

The First Congregational Church in Worcester

Online Worship

January 31, 2021

Prelude

Ever Faithful, Ever Near ~ Ritter

Ringing of the Chimes

Call to Worship

Invocation and 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 trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Responsive Reading

Psalm 111

Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.

Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds; the LORD is gracious and merciful.

He provides food for those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant.

He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the heritage of the nations.

The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy.

They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever.

Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 18:9-22

Pastoral Prayer

New Testament Reading

I Peter 4:1-11

Hymn

Be Thou My Vision

According to legend, when St. Patrick was a missionary in Ireland in the 5th century, King Logaire of Tara decreed that no one was allowed to light any fires until a pagan festival was begun by the lighting of a fire on Slane Hill. In a move of defiance against this pagan ritual, St. Patrick did light a fire, and, rather than execute him, the king was so impressed by his devotion that he let Patrick continue his missionary work.

Three centuries later, a monk named Dallan Forgaill wrote the Irish poem, "Rop tú mo Baile" ("Be Thou my Vision), to remember and honor the faith of St. Patrick. Forgaill was martyred by pirates, but his poetry lived on as a part of the Irish monastic tradition for centuries until, in the early 20th century, Mary Elizabeth Byrne translated the poem into English, and in 1912, Eleanor Hull versified the text into what is now a well-loved hymn and prayer that at every moment of our lives, God would be our vision above all else.

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word; I ever with thee, and thou with me, Lord.
thou my redeemer, my love thou hast won, thou in me dwelling and I one with thee.

Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise; thou mine inheritance, now and always.
Thou and thou only, first in my heart, Ruler of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, when vict'ry is won may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

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Gospel Reading

Mark 1:21-28

Meditation

Benediction

Benediction Response

Go My Children

Go, My children, with My blessing, Never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are my own.
In My love's baptismal river, I have made you Mine forever.
Go, My children, with My blessing - You are My own.

Chimes

Postlude

Postludium ~ Young



Participants

Rev. Robert Jackson, Pastor
Scott Yonker, Minister of Music