

March 14, 2021 ~ The 4th Sunday in Lent

Welcome and Announcements ~ Jan Lapenta

Prelude ~ Leigh Emmett

Call to Worship from Psalm 107.1-3, 17-22 ~ *responsive*

Liturgist: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.

People: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those he redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

Liturgist: Some were sick through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities endured affliction; they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death.

People: Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress; he sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from destruction.

Liturgist: Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.

People: And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

**you are invited to stand in body or in spirit*

**Hymn #643 ~ "Now Thank We All Our God"*

Holy Vessels

Responsive Chorus #406 ~ *"We Are Standing on Holy Ground"*

*We are standing on holy ground, and I know that there are angels all around;
Let us praise Jesus now; we are standing in his presence on holy ground.*

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession ~ *in unison*

Everlasting God, in whom we live and move and have our being, you have made us for yourself, so that our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Give us purity of heart and strength of purpose, that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will, no weakness keep us from doing it; that in your light we may see clearly, and in your service find perfect freedom, through Jesus Christ. Amen. (A time of silent, personal prayer)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Response #423 ~ *“Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God”* (v.1)

*Create in me a clean heart, O God; create in me a clean heart, O God;
create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.*

Prayer for Illumination

Hebrew Scripture ~ Numbers 21.4-9

Special Music ~ *“For The Beauty Of The Earth”* (Composer) ~ Bells

Christian Scripture ~ John 3.14-21

Message ~ *“Ophiology”*

*Hymn #634 ~ *“To God Be the Glory”*

Community at Prayer

Invitation to Prayer #698 ~ *“Take, O Take Me as I Am”*

*Take, O take me as I am;, summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart and live in me.*

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer ~ *in unison*

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.

*Hymn # 610 ~ *“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”*

*Passing the Peace

*Benediction

*Choral Response #748 ~ *“Go with Us, Lord”*

*Go with us Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day,
that in your Spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to you.*

Postlude

CCLI#2342595/20863950 CVLI#504305417

Today, following worship until 1:00PM at the church...
ROMANS 12:4: CEREAL DRIVE for Blessings in a Backpack

From the Board of Deacons: Single bags of non-perishable food are available from the Food Pantry to the members of St. Paul's, their families, and to residents of the Livonia and Redford communities who seek assistance.

The distribution times are limited.

Please call the office during business hours for information.

The annual Per Capita Apportionment for St. Paul's for 2021 is \$4,215.90, which translates to **\$32.00 PER MEMBER** based on the membership rolls as of December 31, 2019. Requesting **EVERY MEMBER** to voluntarily contribute their portion of the required apportionment reduces the financial impact on the General Fund. Your support of this request is greatly appreciated!

And as a REMINDER: To avoid what seem to be inevitable mail delays-if you are in the area-you can deposit offering envelopes or any other correspondence in our SECURE mailbox. Just be sure to include your donations in your personal numbered envelopes, PLEASE! Thank you!!



Gail Artinian, Janet Frank, Karen Bright, Sheldon Davis, Doris Knecht, Joyce Barton
Pam Phillips, Suzanne Tabaka, Jim & Joanna Roye, Nola Bonandrini, Frank & Nancy Saunders
Jerry Stone, Beverly Dearth, Anita Falk, Kathleen Warren, Bob Liebertz, Grace Campbell, Susan Grant
Bruce Phillips, Patricia Hutchison, Linda Thompson & her sister, Shirley Kircoff, Pat Baker
Glenn Ellan Rubright ~ sister of Mike Graham; Nicole Snead ~ daughter of Bill VanEck
Nancy Kreipke ~ mother of Christian; Rich McKenzie ~ son of Jean; Erin Lewis ~ daughter of Pattie Benoit
Phyllis Badman ~ niece of Georgia Hunt; Christie Piastowski ~ daughter of Karen Bright
Janet Kusahara ~ cousin of Meta Tulley; Joe Ducsay ~ friend of Mike & Carol Graham; Mark Osborne ~ son of Janet
Diane Calloway & Tony S. ~ cousins of Gail Artinian; MaryAnn Tabaka ~ mother of Suzanne
Eric Tabaka ~ nephew of Suzanne; Cyndi Knecht ~ daughter of Doris; Joe Perko ~ friend of Wanda & Bob Seymour
David Bonandrini ~ son of Nola & Ben; Zoe Marcus ~ friend of Karen Erwin
Gideon Janku ~ great nephew of Bob Westbrook; Judy Siegfried ~ sister-in-law of Pam Phillips
Randy Tillman ~ son of Gloria Rubbo; Leslie Benoit ~ daughter of the late Tamar and Jim Duthie
Mary Rayes ~ friend of Pat Hutchison; Adam Schilling & Eric Shilling ~ grandsons of Ron & Janet Frank
Donald Keller III ~ son of Jan Lapenta; Scott Davis ~ son of Sheldon & Marion Davis

Please review the prayer list and report any changes to the office as soon as possible.

THANKSGIVING

643 Now Thank We All Our God

1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voic - es,
 2 O may this boun - teous God through all our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in high - est heav - en,

who won - drous things hath done, in whom this world re - joic - es;
 with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us;
 to Fa - ther and to Son and Spir - it now be giv - en:

who, from our moth - ers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
 and keep us in God's grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
 the one e - ter - nal God, whom heaven and earth a - dore,

with count - less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
 and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
 the God who was, and is, and shall be ev - er - more.

Although this hymn is often used on large and festive occasions, its first two stanzas had much humbler beginnings: they originated as a family table prayer during the Thirty Years' War (1618–1648). These words have been associated with this tune since the mid-17th century.

406 We Are Standing on Holy Ground

Holy Ground

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is accompanied by guitar chords indicated above the staff. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Chords: G, D, A, D, G, D, Em, D, G, F#m, F#m7, B7, E, Gm, D, A7, D, G, D, Em, F#m7, G, D, G, D, Em7, D, G, D.

Lyrics:
 We are stand - ing on ho - ly ground,
 and I know that there are an - gels all a -
 round; let us praise Je - sus
 now; we are stand - ing in his
 pres - ence on ho - ly ground.

The phrase "holy ground" resonates with the experience of Moses at the burning bush, where he had an encounter with God (Exodus 3:5; also quoted in the martyr Stephen's sermon, Acts 7:33). The reference to angels may recall Jacob's vision (Genesis 28:12-17) or Hebrews 12:22.

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God 423

(Psalm 51)

Capo 5: (F) (Gsus) (G) (C) (Em7) (F) (A7)
B \flat Csus C F Am7 B \flat D7

1 Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God; cre -
 2 Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence; 7
 3 Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion; re -

(D) (D7) (G) (Dm)
G G7 C Gm

ate in me a clean heart, O God; cre -
 cast me not a - way from your pres - ence; 7
 store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion; re -

(E) (E7) (Am) (E7) (Am)
A A7 Dm A7 Dm

ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 cast me not a - way from your pres - ence 7 and
 store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -

(Dm7) (Em) (G) (C) [(Em)]
Gm7 Am C F [Am]

new a right spir - it with - in me.
 take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.
 hold me with your free Spir - it.

The text here comes from Psalm 51:10–12, three verses that illustrate the pattern of parallels often found in Hebrew poetry. The first verse here centers on positive actions, the second on avoidance of negative actions, and the third on providing an improved spiritual condition.

634 To God Be the Glory

1 To God be the glo - ry; great things he has done!
2 Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,

So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
and great our re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son;

who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin,
but pur - er and high - er and great - er will be

and o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.
our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see.

This American gospel song became popular in England in the late 19th century, then returned to this country in the mid-20th century with the Billy Graham crusades. Its continuing popularity may well be due to the freedom from subjective considerations in its praise of God.

Refrain

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,

and give him the glory: great things he has done!

698 Take, O Take Me as I Am

Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall

be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

The brevity of this text and tune invite repeated singing, either as a sustained chain of sound or as a sung response in a series of prayers. It offers a more reflective approach to the same theme of self-dedication evident in older hymns such as "Just as I Am" (see no. 442).

TEXT and MUSIC: John L. Bell, 1995
Text and Music © 1995 WGRC, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

TAKE ME AS I AM
7.7.7.4

699 Fill My Cup

Refrain

Fill my cup; let it o-ver-flow; fill my

cup; let it o-ver-flow; fill my cup; let it

The refrain of this gospel song by a well-known Presbyterian pastor and musician can be understood as a meditation on Psalm 23:5, while the stanzas reflect an updated and easily accessible interpretation of the prayer often attributed to St. Francis of Assisi (see no. 753).

TEXT and MUSIC: Isaiah Jones Jr., 1969
Text and Music © 1970 Davike Music Company, assigned 1986 Fricout Music Company

FILL MY CUP
8.7.8.7 with refrain

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing 610

1 O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my
 2 The name of Je - sus charms our fears, and
 3 Christ speaks, and lis - tening to his voice new
 4 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as -
 5 To God all glo - ry, praise, and love be

dear Re - deem - er's praise, the glo - ries of my
 bids our sor - rows cease, sings mu - sic in the
 life the dead re - ceive; the mourn - ful wak - en
 sist me to pro - claim, to spread through all the
 now and ev - er given by saints be - low and

God and King, the tri - umphs of God's grace!
 sin - ner's ears, brings life, and health, and peace.
 to re - joice; the poor in heart be - lieve.
 earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy name.
 saints a - bove, the church in earth and heaven.

SPANISH

1 *Mil voces para celebrar
 a mi Libertador,
 las glorias de su majestad,
 los triunfos de su amor.*

KOREAN

1 만 입이 내게 있으면
 그 입 다 가지고
 내 구주 주신 은총을
 늘 찬송하겠네

This text comes from an eighteen-stanza hymn the author wrote to mark the first anniversary of his life-changing conversion experience. It is now customarily the first hymn in Methodist hymnals worldwide. This tune, adapted from a German composer, is the usual North American setting.

Go with Us, Lord

748

Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and

ev - ery com - ing day, that in your Spir - it

strong and true our lives may be our gift to you.

*May be sung as a canon.

This very accessible sung prayer was created by the director of children's ministry at the National Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC, for use by their children's choir, but it is suitable for people of all ages. The familiar tune makes it easy to learn and to memorize.