

You Are with Us

In spring, God's creation breathes. Grasses turn green, rains refresh the earth, and flowers and trees bud and blossom. The sun warms the soil as farmers prepare for planting. Robins build nests, and fawns are born in the forest. We anticipate these patterns.

Last year, however, was a year of uncertainty and change. The COVID-19 pandemic impacted governments, businesses, schools, healthcare systems, and churches, to name a few. People suffered with isolation, illness, death, and recovery. Multitudes experienced income, food, and housing insecurities. A derecho windstorm swept through seven states, flattening crops, trees, and buildings. Forest fires consumed millions of acres along the West Coast, blackening the air many inhaled. Hurricanes wreaked havoc with winds and rains. Our streets heard cries of injustice and racism.

If David were with us, would he say he lived in fear? In Psalm 23, he wrote: "Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me" (v. 4a). No, David lived without fear because God was with him.

We live in a world of beauty and chaos, of joy and sorrow, of hope and despair, of birth and death. How can we not be afraid? At any moment, our path can become unclear and we may feel lost and uncertain. In these times, remember that God watches over us just as he watches over the fawn in the forest. Do not fear.

Shepherd God, at times we feel the darkness closing in on us. Help us to be strong, for you are our strength and our shield. Lead us on the right paths, for you are our guide. When you are with us, we are not afraid. Guide us to do your will. Amen.

—Denise Flory
Cedar Falls, Iowa

Text for today: "The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, *I fear no evil*; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long" (Psalm 23, NRSV).
Bible readings for today: Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23 (4); 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18.

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CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland

MORNING WORSHIP

10:00 AM

Worship April 25, 2021

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "My Lord, What a Morning" (Lau)

*CALL TO WORSHIP Robin Davies, Worship Leader

One: Praise, O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord.

All: **Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time on and forevermore.**

One: From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised.

All: **The Lord is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens.**

One: O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

All: **Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.**

One: Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.

All: **For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.**

One: Magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.

All: **Blessed be his glorious name forever; may his glory fill the whole earth.**

(based on Psalms 113:1-; 96:1-4; 34:3; 72:19)

*HYMN OF PRAISE #37 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

[Verse 1]

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!

All ye who hear, now to God's temple draw near; join me in glad adoration.

[Verse 2]

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth, shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth! Hast thou not seen how thy heart's wishes have been granted in what He ordaineth?

[Verse 3]

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee.

Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend thee.

Ponder anew what the Almighty can do, as with His love He befriends thee.

[Verse 4]

Praise to the Lord, oh let all that is in me adore Him!

All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.

Let the "amen" sound from God's people again, gladly forever adore Him.

*OPENING PRAYER

Merciful God, we come before you with praise and thanksgiving! Through Jesus Christ, you have lavished on us every spiritual blessing we could possibly imagine! Before the world was created, you already knew us and loved us. You adopted us as your own children and redeemed us through the blood of Christ. Even more, you have made us your heirs, and given us your own Spirit as a sign and guarantee.

How we praise you! Open our hearts and minds to your presence among us here. May our worship this morning bring you honor and glory, for you alone are worthy of our praise. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE "Ten Thousand Reasons" Myrin/Redman
Praise Band

[Chorus]

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; Worship His holy name.

Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name.

[Verse 1]

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning, it's time to sing Your song again.

Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,

let me be singing when the evening comes.

[Chorus]

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; Worship His holy name.

Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name.

[Verse 2]

You're rich in love, and You're slow to anger.

Your name is great, and Your heart is kind. For all Your goodness,

I will keep on singing; Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

(continued)

[Chorus]

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; Worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name.*

[Verse 3]

*And on that day, when my strength is failing,
the end draws near and my time has come; Still, my soul will sing Your
praise unending ten thousand years and then forevermore!*

[Chorus]

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; Worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name.*

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN Pastor Twyla Rowe

SERVICE OF GIVING

Call to Giving

As we come to this time of giving, let us consider these words from Psalm 96:8-9: "Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts. Worship the Lord in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth."

Joyfully...as the living body of Christ...may we participate in this significant act of worship for the building of God's kingdom.

You may place your offering in the plate at the front of the church during the offertory if you have not done so yet. Or if you are watching the service online, we virtually pass the offering plate to you and you can prepare your offering to be mailed to or dropped off at the church this week, or you can use Paypal on the Hagerstowncob webpage.

Offertory "Humbly I Adore Thee" (Arr. Lau)

***Doxology #119** "Praise God from whom"

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Let us pray. Lord God, who has given to us so many gifts, your generosity is sometimes even more than we can comprehend. We praise you for all your loving gifts. Now we bring to you our gifts. May these gifts that we bring now, and our lives, be dedicated by you for service and ministry. May all that we do show to all the world your great love for all humankind; in Christ's name. Amen.

SHARING OUR JOYS, CONCERNS, AND HOPES Pastor Twyla

Please remember our worship is also on Facebook Live and our website.

Please do not share any personal information you do not want to be made public.

An usher will hold the microphone for you while you share.

TEMPLE CHOIR ANTHEM "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"
(Arr. Rasley)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Pastor Twyla

SCRIPTURE READING: 2 Corinthians 6:1-13

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

*"At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you."*

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. In return—I speak as to children—open wide your hearts also.

MESSAGE "Picture Pastor" Pastor Gene Hagenberger

SERVICE OF INSTALLATION FOR PASTOR TWYLA

Unison Congregational Response: I receive Twyla Rowe as pastor of this church. In the ministry to which God is calling this congregation, I will support our new pastor with my prayers and sincere cooperation. I will affirm her as a person with needs similar to my own and will confront her in love when I question her actions or judgment. I intend to be a partner with her as we seek the truth, learn the way, and work together in the kingdom. I pray God's blessing upon you, Twyla, as you become our pastor and upon us all as we share in this ministry.

(continued)

***HYMN #418**

“Move in our midst”

[Verse 1]

Move in our midst, thou Spirit of God. Go with us down from thy holy hill. Walk with us through the storm and the calm. Spirit of God, go thou with us still.

[Verse 2]

Touch thou our hands to lead us aright. Guide us forever, show us thy way. Transform our darkness into thy light. Spirit of God, lead thou us today.

[Verse 3]

Strike from our feet the fetters that bind. Lift from our lives the weight of our wrong. Teach us to love with heart, soul, and mind. Spirit of God, thy love makes us strong.

[Verse 4]

Kindle our hearts to burn with thy flame. Raise up thy banners high in this hour. Stir us to build new worlds in thy name. Spirit of God, O send us thy pow’r!

***BENEDICTION**

After the Benediction, you may be seated.

Please continue in a spirit of worship as we listen to the Postlude music.

***POSTLUDE**

“Jubilee!”

(Martin)

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*\*Please rise — in body or spirit — as an act of worship.  
Thank you for joining us in worship today.*

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