



First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lenten Theme: A Long Walk

March 6, 2022

First Sunday in Lent

Prelude

Dennis

Please respect those who wish to sit in silence.

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Katie Miller

*Greeting and Passing of the Peace

"The Peace of God be with you."

In Unison: **Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

* Let us rise in body or spirit.

Call to Worship

Cathy Roller

We may be entering this season arid, dry from pain and injustices.

And yet, God is still hydrating our spirits.

We may be wandering, feeling as if we have no direction.

And yet, God is guiding us in the wilderness.

We may be fearful, wondering what comes next.

And yet, God is surrounding us with peace.

We may begin our Lenten journey spiritually arid, aimless, and anxious.

But the Spirit of Strength will never leave our side.

*Processional Hymn

In Solitude

Black Hymnal, No. 521

LAND OF REST C.M.

*Rom. 8:26-27; Eph. 5:18-20**Ruth Duck, 1983*

1 In sol - i - tude, in sol - i - tude, I come to God in prayer.
 2 When-e'er the world is troub-ling me, and stress is all a - round,
 3 In sea - sons of per-plex - i - ty, in times of deep de - spair,
 4 And when my heart is bur-dened down with cares for those I love,
 5 With psalms and hymns and songs of praise be - fore my God I'll come,

In si - lence and sim - plic - i - ty, my spir - it blos - soms there.
 I seek the pres - ence of my God, and heal - ing light is found.
 I light a can - dle in the night and turn to God in prayer.
 too deep for words, with groans and sighs, de - scends the ho - ly dove.
 till death it - self is past and gone, and I ar - rive at home.

Ruth Duck has commented that "these words were inspired by a pentatonic melody which came to me as I taught myself to play the mandolin." They are an expression of her "deep-rooted southern spirituality."

Tune: LAND OF REST C.M.
 Traditional United States melody
 Harm. Annabel Morris Buchanan, 1938

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***Invocation**

God of the Road, we journey together into the wilderness again. In this time filled with new spiritual practices and studies, our minds will be tested. However we wander in this season, may your Holy Spirit refocus our attention on our relationship with you and the ways we connect with our siblings. Open our souls to healing and wisdom. Amen.

***Gloria**

Black Hymnal, No. 759

Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three in One; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Conversation with the Children

Anthem

Deep In My Heart

Psalm Lesson

Psalm 51:1-17, pew Bible pages 492-493

Sermon

Withdrawal

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

***Hymn**

Just As I Am

Black Hymnal, No. 207

WEXFORD CAROL L.M.D.

Just as I Am

207

Charlotte Elliott, 1836; alt.

John 6:37; Eph. 2:14

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea but that your
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a
3 Just as I am, you will re - ceive, will wel - come,
4 Just as I am, your love un - known has bro - ken

love was ~~shed~~ ^{giv - en} for me, And that you called in -
con - flict, many a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with -
par - don, cleanse, re - lieve; Be - cause your prom - ise
ev - ery bar - rier down; Now to be yours, and

vit - ing me, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
yours a - lone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

This text appeared in Charlotte Elliott's Invalid's Hymn Book,
multiple editions, 1836-1876.

Tune: WOODWORTH L.M.

***Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jim Harmon

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true. Change my heart, O God, may I be like you. Mold me and make me, this is what I pray. Amen.

***Assurance**

God follows us – even into the depths of the wilderness. God delivers us from the temptations of this world and the tests that we impose upon ourselves. May we see God’s presence, knowing we are never alone on arid days and in barren lands. We are loved, forgiven, and renewed.

Prayers

Pastoral Prayer

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offertory

A Long Walk

Bouma

***Hymn of Dedication**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***Offertory Prayer**

Holy One, we share our gratitude for all of your gifts –our possessions, our knowledge, our time, and our abilities. May our best be something that we do not hoard but that we freely give away. As we embrace this season of walking and reflecting, may we recognize the best of our talents, treasures, and time, and share them with God and neighbor. Amen.

Communion

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks and praise to God.

In the beginning, God danced through the universe, bringing light to the darkness, form to the void, and separating the water into earth and sky. God blessed the world with love and joy. But, despite all of God’s attempts to save humanity from themselves, peace and harmony seemed out of reach for God’s people. Never giving up, God became human. Born into humble beginnings, God, through Jesus, experienced the fullness of earthly life-- the glory of a sunset, the relief of laughter, the deep sorrow of loss, and the frustration of being misunderstood. Jesus told stories of compassion, forgiveness, and justice. Jesus loved his enemies, ate with sinners, and healed minds, bodies, and souls. By his example, we now live,

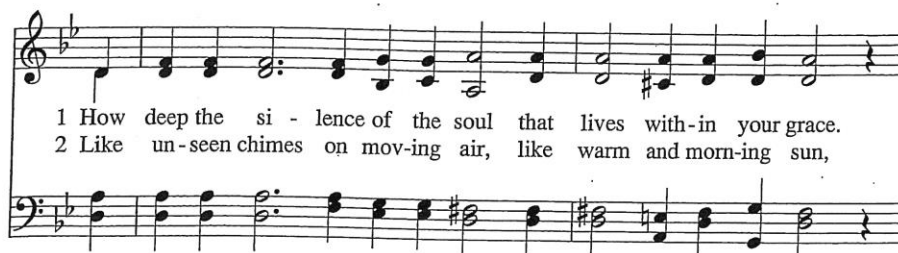
in communion with one another. Today we join with all people on earth and all the company of heaven to praise God's holy name:

Communion Hymn How Deep the Silence of the Soul *Black Hymnal*, No. 509
TALLIS' THIRD TUNE C.M.D.

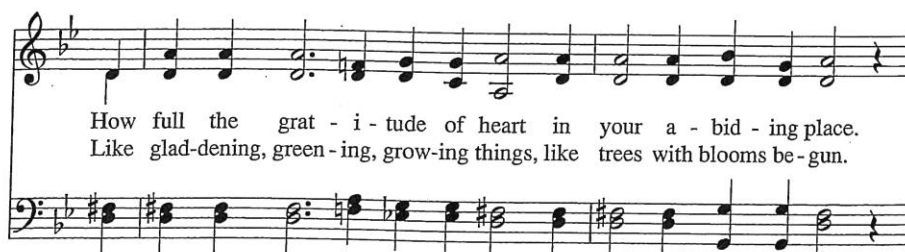
How Deep the Silence of the Soul

509

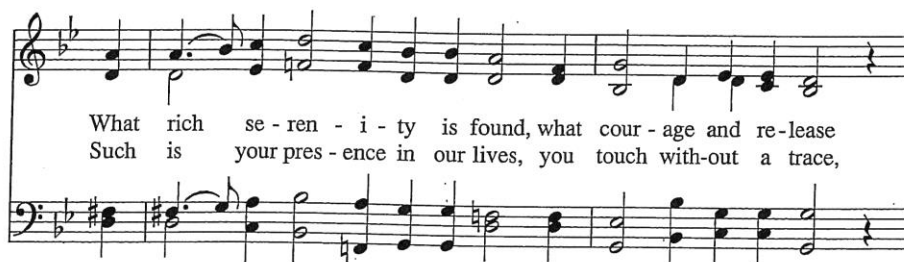
Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1989



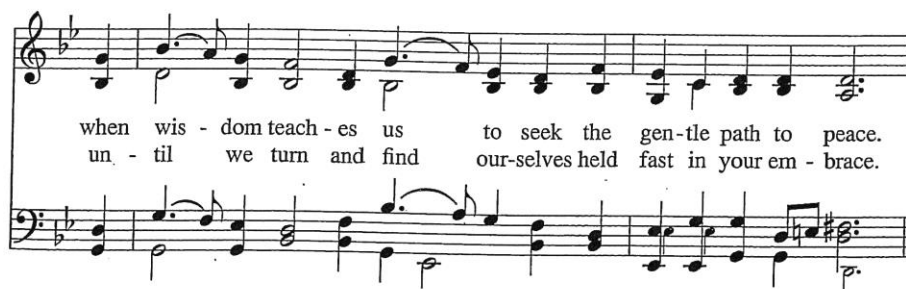
1 How deep the si - lence of the soul that lives with-in your grace.
2 Like un - seen chimes on mov-ing air, like warm and morn-ing sun,



How full the grat - i - tude of heart in your a - bid - ing place.
Like glad-dening, green - ing, grow-ing things, like trees with blooms be - gun.



What rich se - ren - i - ty is found, what cour - age and re - lease
Such is your pres - ence in our lives, you touch with-out a trace,



when wis - dom teach - es us to seek the gen - tle path to peace.
un - til we turn and find our - selves held fast in your em - brace.

This hymn by Sylvia Dunstan, entitled "Morning Meditation," recounts the Canadian writer's experience one February when she left cold, snowy Toronto to visit her mother in California. There she enjoyed meditating in the garden that was abloom with camellias.

Tune: TALLIS' THIRD TUNE C.M.D.
Thomas Tallis, c. 1557
For another key, see 178

***Recessional Hymn**

For the Beauty of the Earth

Black Hymnal, No. 28

DIX

GOD 6-16-95

28

For the Beauty of the Earth

*St. 1-3, Foliott S. Pierpoint, 1864; alt.
St. 4. Miriam Therese Winter, 1993*

1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the splen-dor of the skies,
 2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,
 4 For the good that love in-spires, for a world where none ex-clude,

For the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies,
 Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
 Friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild,
 For a faith that nev-er tires, and for ev-ery heart re-newed,

Refrain

God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

Foliott S. Pierpoint, author of numerous hymns, penned these verses near his native city of Bath, England, on a late spring day when flowers were in full bloom and all the earth seemed to rejoice.

Tune: DIX 7.7.7.7. with refrain
Conrad Kocher, 1838
Adapt. William H. Monk, 1861

Words stanza 4 Copyright 1993 Medical Mission Sisters.

***Benediction**

Benediction Response

May you hear laughter in the wind. May you see hope in the light.
May you find courage in your faith. May you know joy in your God.

Postlude

Lobe Den Herren

Open & Affirming Statement

In our ongoing quest for hearts that open, minds that understand,
and lives that serve, we welcome into our fellowship, membership, leadership, and
employment, all people, regardless of abilities, race, gender, sexual orientation, or any God-
given characteristic.

Announcements

March 6, 2022

Prayers: We pray for ***Mara Martinez*** and family, on the death of her father. We pray for the family of ***Mary Guin Knoll***, who passed away earlier this week.

Happy Birthday this week: ***Patti Clark, Colleen Syster, Laura Toftland, Terry Foster, Josie Johnson, Lena Solberg, Evan Davis, and Monica Staffend.***

Coffee Hour: Join us in the parlor following worship for coffee and conversation.

Fair Trade Coffee: Thank you to Susan and Steve Dolezal for donating Fair Trade Coffee for the month of March.

Chancel Flowers and Decorations: Flowers and decorations are sponsored this month by Bev Fleckten.

FirstKids: Fireside Room following the Conversation with the Children. Masks required.

New Council Time: Starting March 8, Council will meet at 5:30. Anyone interested in BYOD (Bring Your Own Dinner) to the parlor at 5 is welcome to do so!

Want to donate electronically? Please scan the QR code.



Activities for the Coming Week

March 6 - 12

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

Monday: Staff Meeting, Pastor's Study, 1:30 p.m.
Eves, Laura Mitchell's Home, 7 p.m.

Tuesday: Council, Parlor, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday: Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Family Night, 5:30 p.m.
Sanctuary Choir, 7 p.m.

Thursday: Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Friday: Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Saturday: Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Sunday, March 13

Daylight Savings Time: Spring forward! Set your clocks.

Worship: 10:30 a.m. on Facebook Live, YouTube, or in person. Masks required.

*The church calendar is also available at www.firstcentral.org
Like us on **Facebook**. Follow us on **Twitter**. Watch us on **YouTube**.*