

Trinitarian Congregational Church
TakeOut
Lent 5 B
March 21, 2021

Bells <https://youtu.be/o6MOhSByB1g>

Announcements

Prelude "Poor Wayfaring Stranger"
American folk ballad, arr. Jay Althouse
<https://youtu.be/TTnb0kVR3Ao>

Call to Worship Pat Shearer
Rosemary Dawson

One: See, the time is coming, says our God;
The day is here to affirm a new covenant.

All: We rejoice in God's steadfast love and mercy.
We long for a strong and vital relationship with our God.

One: Our Creator forgives our faithlessness and claims us as his own.
God's law will be written on our hearts.

All: We are eager to know the God who loves us.
We are ready to learn God's intention for us.

One: God offers us the joy of salvation.
Our brokenness can be healed and wholeness restored.

All: We are open to the new and right spirit God offers.
We seek guidance for our daily living.

Hymn Sing Praise to God our Highest Good NCH 6 vs 1,2,3,6
https://youtu.be/XBS7-_kluLo

GOD

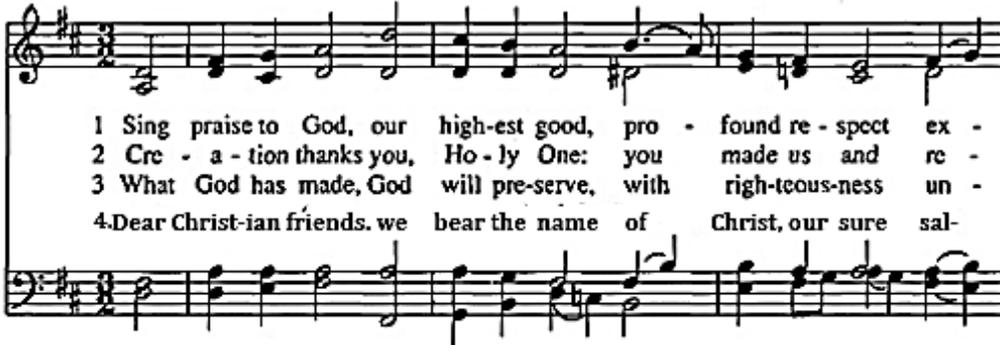
6

Sing Praise to God, Our Highest Good

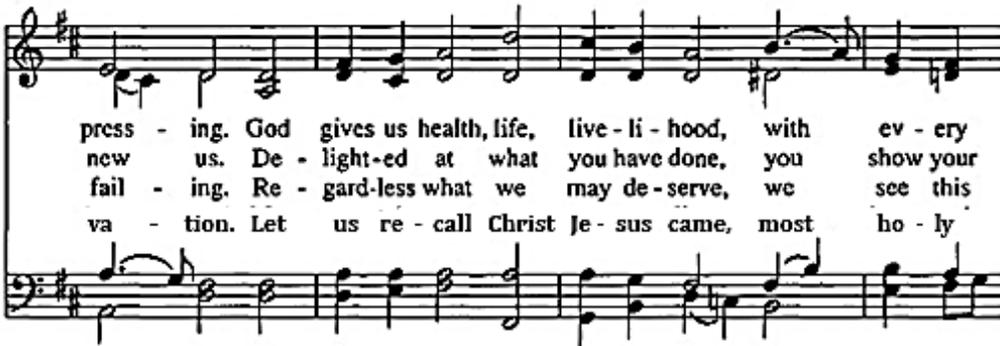
Ps. 105; 1 Chron. 16:9; 1 Pet. 1:3-7

Johann J. Schütz, 1675

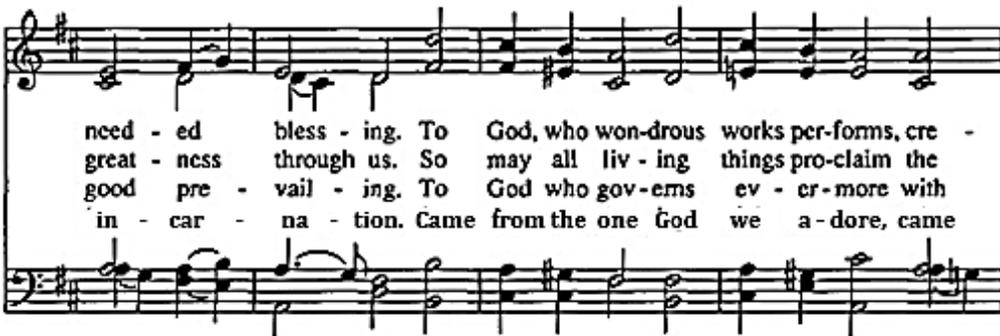
Transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1993



1 Sing praise to God, our high-est good, pro - found re - spect ex -
2 Cre - a - tion thanks you, Ho - ly One: you made us and re -
3 What God has made, God will pre-serve, with righ-teous-ness un -
4. Dear Christ-ian friends, we bear the name of Christ, our sure sal-



press - ing. God gives us health, life, live - li - hood, with ev - ery
new us. De - light-ed at what you have done, you show your
fail - ing. Re - gard-less what we may de - serve, we see this
va - tion. Let us re - call Christ Je - sus came, most ho - ly



need - ed bless - ing. To God, who won-drous works per-forms, cre -
great - ness through us. So may all liv - ing things pro-claim the
good pre - vail - ing. To God who gov-erns ev - er-more with
in - car - na - tion. Came from the one God we a - dore, came



a - ting life and calm-ing storms, to God give praise and glo - ry!
won-ders of their Mak-er's name: to God give praise and glo - ry!
jus - tice serv - ing rich and poor, to God give praise and glo - ry!
with new life for - ev - er - more; to God give praise and glo - ry!

Gathering Prayer

Pat Shearer

Faithful God, who draws us into covenant relationship with you, we come today wanting to see Jesus. We want to know the healing touch felt by so many. We want to hear a reassuring voice. We want to see the day when evil is overcome and wrong does not prevail. Lift us up and draw us to yourself as we worship in this hour. Equip us for our daily living as we seek to be true disciples of your Son, and servants in your world. Amen.

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

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Pat Shearer

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

John 12:20-33

Rosemary Dawson

²⁰ Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²² Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³ Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵ Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷ “Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say— ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹ The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰ Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹ Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³ He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Special Music

“Sleepers, Wake”

J.S. Bach, arr. Tedd Smith

<https://youtu.be/GhVoSVt0qVk>

Sermon

“Otherwise”

This past week I got a haircut from a new stylist; and while the cut is good, the conversation was refreshing. Tricia is not just a stylist, her heart is actually in art, as a metal sculpture. Our conversation roamed all over the place, but she always came back to her passion and how she was orienting her life to fulfill her dream. For her, the purpose of her life could not be otherwise.

That is where we find Jesus today, holding tightly to and pursuing his life purpose. Jesus has already entered the gates of Jerusalem to cheering crowds and is teaching in the temple. It seems his popularity is at an all-time high; even those outside the Jewish tradition come seeking him out. And yet when Philip and Andrew tell him about the Greeks wanting an audience, Jesus doesn't respond to their request with excitement and joy, he doesn't even seem to reply to their desire. Instead, his focus is elsewhere. He says “the time has come”. Jesus recognizes in the midst of all the intensity the time of his death is at hand. And he finds himself at an ‘otherwise’ moment. He even says “what shall I say, ‘father save me from this hour?’”

In this moment Jesus is confronted with the purpose for his coming. Several times he had spoken of doing God's will, of being the Anointed One, of faithfully following God's plan. Now, the reality faces him. He speaks of himself as the grain of wheat that falls into the earth and dies. He is the one who will lose his life for the sake of the gospel.

In the purposes of God this is, and has always been, Christ's all-consuming focus. And like his struggle in the garden of Gethsemane Jesus had to face up to the very real desire to avoid pain and suffering, humiliation and death. Jesus had to answer the urge to turn aside from his sacrifice.

He could have said no. He could have just walked away. He could have had a comfortable chat with the Greek emissaries and become a great philosopher in Athens. He could have given in to religious expectations and become a leader of a synagogue. Jesus could have slipped out of Jerusalem late at night, gone into the desert and become an ascetic.

But for Jesus the answer came that his mission - his life and its end – could not be otherwise. When Jesus reached down into the depth of his soul to answer his own question, he found his purpose rooted in his very nature. He would face the cross. He would become the buried grain.

He would give his life for the sake of others because his very name meant Savior; for he was born, as the angel proclaimed, ‘to save his people from their sin’.

Jesus came to redeem our souls for heaven, but even more-so he came to reveal the very nature of God. That is why his prayer turned from ‘Father save me from this hour’ to “Father, glorify your name’. Jesus would bring glory to God because he was born as Emmanuel, God with us. In his life, and in his death, he would show the world that God is love; a God who so loves us, that he gave his only son in order to redeem us from sin.

This is the God who created humanity in his image. This is the God who called Abraham into covenant, and formed his people in the desert. This is the God who promised a new law written on our hearts, one in which sins will be forgiven and all people will know God. This God is the God of unfailing love, of infinite mercy.

For God it could not be otherwise. That was God's answer to Jesus. "I have glorified my name and I will glorify it again." The name of Jesus would be honored, the work of Jesus transformed. The cross, instead of being a symbol of utter rejection would become the means of redemption. Instead of an instrument of death it would become the gateway to life. The cross will forever stand as the glory of Christ and the hope of humanity in the face of death- "and I, when I am lifted up will draw all people to myself."

For us it cannot be otherwise. We are drawn to the cross and to the Christ who would give his life so freely and his love so fully. We are faced with the challenge it presents and the hope it gives. Our focus is redirected and our priorities are re-arranged. In him we come to understand that only in losing our lives do we find real life. As we take hold of the Cross as we claim it for our hope and choose it as our guide it teaches us the true purpose of living; to live as Jesus lived, to love as Christ has loved. The cross is for us, both the gift of life and the test of life. It is the invitation to believe - to hope and trust, and the call to follow - to obey and serve.

In the eternal wisdom of God and at the heart of life it cannot be otherwise.

Amen.

Hymn

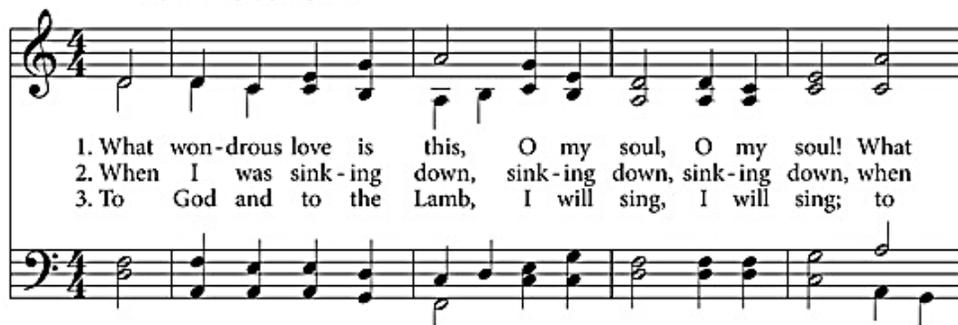
What Wondrous Love is This?

<https://youtu.be/wew2dCENh-8>

JESUS CHRIST

155 What Wondrous Love Is This

WONDRIOUS LOVE



1. What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2. When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when
3. To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing; to



won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this,
I was sink-ing down, O my soul! When I was sink-ing down
God and to the Lamb, I will sing. To God and to the Lamb



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
be - neath God's right-eous frown, Christ laid a - side His crown for my
who is the great "I AM," while mil-lions join the theme, I will



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul.
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side His crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.

WORDS: American folk hymn; *Stith Mead's General Selection*, 1811

12.9.12.12.9

MUSIC: William Walker's *Southern Harmony*, 2nd ed., 1840

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

O God of infinite mercy, we praise you for the depth of your love for us. We thank you for the faithful work of Christ and the abiding presence of your Holy Spirit. We thank you for the ‘otherwise’ you proclaim- that brings life from death, joy from sorrow, and hope from despair. Knowing the depth of your love and grace, we come to you now seeking your guidance and aid.

We pray for your church and for this congregation. Grant us a renewed appreciation of the cross and a fresh commitment to follow where it leads. Transform us by your grace that we may live as disciples of Christ; ministering to the needy, uplifting the broken, and proclaiming good news to all.

We pray for our world and all its leaders. Grant them a fresh vision of your true desire for humanity and a renewed purpose to establish your way of justice and peace. We pray as well for all who are suffering. Grant your healing to the sick, your comfort to the mourning and your aid to the needy. We especially lift up... and we thank you for... Bless us also O God, as we seek to live as tangible expressions of your loving care to all whom our lives touch.

We praise you, Glorious God, for the abundance of the mercy, grace, and love you have granted to us, through Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray..

The Lord’s Prayer

Choral Response

https://youtu.be/IAivVHv_mbc

Offering

God has revealed his love in Jesus Christ. God has made known his glory in the cross. How shall we respond? Jesus invites us to follow him as disciples and servants, giving our all for the sake of God’s love. Let us dedicate our gifts with bold faith.

May nothing be worth more to us, O God, than the love of Jesus, revealed at Calvary. Here we dedicate our lives to the declaration of his word, the teaching of his ways, and the living of his will for all humankind. Receive these tokens of our commitment and guide us in their use, for your glory and the welfare of all peoples. Amen.

Doxology

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

(choose the one that is best proclaims 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

Hymn

Draw Thou My Soul

<https://youtu.be/fhYDZTcQBKA>

151

Draw Thou My Soul

ST. EDMUND. 6. 4. 6. 4. 6. 6. 6. 4.

LUCY LARCOM, 1816-1893

ARTHUR S. SULLIVAN, 1843-1900

1. Draw Thou my soul, O Christ, Clos - er to Thine;
 2. Lead forth my soul, O Christ, One with Thine own,
 3. Not for my - self a - lone May my prayer be;

Breath - in - to ev - ery wish Thy will di - vine!
 Joy - ful to fol - low Thee Through paths un - known!
 Lift Thou Thy world, O Christ, Clos - er to Thee!

Raise my low self a - bove, Won by Thy death-less love;
 In Thee my strength re - new; Give me my work to 'do!
 Cleanse it from guilt and wrong; Teach it sal - va - tion's song.

Ev - er, O Christ, through mine Let Thy life shine.
 Through me Thy truth be shown, Thy love made known.
 Till earth, as heaven, ful - fill God's ho - ly will. A - MEN.

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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 fainthearted, 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 strengthen you with all his glorious power...
may you be filled with joy, giving thanks to God, the Father,
who has made it possible for you to share...in the Kingdom of his dear Son.
Colossians 1:11,12,13 adj

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

Postlude

“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”
J.S. Bach, arr. Lorie Line
<https://youtu.be/TlfPxh8O6TU>