

**Trinitarian Congregational Church**  
**TakeOut**  
**Lent 3 B**  
**March 7, 2021**

**Bells** <https://youtu.be/-6qZ9A6GFik>

**Announcements**

**Prelude** “As Long As I Have Breath”  
Sue Farrar  
<https://youtu.be/CELLiNc3290>

**Call to Worship** Michele Lawler  
Rosemary Dawson

One: God has spoken to his people, God reveals his glory.  
God delivers us from bondage and sets before us the way of life.

**All: We celebrate the steadfast love of God, our Creator.**  
**Surely God is faithful to all who live in covenant.**

One: Come to ponder the law and the wisdom of God.  
Draw near to share in God's strength and power.

**All: We gather with thanks for God's revelation.**  
**We come, seeking instruction that leads us to life.**

One: By foolish things God turns human wisdom upside down.  
By the weakest of all things, God thwarts human strength.

**All: The message of the cross is absurd to the world.**  
**Yet for those who believe, Christ is the glory of God.**

**\*Hymn** O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing  
<https://youtu.be/jaErRKAKcDM>

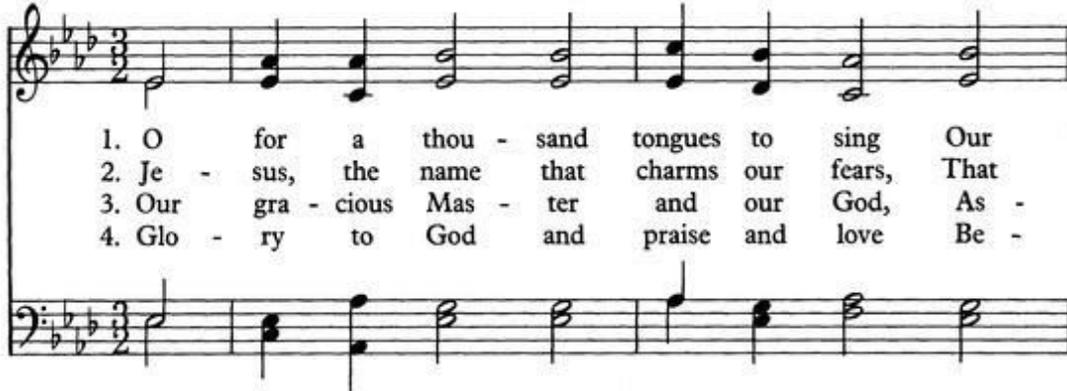
# O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

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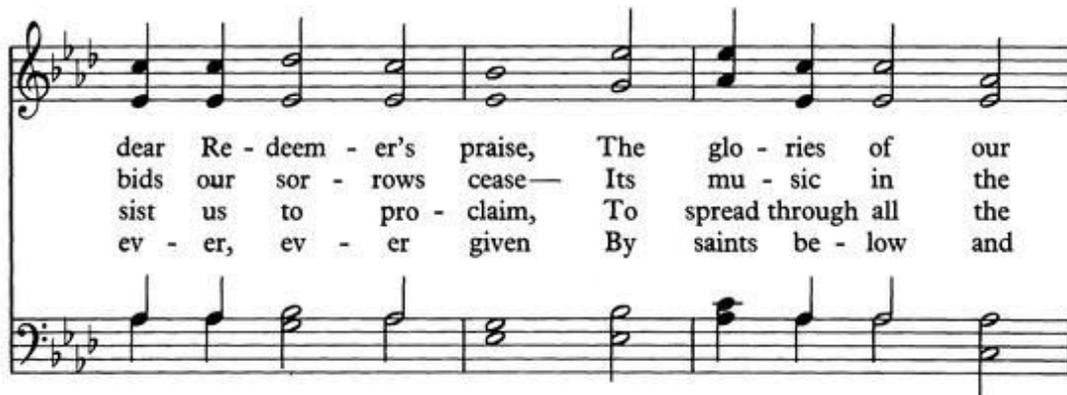
AZMON C.M.

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt., 1972

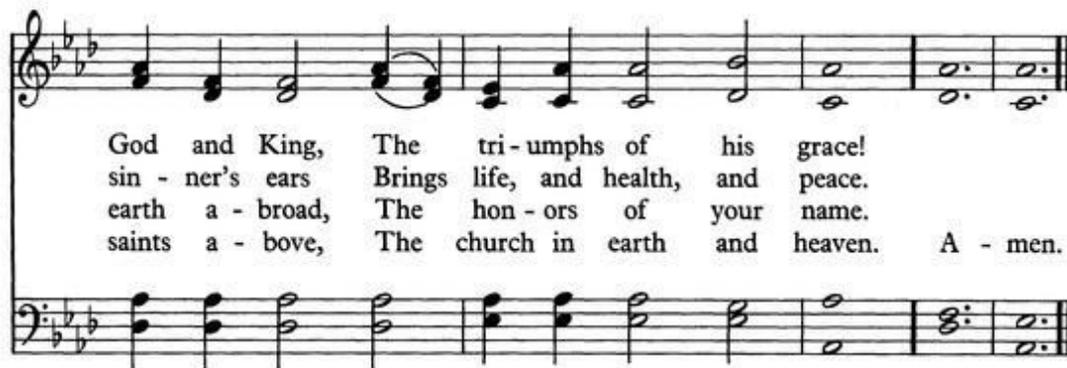
Carl G. Gläser, 1828  
Arr. by Lowell Mason, 1839



1. O for a thou - sand tongues to sing Our  
2. Je - sus, the name that charms our fears, That  
3. Our gra - cious Mas - ter and our God, As -  
4. Glo - ry to God and praise and love Be -



dear Re - deem - er's praise, The glo - ries of our  
bids our sor - rows cease— Its mu - sic in the  
sist us to pro - claim, To spread through all the  
ev - er, ev - er given By saints be - low and



God and King, The tri - umphs of his grace!  
sin - ner's ears Brings life, and health, and peace.  
earth a - broad, The hon - ors of your name.  
saints a - bove, The church in earth and heaven. A - men.

## Gathering Prayer

Michele Lawler

**We come to your holy temple, O God, aware of your greatness and power, your wisdom and strength. We are awed by your majesty, yet we are also fearful of your presence. We build sanctuaries to honor you, yet we deny your presence among us. We honor our traditions and keep our systems, all the while resisting your holy purpose for us. Still our hearts cry out in hunger for you and we long for new life. Forgive us, heal us and restore us to yourself, that you may be glorified. Amen.**

## Word of Assurance

Children of God, hear God's Word of promise to you

Because of God's rich grace we are set free by the sacrificial death of Christ,  
and our sins are forgiven. He did all this so that we may live for the praise of his glory.  
Ephesians 1:7, 12 adj

My friends, in Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven and our lives are made new.  
Let us praise our glorious God.

## Gloria Patri

<https://youtu.be/OLz3R1hnUjs>

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, reign without end. Amen, amen.

## Scriptures

Exodus 20:1-21

Michele Lawler

<sup>1</sup> Then God spoke all these words:

<sup>2</sup> I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; <sup>3</sup> you shall have no other gods before me.

<sup>4</sup> You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup> You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, <sup>6</sup> but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

<sup>7</sup> You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

<sup>8</sup> Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor and do all your work. <sup>10</sup> But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any

work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. 11 For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

<sup>12</sup> Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

<sup>13</sup> You shall not murder.

<sup>14</sup> You shall not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup> You shall not steal.

<sup>16</sup> You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup> You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

<sup>18</sup> When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, <sup>19</sup> and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die." <sup>20</sup> Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin." <sup>21</sup> Then the people stood at a distance, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.

John 2:13-22

Rosemary Dawson

<sup>13</sup> The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. <sup>15</sup> Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup> He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" <sup>17</sup> His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." <sup>18</sup> The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" <sup>19</sup> Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." <sup>20</sup> The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" <sup>21</sup> But he was speaking of the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup> After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

### Special Music

"Jesus Paid It All"

John Grape. arr. Nathan Arnold

[https://youtu.be/0Ytnke\\_fTAc](https://youtu.be/0Ytnke_fTAc)

## Sermon

### “Mad, So Mad”

How well do you deal with anger? How comfortable are you with conflict and disagreement? Are you a yeller or the silent type? Do you avoid the issue, bully your way through, or find a compromise? How ever you deal with conflict and disagreements, what is your reaction to Jesus in today’s gospel?

When Jesus enters the Temple of God in today’s scripture he doesn’t come bowing in worship. Instead he flies into a screaming rage and trashes the most sacred place in Israel. He overturns tables, throws cash boxes out the windows, releases birds into the rafters, and sends sheep and cattle scampering through the fellowship hall. His actions are not just a mild case of annoyance, he nearly started a riot!

That is a hard image for us to accept - Jesus acting with violence. It’s downright frightening. And what is worse is what, or who, he attacks. It’s not ‘the sinners and reprobates’, rather it is the righteous, hard-working, faithful servants of God. He pounces on good people like us - who are just trying to do right.

It was the Passover, the Holy Week of Judaism; the city and the Temple were packed with people coming to worship God. And the priests and rabbis were doing all they could, trying to help the people meet with God. The law called for animal sacrifices and so, like good-hearted, faithful souls, they tried to provide for the worshippers’ needs – in the very precincts of the Temple. As you came to worship you could exchange your Roman coins for Jerusalem shekels, then buy your cattle, lambs and dove for the required offerings.

So, what’s the problem? Was it the inherent corruption, price-gouging and kick-backs; was it the mayhem and cacophony that overwhelmed those intent on prayer? Is that what infuriated Jesus? Very likely. But then it might also be that Jesus was irate over the extent to which we make religion a convenience- that we dare to domesticate the awesome Holy God so that the One who thunders from the mountain becomes a Ronald McDonald. Suddenly the very place meant to remind you of the glory and power, faithfulness and presence of God becomes a shopping mall at Christmas! The God who caused people to fall on their faces thinking they were going to die, is tamed by us to the level of a business transaction; a vending machine religion - put your money in here and we’ll dispense a little dose of the divine.

And the saddest part of it, is that we may not even see it. Are we even aware of how we have corrupted our faith and distorted our worship? When we come to God’s temple, to church, do we encounter the Holy One or insulate ourselves with our traditions and rituals? We meet together as a church claiming we are God’s people. We sing a few hymns, say a few prayers and drop in a few dollars; then go our way. We say we have met with God, but have we?! Has God met us? Does our worship service invoke in you awe and praise, or leave you humbled and trembling? Does it renew you and transform you?

In Jesus’ mind, and perhaps in our own, there is a big difference between religion and faith, between ‘doing church’ and experiencing God’s presence. And in our gut, we know it! And I must admit, at times, as much as I say I long for an encounter with the Awesome God of the

Universe, when the rubber hits the road I would much rather settle for litanies and hymns that let me feel good than risk being confronted with the reality of a Holy God. What I want, what we want, is to touch base with our spirituality; not to plunge headlong into it, or to abandon ourselves to the God of the burning bush, or take sides with the one who bursts into the church, and cleans house with a whip in his hand.

It's far too frightening to follow a God like that. Because this God is the one who would save us, not with rituals, but with a cross. This is a God who would leave his majesty and take on human form, only to be rejected by his people and see that Holy Temple destroyed, crucified, so that he may raise us all to everlasting glory.

So if you want nice, acceptable, feel-good religion don't come looking for Jesus, don't come to his Word, or to his table. Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble are full of self-realization religions and touch-base-with-your-spirituality programs. If, however, you want to hand yourself over, body and soul, to the God of the Universe, to the often frightening and all-consuming God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to follow the One who, with love and grace, meets us in the glory of the cross then you are welcome to become his disciple. For that is true worship.

Amen.

**Hymn**

O Breath of Life

<https://youtu.be/Ar6U1dfw4WE>

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## O Breath of Life

1. O Breath of Life, come sweep - ing through us,  
 2. O Wind of God, come, bend us, break us,  
 3. O Breath of Love, come, breathe with - in us,

re - vive your church with life and power.  
 till hum - bly we con - fess our need.  
 re - new - ing thought and will and heart.

O Breath of Life, come, cleanse, re - new us,  
 Then in your ten - der - ness re - make us;  
 Come, love of Christ, a - fresh to win us;

and fit your church to meet this hour.  
 re - vive, re - store, for this we plead.  
 re - vive your church in ev - ery part.

WORDS: Bessie Porter Head, 1920  
 MUSIC: Clement C. Scholefield, 1874

ST. CLEMENT  
 98.98

## **Joys and Concerns**

As you meet with God in prayer, please lift up the joys and concerns shared through the Trumpet Blast. God is eager to be your help and strength, to listen to you and meet your needs. Prayer is a gift we can always use. If you would like the church to pray for you please contact pastor Rosemary or Michele Lawler.

## **Prayers of the People**

Wondrous God, we come before you with awe and with fear, for you are holy and true. In Jesus Christ you meet us in humility and power, and challenge all we hold sacred. And by your Spirit you embody in us the riches of your grace. And so, we come to you now with open hearts, that we may know you more fully and live more genuinely as Christ's disciples.

We pray for your church and for this congregation. May this be a place where we encounter your majesty and experience your grace. May our worship be rooted in deep spirituality and in the pursuit of your truth, so that our lives may be a witness to Christ in our service to your world.

We pray, then, for our world and for all our leaders. May they take to heart your concerns for righteousness and peace and seek to dismantle all the keeps people oppressed and suffering. We also pray for all who are facing hardship today. Grant your healing to the ill, your comfort to the sorrowful, and your aid to the needy. We especially lift up... and we thank you for... And grant to us the power to embody Christ's Spirit as we care for all our neighbors, near and far.

We praise you, O God, for your goodness and grace, through Jesus Christ who taught us to pray...

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Choral Response**

[https://youtu.be/IAivVHv\\_abc](https://youtu.be/IAivVHv_abc)

### **Offering**

We gather on the Sabbath to give ourselves freely to the worship of God. The gifts we bring are an expression of our adoration, but even more, they are an expression of our commitment to the way of the Cross. Let us dedicate our offerings with genuine hearts. Let us pray.

We bring our gifts, O God, not to buy your favor, but to express our reverence; not to support an institution, but to further your mission. We seek to make this church a place of worship and this community a fellowship that lives and serves according to your will. Bless these gifts and our lives, that your holy purposes may be fulfilled. Amen.

**Doxology**

<https://youtu.be/5I7PEGUPAXQ>

(choose the one that is best for your faith)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise him all creatures here below,  
praise him above ye heavenly hosts, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below  
Praise God for all that Love has done; Creator, Christ and Spirit One. Amen

**Communion**Hymn

Jesus Thou Joy of Loving Hearts

[https://youtu.be/jsqHOt29\\_48](https://youtu.be/jsqHOt29_48)

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## O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts

*E<sup>b</sup>* *B<sup>b</sup>sus* *B<sup>b</sup>* *E<sup>b</sup>*

1 O Je - sus, joy of lov - ing hearts, the fount of  
2 Your truth un - changed has ev - er stood; you save all  
3 We taste you, ev - er - liv - ing Bread, and long to

*Fm* *E<sup>b</sup>* *B<sup>b</sup>* *F7*

life, the light of all, from full - est bliss that  
those who on you call. To those who seek you,  
feast up - on you still; we drink of you, the

*B<sup>b</sup>* *E<sup>b</sup>* *E<sup>b</sup>7* *A<sup>b</sup>maj7* *E<sup>b</sup>/B<sup>b</sup>* *B<sup>b</sup>* *E<sup>b</sup>*

earth im - parts we turn un - filled to hear your call.  
you are good; to those who find you, all in all.  
foun - tain - head, our thirst to quench, our souls to fill.

Invitation  
Great Thanksgiving  
Consecration and Service  
The Bread  
The Cup  
Prayer of Gratitude

**\* Hymn**

God of Grace and God of Glory  
<https://youtu.be/vKHkcgFam4>

# 307 God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple  
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -  
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to  
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour thy power; crown thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry; bring its  
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our  
 thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in  
 we de - plore. Let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our

bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
 lest we miss thy king - dom's goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.  
 serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

## **Common Commission**

**Let us go forth into the world in peace, being of good courage, holding fast to that which is good, rendering to no one evil for evil, strengthening the faint-hearted, supporting the weak, helping the afflicted, honoring all persons, loving and serving the Lord, and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

## **Benediction**

Go now into the world

And May God's power be at work in you, doing far more than we dare to ask or imagine.  
May this church forever bring glory to God. Ephesians 3:20-21 adj.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen.

## **Postlude**

"He Touched Me"  
William J. Gaither  
<https://youtu.be/o7dGuax2IPk>