



Lent Theme: All About Love

March 17, 2024

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Prelude

Beautiful Savior

arr. Wood

Please respect those who wish to sit in silence.

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

Happy Birthday this week: Sophia Rudd, Katy Dockery, Isabel Kratville, Sandy Lee, Elisa Wiseman, & Robin Fey!

Fair Trade Coffee: Thank you to **Steve & Susan Dolezal, John & Bonnie Austin, Bill & Barb Switzer, & Linda Newman** for sponsoring coffee for the month of March.

Vacation Bible School: Registration for Vacation Bible School is now open! All kids entering kindergarten through 7th grade are welcome to join us June 17-21 from 9:00am – noon. If you have questions please contact Lizzie Patterson.

Kamp Kaleo: Kamperships are available through both the Living Waters Association and the Youth & Outdoor Ministries Committee. For questions, more information, or help registering for camp or applying for scholarships, contact Lizzie Patterson.

Conversational Dinners: The next conversational dinner will be Saturday, April 13th from 6-9pm. Sign up sheets are available in the parlor through March 17th. There are more dinners scheduled too – mark your calendars for July 20th and October 19th! If you have questions contact Laura Mitchell, Sandy Lee, Sally Lewis, Susan Dolezal, or Rita Grossenstein.

Church Tours: We will have a “behind the scenes” tour of the church after worship today. There will be a basic tour after worship on April 14th.

All-Church Retreat: There will be a retreat planning meeting after worship today in the conference room. Anyone interested in helping plan the retreat is welcome! If you’re interested in helping but unable to attend, or if you have any questions, please contact Judy Bouma.

Kid's Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday, March 30th at 10am! Will be on church grounds, possibly outside pending weather. Donations to fill the eggs would be greatly appreciated and can be left in the basket on the table in the parlor.

Maundy Thursday: Join us for dinner and a Maundy Thursday service, March 28th at 6pm

Easter Sunrise Service: We will hold our Easter sunrise service at Prospect Hill Cemetery, March 31st at 6:50am

Office Closed: The church office will be closed Friday, March 29th and Monday, April 1st

Activities for the Coming Week

March 18-23

Monday:

Tuesday: Staff Meeting, 1:30

Wednesday: Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10am – 2pm
Family Night, 5:30pm
Choir Practice, 7pm

Thursday: Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10am – 2pm

Friday: Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10am – 2pm

Saturday: Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10am – 1pm

Sunday, March 24

Lectionary Readings: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Mark 11:1-11; John 12:12-16; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-15:47; Mark 15: 1-39, (40-47)

Worship: On Palm Sunday, we will explore the ways that love deepens our sense of existing in a way that makes us feel powerful.

FIRSTForum: Talking Faith with Kids – come listen to a group of young parents chat about how they are navigating conversations around faith and religion with their children.

FIRSTKids: No Sunday School – Children's Choir will perform during worship

FIRSTYouth: Youth Group will help tidy up the church with Terry Beranek as we prepare for our big Easter service!

*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

We arise and come before God today.

God's strength to direct us, God's might to uphold us.

God's wisdom to guide us, God's eye to see before us.

God's ear to hear us, God's word to speak to us.

God's shield to protect us, God's presence to secure us.

May we see Christ in everyone who sees us, hears us, and speaks to us.

Rita Grossenstein

*Processional Hymn

Be Thou My Vision

Red Hymnal, No. 67

SLANE

Be Thou My Vision

Rob to mo bhoile, ancient Irish poem;
tr. Mary Byrne, 1905; versified by Eleanor Hull, 1912 (alt'd)

Irish folk melody
harmonized by David Evans, 1927

SLANE, 10 10.9 10 dactylic (irregular)

1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3. Rich - es I heed not, nor earth's emp - ty praise,
4. High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

1. nought be all else to me, save that thou art —
2. I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
3. thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
4. may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

1. thou my best thought, by day or by night,
2. thou my great Fa - ther, thy child let me be;
3. thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
4. heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

1. wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
2. thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.
3. high King of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
4. still be my vi - sion, O rul - er of all.

Versification by Eleanor Hull (1912), used by permission of the Estate of Eleanor Hull and Chatto & Windus, Ltd., music harmonized by David Evans (1874-1948) from *The Revised Church Hymnry* 1927, used by permission of Oxford University Press.

***Invocation**

We gather today seeking to follow in the way of Jesus. The path he chose for his disciples was one of service. May we respond with our whole hearts. Inspire us, as we seek to love and serve like Jesus. 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.

Contemporary Lesson

"I believe in love" by Vince Almin

Conversation with the Children

Garret Higginbotham

Anthem

Heaven Is My Home

Albrecht

First Testament Lesson

Deuteronomy 6:4-9, 20-25

Pew Bible, page 157

For the Word of God in scripture,
For the Word of God within us,
For the Word of God among us,
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

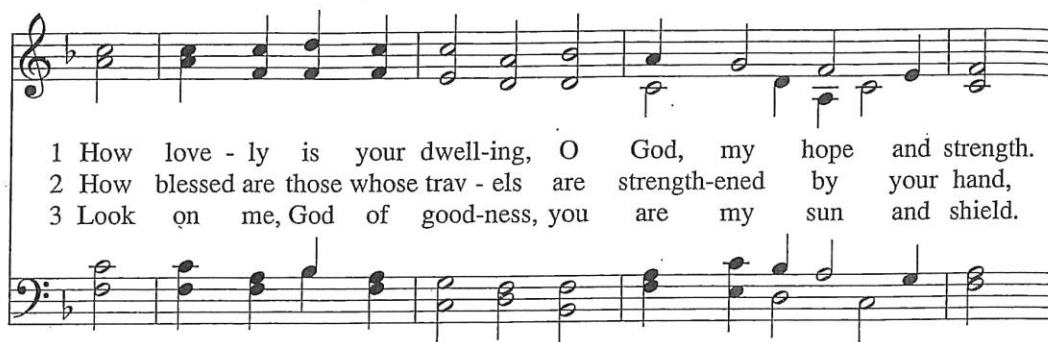
Promise of Home

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

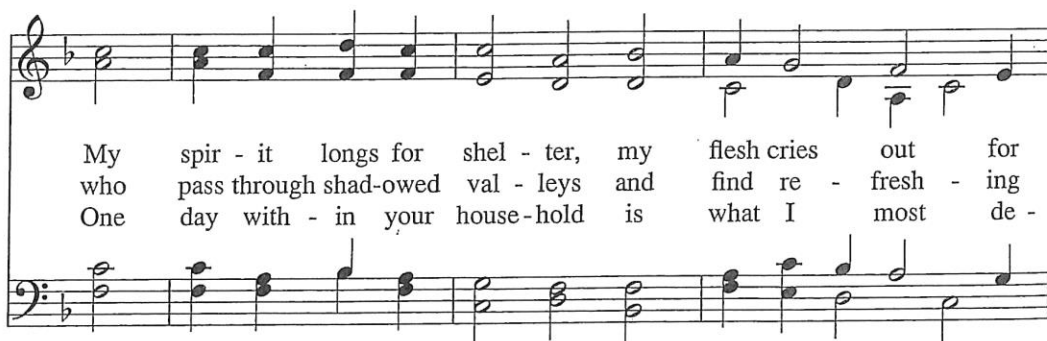
***Hymn**

How Lovely Is Your Dwelling

Black Hymnal, No. 600
ES IST EIN'ROS



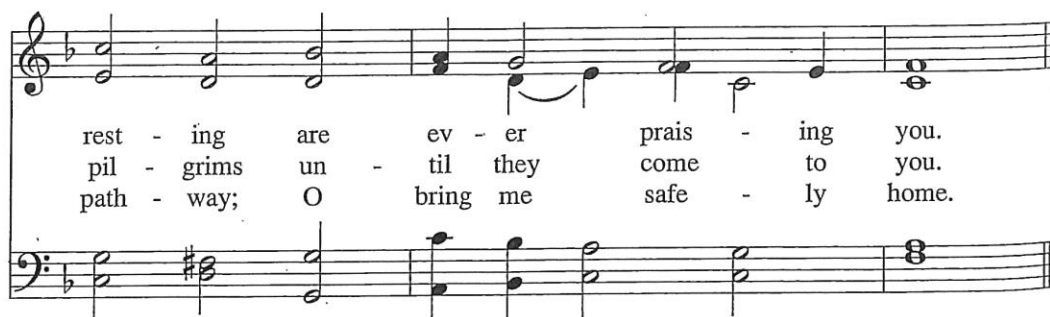
1 How love - ly is your dwell-ing, O God, my hope and strength.
 2 How blessed are those whose trav - els are strength-ened by your hand,
 3 Look on me, God of good-ness, you are my sun and shield.



My spir - it longs for shel - ter, my flesh cries out for
 who pass through shad-owed val - leys and find re - fresh - ing
 One day with - in your house-hold is what I most de -



home, where ev - en swal-lows nest - ing be - side your al - tar
 springs. Your rains fall soft as kind - ness on all your faith-ful
 sire. O guide me in your mer - cy a - long my lone - ly



rest - ing are ev - er prais - ing you.
 pil - grims un - til they come to you.
 path - way; O bring me safe - ly home.

***Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jim Harmon

God of love, we confess that our ego can all too often get in the way of our ability to serve you and others with our lives. Our false self is driven by our lack of trust in you to provide for our every need. We rely on our own strength. But, our true self can let go and be formed anew by your love. Forgive us our false ways, transform us, and raise us to new life. Amen.

***Assurance**

Friends, Jesus reminds us that those who serve him will have the assurance of his presence with them. We receive the promise of home. Trust that you are forgiven, that new life rises, and that Jesus abides with you.

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

St. Columbia

arr. Wood

***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**

Just as you have made a home for us, use these gifts in the service of others, so even more people may feel at home. Amen.

***Recessional Hymn**

O God, How We Have Wandered

Black Hymnal, No. 202

PASSION CHORALE

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response**

Bouma

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. Amen.

Postlude

Simple Gifts

arr. Wood

6-19-96


LENT

O God, How We Have Wandered


202

Kevin Nichols, 1980; alt.

Luke 15:11-32; 2 Cor. 5:16-20




1 O God, how we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
 2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
 3 O God of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,



In fool - ish-ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
 By faith we are re - turn - ing with hope and trust in you.
 Com - pas - sion-ate, for - giv - ing, our peace and hope as - sured.



But how, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we turn with fear and shame,
 In haste you come to meet us, and home re - joic - ing bring,
 Grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith-less-ness may cease.



As dis - tant but com - pell - ing, you call us each by name.
 In glad-ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
 Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

The tune for this contemporary text appears five times in J. S. Bach's St. Matthew Passion, and first appeared as a hymn setting in the early 1800s. It has an ecumenical history reaching back many centuries. Originally it was a German love song.

Tune: PASSION CHORALE 7.6.7.6.D.
 (HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN)
 Melody by Hans Leo Hassler, 1601
 Harm. J. S. Bach. 1729



easter DECORATIONS

Again this Easter morning, flowers and decorations will fill the chancel! If you would like to donate a memorial gift of \$15 or more towards the purchase of Easter flowers and decorations, please fill out the order form below and return to the church office by **Monday, March 25th.**

Please make checks payable to First Central, or use the QR code below to donate electronically, and indicate that it is for "Easter Decorations."

Your name: _____

Amount enclosed: _____

In loving memory of: _____

Or, in honor of: _____

