
We Gather in God's Name

As We Prepare for Worship

I had grasped God's garment in the void
but my hand slipped
on the rich silk of it.
The 'everlasting arms' my sister loved to remember
must have upheld my leaden weight
from falling, even so,
for though I claw at empty air and feel
nothing, no embrace,
I have not plummeted.

"Suspended" by Denise Levertov

Prelude

"Meditation on St. Columba"

Paxton

Gathering Words

— *from Psalm 23, written by Rev. Joanna Harader*

In the darkest valley,

at the banquet table;

in the hard work of life,

at the moments of ease;

in our day-to-day reality,

at times set aside –

like this time, now –

for worship, for listening, for paying attention;

with every step we take:

goodness and mercy follow us; our cups overflow.

***Gathering Song #410** “God Is Calling Through the Whisper”
(*The music is printed on page 13 of the bulletin.*)

Call to Prayer

In this place of quiet rest, where we find ourselves near to God, let us bring our offerings of praise and confession.

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

– *with Psalm 23 and 42 (NRSV)*

By day the LORD commands God’s faithful love.

By night the Lord’s song is with me – a prayer to the God of my life.

O Jesus, blessed Redeemer, you invite us so lovingly to meet you at the throne of grace. If only we could run to meet you with open arms, but too often, we come with dragging feet.

Our praises are unsung.

Our confessions are unspoken.

But yet, you wait for us.

You wait by streams that offer to relieve our thirst and green pastures that promise to satisfy our hunger.

But it is to wells long dry that we go to quench our thirst.

And to the arid and lifeless places that we seek to fill our hunger.

Lord, bring us near to your heart.

Silent confession

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?

Hope in God; for we shall again bring our praises, our help and our God. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness *Psalm 23:1-3 (NRSV)*

The LORD is our shepherd, we shall not want. He makes us lie down in green pastures; he leads us beside still waters; he restores our soul. He leads us in right paths for his name's sake.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Our Response #621 “I Will Call upon the Lord”
(The music is printed on page 14 of the bulletin.)

The Peace

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

God's Word Comes Alive

Prayer for Illumination

Word of God speak, for our hope is in you. Amen.

A Reading from the Epistles *Romans 8:18-27 (NRSV)*

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

A Reading from the Psalms Psalm 38 (NRSV)

- ¹ O LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger,
or discipline me in your wrath.
- ² For your arrows have sunk into me,
and your hand has come down on me.
- ³ There is no soundness in my flesh
because of your indignation;
there is no health in my bones
because of my sin.
- ⁴ For my iniquities have gone over my head;
they weigh like a burden too heavy for me.
- ⁵ My wounds grow foul and fester
because of my foolishness;
- ⁶ I am utterly bowed down and prostrate;
all day long I go around mourning.
- ⁷ For my loins are filled with burning,
and there is no soundness in my flesh.
- ⁸ I am utterly spent and crushed;
I groan because of the tumult of my heart.
- ⁹ O Lord, all my longing is known to you;
my sighing is not hidden from you.
- ¹⁰ My heart throbs, my strength fails me;
as for the light of my eyes – it also has gone from me.
- ¹¹ My friends and companions stand aloof from my affliction,
and my neighbors stand far off.

- 12 Those who seek my life lay their snares;
those who seek to hurt me speak of ruin,
and meditate treachery all day long.
- 13 But I am like the deaf, I do not hear;
like the mute, who cannot speak.
- 14 Truly, I am like one who does not hear,
and in whose mouth is no retort.
- 15 But it is for you, O LORD, that I wait;
it is you, O Lord my God, who will answer.
- 16 For I pray, “Only do not let them rejoice over me,
those who boast against me when my foot slips.”
- 17 For I am ready to fall,
and my pain is ever with me.
- 18 I confess my iniquity;
I am sorry for my sin.
- 19 Those who are my foes without cause are mighty,
and many are those who hate me wrongfully.
- 20 Those who render me evil for good
are my adversaries because I follow after good.
- 21 Do not forsake me, O LORD;
O my God, do not be far from me;
- 22 make haste to help me,
O Lord, my salvation.

Message “With Sighs Too Deep for Words”
Rev. Michelle Henrichs

Our Sung Response #89

“For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits” vv. 1-4
(The music is printed on page 15 of the bulletin.)

God’s Gifts Are Recognized with Thanks

Our Prayer of Lament

– with *Psalm 61:1-4 (CEB)*; *Psalm 38:22 (NRSV)*

God, listen to our cry; pay attention to our prayer!

When our heart is weak, we cry out to you from the very ends of the earth.

Lead us to the rock that is higher than we are because you have been our refuge, a tower of strength in the face of the enemy.

Please let us live in your tent forever! Please let us take refuge in the shelter of your wings!

As those who live in the light of the resurrection, we know the enemies of illness and death have not prevailed, but they seem very powerful right now. We have been cautious. We have been strong. We should be rested since we do very little. But in body and soul, we have not found rest. We are wearing down and we do not know when it will end.

We lament the loss of hope, which has been replaced by an increasing sense of despair. We seek to grasp your hope, but the truth is, we are fearful. We thought we were stronger than this. We thought our *faith* was stronger than this. Immanuel, breathe your peace upon us.

When our heart is weak, we cry out to you from the very ends of the earth.

God, listen to our cry; pay attention to our prayer!

If one pandemic weren't enough, we face another. Racism continues to fester within us, destroying us from the inside out. Maybe it is good this diagnosis has been brought to light, but this has not decreased its destruction. There is no simple path to healing, for we are required to do surgery upon ourselves. Lord, make us willing.

We lament the loss of empathy and reconciliation – or maybe not its loss, but our awareness it did not exist. We long for justice and restoration, but it, too, seems out of our reach. Once again, despair threatens to overwhelm us. Holy God, Creator of all people, make us one within you.

When our heart is weak, we cry out to you from the very ends of the earth.

God, listen to our cry; pay attention to our prayer!

Lord you have tended within us hearts of mercy and compassion, but in times like this they do not feel like gifts. The need around us is overwhelming. We are well aware of our grief and loss during this pandemic, which makes us aware of the grief and loss of others. The numbers of the dead grow, many of them alone in the process. So many have lost their jobs with little hope of finding employment again before their money runs out. Vulnerable students are falling even further behind. The earth continues to burn and the seas to rage, devastating entire communities. Black people continue to die. Brown families continue to be separated. We feel ever more divided. We don't want to feel anymore because it hurts too much.

We lament the loss of control. It's not just our days that seem to fade away but also our place in the greater world. We pray and donate money, we march and write letters, but we don't see that it makes a difference. We are so aware of all we cannot do. Spirit of grace, be present with us, and in your presence remind us that you are with those who suffer.

When our heart is weak, we cry out to you from the very ends of the earth.

God, listen to our cry; pay attention to our prayer!

But in the midst of our uncertainty and grief, one thing we do not lament is the loss of your love.

You are our Protector, our Salvation, our Sustainer.

You are the one who walks with us in the garden, on the road to Emmaus, on the path through this pandemic, racial division, ecological disasters, political division.

You are the one who leads us in the wilderness, will not leave us orphaned, groans on our behalf when we have no words for prayer.

God, listen to our cry; pay attention to our prayer!

When our heart is weak, we cry out to you from the very ends of the earth.

Lead us to the rock that is higher than we are because you have been our refuge, a tower of strength in the face of the enemy.

Please let us live in your tent forever! Please let us take refuge in the shelter of your wings!

Make haste, to help us, O Lord, our salvation.

Amen.

Call to Offering

Let us worship the Lord with our offerings.

***Doxology #390** “Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord!”

(The music is printed on page 16 of the bulletin.)

***Prayer of Dedication** (*unison*)

Lord, our salvation, the gifts we bring to you come from the joy of knowing you. But they also come from the suffering we experience throughout our lives and the knowledge that you do not forsake us. However we bring our offerings today, may they be to your glory, sharing your peace and hope in the world. Amen.

God Goes with Us into the World

***Sending Song #250** “In the Bulb There Is a Flower”

(The music is printed on page 17 of the bulletin.)

Benediction

***Postlude**

“Variation on *Luther’s Theme*”

Thygerson



The people of Australia

Praying for the Persecuted Church: Morocco

| | | |
|--------------|---------|--------------------------|
| Birthdays: | Oct. 29 | Dave Henrichs |
| | Oct. 29 | Steve Seeker |
| | Oct. 31 | Janet Ahrens |
| Anniversary: | Oct. 25 | Glenn & Kathy Kozicki |

In Our Prayers

If there are any prayer requests you would like to share, please send them to roxannelawrence77@gmail.com or post them on Heritage's website and Roxanne will send them out.

Our Ongoing Prayer List

Karen Anderson, Roxanne Lawrence, Jean Ripple, Pat Zebrick, and Jane Arloszynski's brother Earl Duckwall

Announcements

Important News from Heritage

While Tudor Oaks is closed to outside visitors, we will still be worshipping. Pastor Michelle will prepare a video worship service that will be available on our website (<https://www.heritagechurchmuskego.com>) by 10:00 a.m. each Sunday. Even if we can't be together in person, we can still be together in Spirit.

If you have any questions or are in need of pastoral care, please contact Pastor Michelle (mahenrichs@gmail.com).

Prayer and Meditation via Zoom

Please join us on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 3:00 p.m. for a Prayer and Meditation gathering via Zoom. Our next meeting date is October 28. The information is below (same link each week) and it is also set up as an event on our Facebook page.

<https://zoom.us/j/730001908?pwd=a2Y2K2thUUxzZnR1L01kL0pwdjQ2QT09>

Audio only using any phone (you will need to enter meeting ID and password): 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 730 001 908 | Password: 056113

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“God Is Calling through the Whisper”

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“I Will Call upon the Lord”

Text and Music: Michael O'Shields, 1994

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“For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits”

Text and Music: Marty Haugen, 1982

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“Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord!”

Text: Cameroon song

Music: Cameroon melody, arr. Ralph M. Johnson, 1994

Text and Music © 1994 Earthsongs

“In the Bulb There Is a Flower”

Text and Music: Natalie Sleeth, 1986

Text and Music © 1986 Hope Publishing Company

410 God Is Calling through the Whisper



1 God is call-ing through the whis-per of the Spir - it's deep-est sighs,
2 God is call-ing through the voic-es of our neigh-bors' ur-gent prayers,
3 God is call-ing through the mu-sic of sub-lime and hu-man arts,



through the thrill of sud-den beau-ties that can catch us by sur-prise.
through their long-ing for re-demp-tion and for res-cue from de-spair.
through the hymns of earth and an-gels, and the car-ols of our hearts.



Flash of light-ning, crash of thun-der; hush of still-ness, rush of won-der:
Place of hurt or face of need-ing; stri-dent cry or si-lent plead-ing:
Lift of joy and gift of sing-ing; days and nights our prais-es bring-ing:



God is call - ing—can you hear? God is call - ing—can you hear?
God is call - ing—can you hear? God is call - ing—can you hear?
God is call - ing—and we hear! God is call - ing—and we hear!



I Will Call upon the Lord 621

Part 1 (melody) D G D G D G

I will call up-on the Lord who is wor-thy to be

Part 2 (echo)

I will call up-on the Lord

D G D G D G

praised. So shall I be saved from my en-e-mies.

who is wor-thy to be praised. So shall I be

D G D G D G A

I will call up-on the Lord.

saved from my en-e-mies. I will call up-on the Lord.

Refrain D G D G

The Lord liv-eth, and bless-ed be the Rock, and let the God of my sal-

D G A D G

va-tion be ex-alt-ed. The Lord liv-eth, and bless-ed be the Rock,

D G D G A A7 D

and let the God of my sal-va-tion be ex-alt-ed.

For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits

89

My Soul in Stillness Waits



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.



1 O Lord of Light, our on - ly hope of glo - ry,
 2 O Spring of Joy, rain down up - on our spir - its;
 3 O Root of Life, im - plant your seed with - in us,
 4 O Key of Knowl - edge, guide us in our pil - grim-age;
 5 Come, let us bow be - fore the God who made us;
 6 Here we shall meet the Mak - er of the heav - ens,



your ra-diance shines in all who look to you; come, light the
 our thirst - y hearts are yearn - ing for your word; come, make us
 and in your ad - vent, draw us all to you, our hope re -
 we ev - er seek, yet un - ful-filled re - main; o - pen to
 let ev - ery heart be o - pened to the Lord, for we are
 Cre - a - tor of the moun-tains and the seas, Lord of the



hearts of all in dark and shad-ow.
 whole, be com - fort to our hearts.
 born in dy - ing and in ris - ing.
 us the path - way of your peace.
 all the peo - ple of God's hand.
 stars, and pres - ent to us now.

Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord! 390

Louez le Seigneur!



Praise, praise, praise the Lord! Praise God's ho - ly name. Al - le - lu - ia!
Lou - ez le Sei - gneur! Lou - ez son saint nom. Al - le - lu - ia!



Praise, praise, praise the Lord! Praise God's ho - ly name. Al - le - lu - ia!
Lou - ez le Sei - gneur! Lou - ez son saint nom. Al - le - lu - ia!



Praise God's ho - ly name. Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God's ho - ly name. Al - le - lu - ia!
Lou - ez son saint nom. Al - le - lu - ia! Lou - ez son saint nom. Al - le - lu - ia!



Praise God's ho - ly name. Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God's ho - ly name. Al - le - lu - ia!
Lou - ez son saint nom. Al - le - lu - ia! Lou - ez son saint nom. Al - le - lu - ia!



In the Bulb There Is a Flower 250

Hymn of Promise

Capo 3: (D) F (Em) Gm

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

(A7) C7 (D) F

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
 there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

(D7) (G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (F#) (Bm)
 F7 Bb Gm F Dm Gm A Dm

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

(G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (A7) (D)
 Bb Gm F Dm Gm C7 F

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.