



Presbytery Worship September 26, 2023

Intentional Authentic Evangelism

THRESHOLD MOMENT

PRELUDE

“Sonata of Peace”

arr. Don Wyrzten

~ Sarah Lichtfuss, pianist

Leader: Gracious and loving God, in the sacredness of this hour we gather with the certain hope that you will fill our minds and hearts once again with your peace. Inspire in us renewed commitment to developing the heart of an evangelist. Let the world trust that our love is genuine, help us to hold fast to what is good and to reject the evil that diminishes the beauty and worth of your creation and all living beings. Restore our energy to demonstrate our mutual affection for one another, to zealously serve you in our communities, ready to rejoice, persevering in prayer. Merciful God, as you fill our mouths with words of peace, love and joy, let our doors swing wide to embrace friends and strangers alike, that all would encounter Christ here. Oh, that our very lives would be worship that brings the hope of the gospel to the world, this, O God, is our prayer. Equip us now as we worship you.

[Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; **10** love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. **11** Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. **12** Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. **13** Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.]

CALL TO WORSHIP *(from 2 Timothy 2:22)*

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made.

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Leader: Pursue the righteousness of God.

People: We will also pursue faith, love, and peace.

Leader: Do so along with those who call on the Lord with a pure heart.

All: Thanks be to God.

HYMN #525 “Here I Am, Lord”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: When we turn to God, we know the truth. We've been afraid to trust in God's Good News enough to speak it aloud. It's actually a little terrifying to hold a big and daunting hope. We feel a bit vulnerable to carry a naïve, illogical, and radical hope, especially in the face of pain and suffering. Yet, here is God with us, welcoming us and calling us to follow the risen Christ once more. Come, let us lay aside our fears and speak to God the truth of our hearts.

People: Holy God, the truth is that there have been times when we've shifted our holy hopes a bit to make them more black and white, a little less of a risk, a little bit more plausible to ourselves and the world around us. Unfortunately, an easier hope is no hope at all. Joy does not come without the challenges we experience. Love without risk is not love at all. Peace requires your wisdom which goes well beyond the injustice and supremacy culture already at work in the world.

We confess, dear God, that we need your courage to hope again. Open our eyes to your Spirit at work in the world around us. Fill us with your strength that we might walk forward into the unknown, trusting the Good News of the gospel and telling our own stories of hope to those around us. Forgive us we pray and call us once more to your side. Amen.

Leader: Friends, the Good News of the gospel is this: Christ has come for us and Christ will come again. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

PASSING THE PEACE

Leader: The easiest words of Good News that we can offer to another is the assurance that Christ's peace is with us and for us. When we can extend that promise of peace to each other with honest care for one another and the genuine desire that the other know Christ's peace, we take the first steps as true evangelists. When we then offer this peace to the world, acknowledging there is no peace without justice, no reformation without systemic transformation we take one step further into the kingdom of God.

Let us now take the first step, praying the other soon follows: May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Romans 12:9-13

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Mark 8:34-38

SERMON "Living as the Body of Christ" Rev. Dr. Ray Jones

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING FOR MINISTRY TOGETHER

Leader: Faithful God, through your Word you call us; in baptism you claim us; and by your Holy Spirit you are working in our lives, empowering us to live a life worthy of our calling.

We give you thanks, O God, for bringing John, Lisa, Jeremiah and Marilyn into our presbytery.

People: May we support them through our prayers and friendship and, as colleagues in Christ, celebrate the ministry they do among us. May we welcome the new perspectives and wisdom they bring that together we may grow into the church you call us to be.

Leader: We give thanks for the ministry of Nicole, Mary, and Yvette who now leave us for new opportunities in new places. We are grateful for their ministry in their respective congregations and their wider dedication to the work of the presbytery through their commissions. In their time with us they have blessed us with their wisdom, compassion, and deep love for you and your people, O God.

People: May they find a warm welcome in their new places, blessing their new communities as they have blessed us. May they discover new friends and trusted colleagues and in all they do continue to serve you faithfully.

Leader: We give thanks for the ministry of Rachel Yates who has been both our Presbytery Executive and Bridge Exec. For years of faithful counsel, insight, guidance, and challenge, we give you thanks. For preaching, teaching, weekly newsletter reflections and the care, compassion and grace with which she delivered them, we give you thanks. For sitting with our sessions, answering the phone at all hours, and all the many things she did for which we did not say “thank you”, we give you thanks and pray she hears us as well.

People: May she find joy in her new ministry setting, contentment in more time with family, challenges that spark her agile mind, and ministry that feeds her soul as she continues to serve you and your people.

Leader: We give thanks for the ministry of Karen, Carol, and John whose active service as Ministers of Word and Sacrament has been completed. We praise you for the grace that has filled their ministry, their faithful service to Christ’s church, and the work of the Holy Spirit within them. They have faithfully proclaimed your Word, administered your sacraments and served the people with energy, intelligence, imagination and love.

People: Grant to each of them time for refreshment and rest, reflection and rejoicing, and the fullness of your peace.

Leader: We give thanks for the ministry of Chris Halverson who has been a dedicated servant of this presbytery for many years. For all the minutes she’s written and helped get approved, for thousands of phone calls answered and returned, for bills paid and records updated, for training and lessons on why Presbyterians rock, for a million behind the scene things we will never know about, and for the loving grace with which she did it all, we give you thanks.

People: May her retirement bring her great joy and new adventures as well as rest from labors well done.

Leader: Help us all to be fruitful in the ministries you have given us.

People: By your Word, O God, your creation sprang forth, and we were given the breath of life. By your Word, eternal God, death is overcome, Christ is raised from the tomb, and we are given new life in the power of your Spirit. May we boldly proclaim this good news, by the words of our mouths and the deeds of our lives, rejoicing always in your powerful presence; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord. Amen.

OFFERING

Leader: In honor of the mark of Intentional Authentic Evangelism, the offering today goes to support the ministry of our two Milwaukee Presbytery Evangelists, Mark Fraley and Dan Ortega Gonzales. Disciples of Jesus, children of God, in our offering, we give to things that are of God: Bread for the hungry, good news for those who are oppressed, the ministries of the church that welcome strangers and acknowledge all people to be children of God. We bring before God a portion of all that God has so freely given to us.

ANTHEM “Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)” Arr. Russell Mauldin
~Westminster Choir, Sun Valley~Directed by Ed Chapman~Accompanied by Naomi Wilterdink

DOXOLOGY

INVITATION TO THE TABLE AND GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: We come to the Lord’s Table to reaffirm our commitment to Christ. Here, God renews us with grace. We do not come to the Lord’s Table because we must, but because we may. No one is more worthy than another and no one may be denied. Here we experience the wonder of God’s love and mercy. Come just as you are. It does not matter where you have been or where you are going, it does not matter what you have done or what you have left undone, it does not matter what others see, only what God sees. And God sees that you are beautiful, complete, fearfully and wonderfully made. So, come, all who claim Jesus as Lord and Savior.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: God of grace and grand invitation, we give you thanks for you have set a table before us filled with love, joy and peace.

**People: You invite us to be nourished by your presence, purpose and power.
Give us the strength to taste and see that you are good.**

Leader: Help us to know that you have declared that we are good and good enough.

People: We are yours, children of the covenant, people of faith.

Leader: Through your sacred waters of baptism, you have claimed us as your own and we have been sealed and set apart to reflect your goodness and your mercy. Thank you for the waters of creation and for your steadfast covenant to all your people. Thank you for the waters of peace, renewal, justice, and courageous compassion as they flow over us during this sacrament. Thank you for the daily bread and cup that touch our lips, nourish, and nurture us throughout the day, and for the call for us to invite others to also be nourished and nurtured.

Thank you for the gift of Jesus, in whose life we see a model for how to care for others, in whose death we are inspired to sacrifice for others, and in whose resurrection we hope and know we live. We give thanks for all Christ taught, for the miracles done, and for the healing of

individuals and the world in his name. We also give thanks for Jesus's ultimate sacrifice on the cross and to the abundant and inviting grace and salvation of the resurrection.

We ask that you pour out your Spirit, holy and merciful God, that the bread we break may be your body, and the cup we share may be your blood. Make these simple gifts of the harvest acceptable through your grace, and allow us to be strengthened by your Spirit to be more compassionate now and forever. We give all praise and thanks to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We pray all of this in the name of the one who has called us, is calling us, and will call us to serve our neighbors as ourselves.

And we join together in the prayer that Jesus taught us, saying...

LORD'S PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

ANTHEM "Creation Will Be At Peace" Williams/Page
~Westminster Choir, Sun Valley~Directed by Ed Chapman~Accompanied by Naomi Wilterdink

HYMN #132 "Come Great God of All the Ages"

CHARGE TO THOSE GATHERED AND TO TRANSITIONAL EP LISA HECKMAN
~ Rachel Yates

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "We Worship and Adore You" arr. Mark Hayes
~ Sarah Lichtfuss, pianist

525

Here I Am, Lord

HERE I AM, LORD 7.7.7.4 D with refrain

Daniel L. Schutte, 1981; alt.

Harm. Michael Pope, Daniel L. Schutte, and John Weissrock, 1983

Daniel L. Schutte, 1981

Piano introduction in G major, 4/4 time. The right hand plays a simple melody of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, G5. The left hand plays a bass line of quarter notes: G2, B1, D2, E2, F#2, G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F#3, G3.

Vocal line for the first verse, starting with a double bar line and repeat sign. The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, G5.

- | | | | | |
|----|-------------|--------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| 1. | I, the Lord | of sea and sky, | I have heard | My peo - ple cry. |
| 2. | I, the Lord | of snow and rain, | I have borne | My peo - ple's pain. |
| 3. | I, the Lord | of wind and flame, | I will tend | the poor and lame. |

Piano accompaniment for the first verse, starting with a double bar line and repeat sign. The right hand plays chords and single notes, while the left hand plays a steady bass line.

Vocal line for the second verse, starting with a double bar line and repeat sign. The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, G5.

All who dwell in deep - est sin	My hand will save.
I have wept for love of them,	They turn a - way.
I will set a feast for them,	My hand will save.

Piano accompaniment for the second verse, starting with a double bar line and repeat sign. The right hand plays chords and single notes, while the left hand plays a steady bass line.

Vocal line for the third verse, starting with a double bar line and repeat sign. The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, G5.

I who made the stars of night,	I will make their dark - ness bright.
I will break their hearts of stone,	Give them hearts for love a - lone.
Fin - est bread I will pro - vide	Till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

Piano accompaniment for the third verse, starting with a double bar line and repeat sign. The right hand plays chords and single notes, while the left hand plays a steady bass line.

ORDINATION AND CONFIRMATION

Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send?
I will speak My word to them. Whom shall I send?
I will give My life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain
Unison

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have

heard You call-ing in the night I will

go, Lord, if You lead me. I will hold Your

peo - ple in my heart.

Fine

Come, Great God of All the Ages 132

Mary Jackson Cathey, 1987

ABBOT'S LEIGH 8.7.8.7 D

Cyril Vincent Taylor, 1941



1. Come, great God of all the a - ges, Make Your earth - ly mis - sion known;
2. Come, Christ Je - sus, flesh and spir - it, Sure foun - da - tion, cor - ner - stone,
3. Come, great Spir - it, in and with us, Tune our ears to hear Your call;
4. Come, O come, in cel - e - bra - tion, House - hold of the one true God,



Speak through ev - ery deed and per - son, Let Your way and will be shown.
 Help us form the church e - ter - nal, May Your vi - sion be our own.
 Through the mov - ing of Your pres - ence, Let re - deem - ing love re - call
 In com - mit - ment and re - joic - ing Let us go where Christ has trod;



Guide the church to true com - mit - ment, Give di - rec - tion now, we ask;
 Send a mes - sage to each fol - lower, Lead all peo - ple to Your way;
 Min - is - try in ded - i - ca - tion, Love em - bod - ied in our deeds;
 As we act in faith and rev - er - ence, Let us, Lord, the fu - ture see;



Fit us for the work of build - ing, Ded - i - cate us to the task.
 Urge us to strong faith and ac - tion As we build the church to - day.
 Chal - lenge us to do Your bid - ding, See Your pur - pose, fill all needs.
 Place us in the church tri - um - phant, Now and for e - ter - ni - ty.



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