing, and infinite love.



✣ PRAYER OF THE DAY



Faithful One,
you are near; assure us.
In our joy and in our need,
help us to seek you,
for we know that we will find peace and gladness with you.
Today and always, we say again and again,
“God is great!”

Amen.

Sherry Middlemis-Brown

✚ INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Our God is a God of glorious deeds,
of wondrous works.
Our hope is in God.
But we do not always keep God's commandments.
Let us confess our sins
before our merciful and mighty God.



✜ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Everlasting God,
we say we want to see you,
we say we want to know you,
we say we want to serve you,
but we also do not want to put in the work.
We do not want to prepare for your coming
by working for your kin-dom on this earth.
We do not keep alert for signs of you among us,
so we schedule you in for an hour or so on Sundays.
Forgive us. Inspire us to put our faith to action.
Surprise us with your presence so we might learn
to always be ready for you to arrive.




✚ DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS (Responsive)
All who seek God will rejoice and be glad.
We proclaim that God is great because of this good news:
we are forgiven!
Sherry Middlemis-Brown

✜ PASSING THE PEACE

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

Greet each other 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



The Ten Young Women
Jesus MAFA 1973

JESUS MAFA is a response to the New Testament readings from the Lectionary by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa. Eachof the readings was selected and adapted to dramatic interpretation by the community members. Photographs of their interpretations were made, and these were then transcribed to paintings.

FIRST READING Joshua 24:1–3a, 14-15

The Tribes Renew the Covenant

24 Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel, and they presented themselves before God.
2 And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. 3 Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac,

14 "Now, therefore, revere the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt and serve the LORD.
15 Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living, but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

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FIRST READING Joshua 24:16–25

16 Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods,
17 for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the
house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that
we went and among all the peoples through whom we passed, 18 and the LORD drove out before us all
the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our
God.”

19 But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God;
he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. 20 If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods,
then he will turn and do you harm and consume you, after having done you good.” 21 And the people
said to Joshua, “No, we will serve the LORD!” 22 Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses
against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.”
23 He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD,
the God of Israel.” 24 The people said to Joshua, “The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will
obey.” 25 So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day and made statutes and ordinances for
them at Shechem.

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

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Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

The Coming of the Lord

13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who
have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we
believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him
those who have died. 15 For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who
are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who
have died. 16 For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and
with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will
rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together
with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever.
18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

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“What is the World Like” INSERT

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What Is the World Like 771

Capo 1: (G) (Em7) (C) (D)
A♭ Fm7 D♭ E♭



1 What is the world like when God’s will is done?
2 What is the world like when God’s will is done?
3 What is the world like when God’s will is done?
4 What is the world like when God’s will is done?
5 These are the sto - ries that Je - sus im - parts,

(Em) (C) (Am) (B7)
Fm D♭ B♭m C7



Mus - tard seeds grow more than we can con - ceive:
Wit - ness the wan - der - ing child com - ing home;
No more is neigh - bor just al - ly or friend;
Read - y for feast - ing, we watch through the night,
filled with the Spir - it who joins us as one.

(Em) (Am) (D) (G)
Fm B♭m E♭ A♭



roots thread the soil; branch - es reach for the sun.
watch as the par - ent breaks in - to a run.
peace thrives in plac - es where once there was none.
tend - ing our lamps till the new day’s be - gun.
Born through our voic - es, our hands, and our hearts,

(C) (Em7) (Am7) (D) (G)
D♭ Fm7 B♭m7 E♭ A♭



This is how God moves us each to be - lieve.
This is how God longs for us when we roam.
This is how God works when ri - val - ries end.
This is how God read - ies us for the light.
this is a new world where God’s will is done.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This text and tune were written to conclude a hymn festival at the 2009 Annual Conference of The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada. Four parables framed both the festival and the hymn: the Mustard Seed, the Prodigal Son, the Good Samaritan, and the Ten Bridesmaids.

TEXT: Adam M. L. Tice, 2009
MUSIC: Sally Ann Morris, 2009
Text and Music © 2009 GIA Publications, Inc.

NEW WORLD
10.10.10.10

✚ GOSPEL READING Matthew 25:1-13

The Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids

25 “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and
went to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3 When the
foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with
their lamps. 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. 6 But at
midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ 7 Then
all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give
us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ 9 But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not
be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for
yourselves.’ 10 And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were
ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. 11 Later the other
young women came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ 12 But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I
do not know you.’ 13 Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

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Sermon



Bridesmaids Sleeping
St. Giles' Church, Oxford, United Kingdom
20th Century

✚ OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

O God, we give you thanks for the gift of generosity. Bless these gifts and reveal your righteousness as we await the coming of your peace.

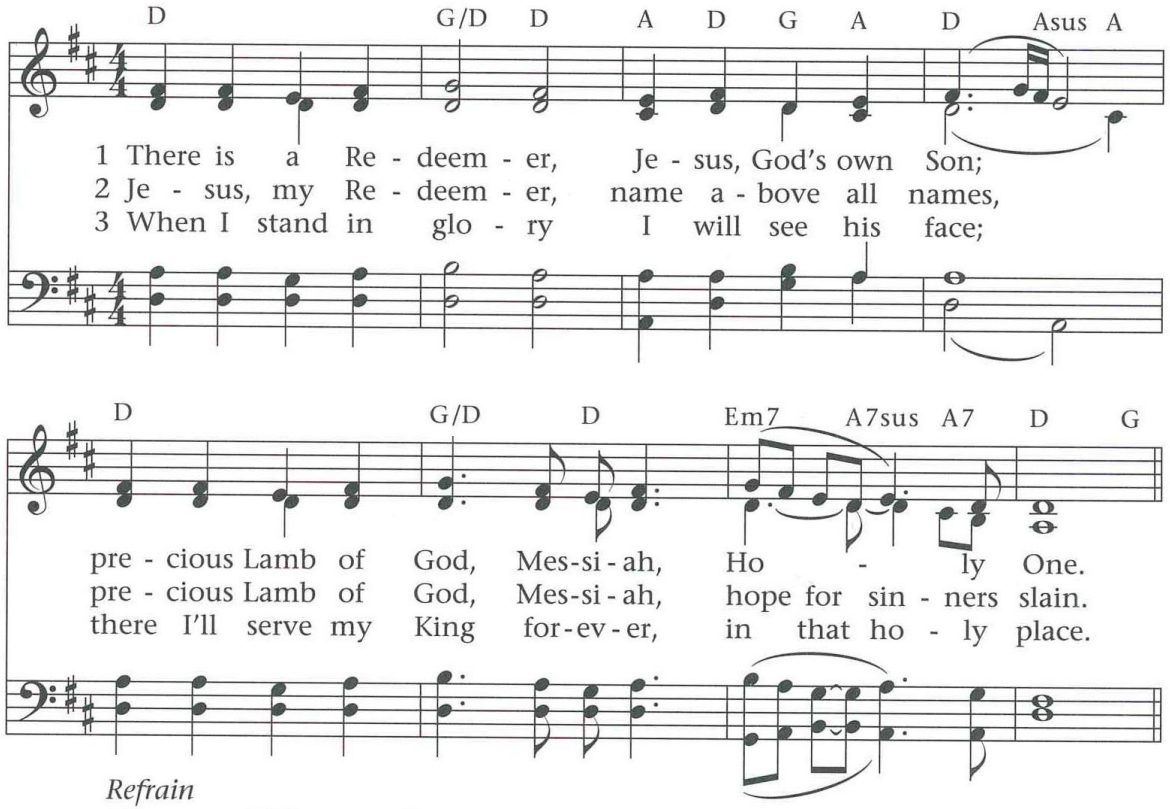
Amen.

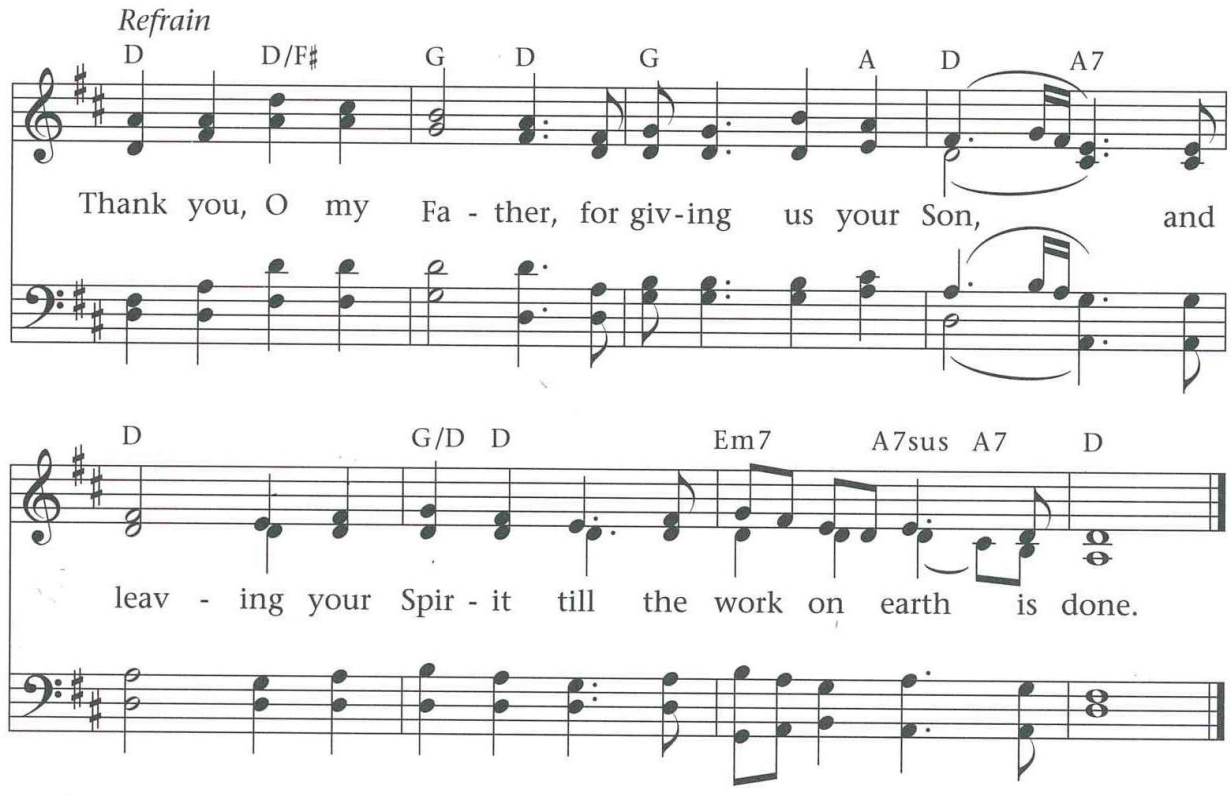


Ann Campbell

HYMN "There Is a Redeemer" #145 GREEN

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION



Photo by Sherry Middlemis-Brown

MEAL

GOD FEEDS US WITH THE PRESENCE OF JESUS CHRIST

Invitation to Communion



Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

MEAL

GOD FEEDS US WITH THE PRESENCE OF JESUS CHRIST



…

Therefore we praise you, joining the song
of the universal church and the heavenly choir:
“Holy, holy, holy
God of power and majesty,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory,
O God most high!"

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 forever.
Amen.



Photo by Ann Campbell

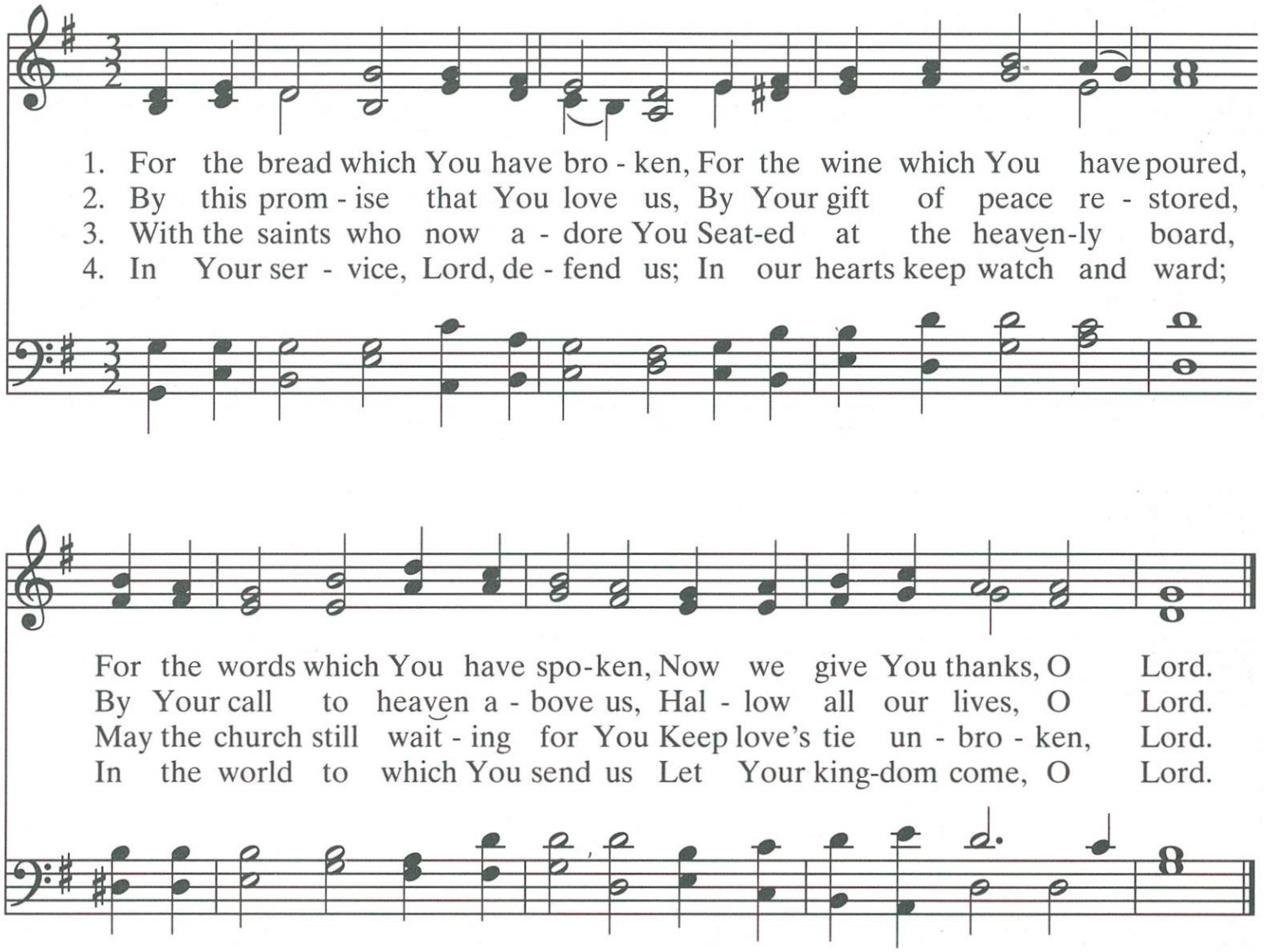
Communion Distribution



HYMN “For the Bread Which You Have Broken” #508 Blue

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Louis FitzGerald Benson, 1924; alt. V. Earle Copes, 1959



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Prayer after Communion



SENDING



Ann Campbell

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

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350 Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

1 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing; keep your
2 It's our faith makes us hap - py; it's our
3 We are climb - ing Ja - cob's lad - der; we are
4 Ev - ery round goes high - er, high - er; ev - ery

lamps trimmed and burn - ing; keep your lamps
faith makes us hap - py; it's our faith
climb - ing Ja - cob's lad - der; we are climb - ing
round goes high - er, high - er; ev - ery round goes

trimmed and burn - ing, for the time is draw - ing nigh.
makes us hap - py, for the time is draw - ing nigh.
Ja - cob's lad - der, for the time is draw - ing nigh.
high - er, high - er, for the time is draw - ing nigh.

Refrain

Sis - ters, don't grow wea - ry; broth - ers, don't grow wea - ry;

This African American spiritual has a biblical basis in the parable of the ten maidens (Matthew 25:1–13), but the text actually sung could vary greatly. Such variation can be seen here in the annexing of an often freestanding spiritual based on Jacob's vision (Genesis 28:10–17).

TEXT and MUSIC: African American spiritual

KEEP YOUR LAMPS
7.7.7.7 with refrain

CHARGE and BLESSING



Keep awake, for Christ is coming
to gather us to his welcome table,
where we will feast in joy.
May the grace of Christ surround you,
the love of God uphold you,
and the Holy Spirit spark you
with unquenchable fire
as you wait and work for the kingdom to come. Amen.

Ann Campbell

POSTLUDE

This Is My Father's Word

F. Sheppard, TERRA PATRIS, arr. M. Hayes

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

How would it change your life if you were to wait expectantly for the return of Christ?

In our fast-paced world, daily encounters with delay are sometimes difficult to accept. How can we be intentional in practicing the presence of God, cultivating steadiness and peace in our lives and the world while extending God's hospitality and love?

How can such spiritual attributes empower us to be better advocates in working to create a more just and equitable world?

Thanks to:

Presider: Peter Norland
Musician: Jennifer Wenger
Greeters: Mary & Al Eckhart
Reader: Christina Norland
Prayer Writer: Jim Northey
Coffee hour:

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Serving Next Week, November 19th, 2023

Presider: Peter Norland Musician: Susie Byykkonen
Greeters: Nancy Byers Sprague and Dianne Sprague
Reader: Greg Campbell
Prayer Writer: Greg Campbell Coffee: Ann Campbell
Next week's scripture: Judges 4:1–7; Psalm 123; 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11; Matthew 25:14–30

Portage Lake United Church
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Branching out to those in need. Nourished by many waters.