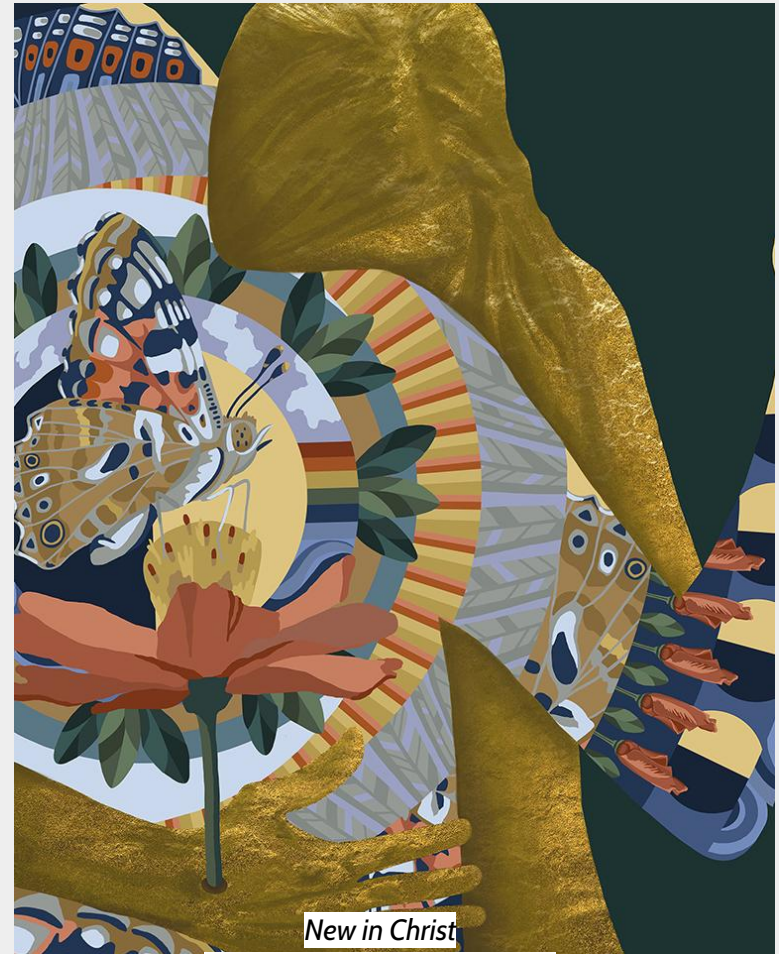


Lenten Dinner Church

Thursday, March 31, 2022



by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

Inspired by 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 ©A Sanctified Art | sanctifiedart.org

Opening Hymn *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*



The image displays a musical score for the hymn "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing". The score is written on four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The time signature is 3/2. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with line breaks corresponding to the musical phrases. The final staff ends with a double bar line.

Come, thou fount of ev-'ry bles - sing, tune my heart to sing thy grace,
O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am called to be!

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
Let thy good - ness, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to thee.

Teach me_ some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by__ flam - ing tongues a - bove.
Prone to__ wan - der, Lord, I feel__ it, prone to__ leave the God I love;

Praise the mount! I'm fixed u - pon it, mount of thy re - deem-ing love.
here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Gathering & Welcome

One: May Christ, the Light of the World;

All: Enlighten our hearts with Love

Opening Prayer

God of open doors,
We often long to come home to you,
to love,
and to ourselves,
but we aren't always sure how to get there.
We know that we need you,
but the road back to you is heavy with distractions.
So if we can dare to be so forward, we pray—

reach into the cacophony of our hearts and minds and make yourself known.
Quiet everything but your Word for us today.
Leave us awestruck.
Drown out the distractions.
Come as thunder or come as a still, small voice;
we don't care which, we just pray that you will come.
Turn on the light.
Speak through these words.
Find the parts of us that are lost.
With hope we pray, amen.

by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

One: The wisdom of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God.

Sharing the Feast

As you enjoy dinner together, we invite you to think about the following questions:

Recall a time in your life when you have either received or given prodigal grace, grace that is lavish, illogical, and unearned.

How did that experience change you?

Breaking the Bread & Sharing the Cup

Prayer of Confession

The prodigal son isn't given a name, but we know his name.

It sounds like ours.

And we know his story.

It sounds like ours.

For who among us hasn't burned a bridge?

Who among us hasn't forgotten that we belong to one another?

Who among us has not ached for home?

The prodigal son isn't given a name, but we know his name.

Forgive us God. We want to come home.

Confession

Silent Confession

We continue praying in silence for up to one minute for our personal confessions and spiritual centering.

One: O God, in your compassion;

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Assurance of Grace

We believe in a God who waits in the driveway for us.

We believe in a God who leaves the porch light on
and throws a feast when we are found.

We believe in a God who doesn't stop looking for us when we get lost.

We believe in a God of prodigal grace—
excessive, extravagant, over-the-top grace.

In response to this grace, we hold tighter to each other.

**We remember that humans are not meant to go through
life alone;**

**so we look for ways to welcome each other in, to live like
we are family, and to lead**

with grace—excessive, extravagant, over-the-top grace.

We believe that this is our call. Let it be so. Amen.

Closing Song: *Thy Holy Wings, O Savior*

Swedish folk tune; lyrics by Caroline V. Sandell-Berg, translated by Gracia Grindal

Unison

The musical score is written for a unison voice part. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble and a bass staff, both in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and folk-like, with a mix of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff of each system.

1. Thy ho - ly wings, O Sav-ior, spread gent-ly o - ver me,
2. O wash me in the wa-ters of No-ah's cleans-ing flood;

and let me rest se - cure-ly through good and ill in thee.
give me a will-ing spir - it, a heart both clean and good.

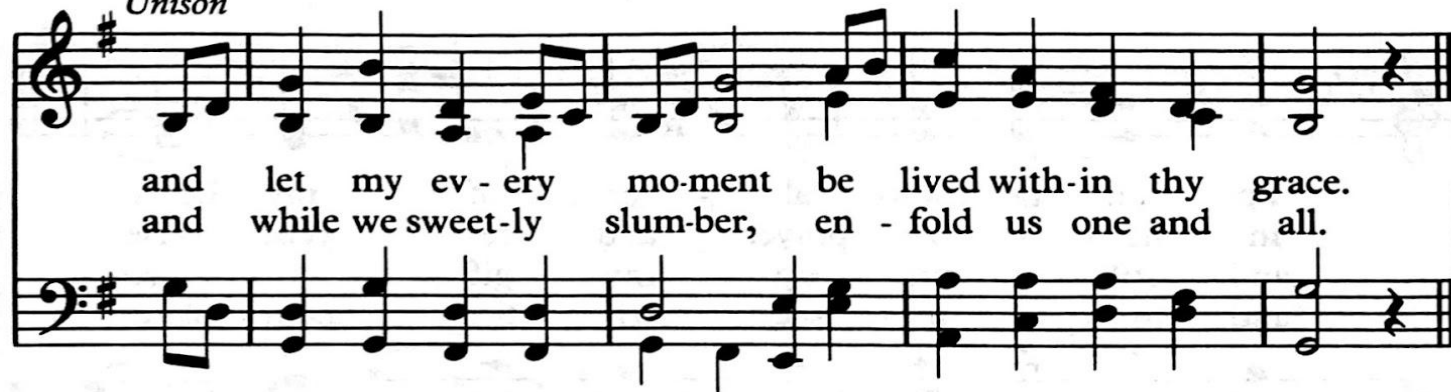
Harmony



O be my strength and por-tion, my rock and hid-ing place,
And take in - to thy keep-ing thy chil-dren great and small,

The Harmony section consists of two staves, treble and bass, in G major (one sharp). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the staves, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across measures.

Unison



and let my ev - ery mo-ment be lived with-in thy grace.
and while we sweet-ly slum-ber, en - fold us one and all.

The Unison section consists of two staves, treble and bass, in G major (one sharp). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the staves, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across measures.

Benediction

Friends, the God of Open Doors

Will always hold it open you.

No matter what distractions, twists, or turns you encounter along the way

God will wait, and wait again

Ready for you to come home.

In the name of the Creator, the Sustainer, and Life itself—

Amen.