

Lenten Dinner Church

Thursday, March 10, 2022



First Fruits

by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

Inspired by Deuteronomy 26:1-11 ©A Sanctified Art | sanctifiedart.org

Lighting the Christ Candle

One: May Christ, the Light of the World;

All: Enlighten our hearts with Love

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 written below the notes, with line breaks corresponding to the musical phrases. The lyrics are: "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."

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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

Opening Prayer

God of the wilderness places in our lives,
it can be hard to hear you in the desert.
It can be hard to hear you in the city,
in the midst of our calendar reminders,
rush-hour traffic, and notification alerts.
It can be hard to hear you, so we ask:

make everything quiet.
Pause the chaos.
Still the rushing.
Ease our racing thoughts.
Give us ears to hear your Word for us today
which promises that even in the desert
you are full to the brim.
We are listening.
We ache for your good news.
Gratefully we pray, amen.

Breaking the Bread

Sharing the Feast

As you enjoy your dinner together, we invite you to think about these questions:

What are the desert and deserted spaces you see in the life of our congregation or community? How is God present in those spaces?

In what ways does a scarcity mindset tempt you? In what ways do you experience God's abundance, and how do you describe what that abundance looks and feels like?

Scriptural Acclamation

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground,

which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name.

You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, ‘Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.’

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God:

‘A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous.

When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression.

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey.

So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.' You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God.

Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

One: The wisdom of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God.

Confession

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we confess: we don't return to you fully.

We share with you the pieces of our lives that are convenient.

We put on different hats in different rooms.

We forget that we are called, invited, and loved with all that we are—
including our mess, our beauty, our faith, and our doubt.

Forgive us, and give us hearts that long to return.

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

No matter what we have done or failed to do;

No matter where we have fallen short or not quite measured up;

No matter how hard we might be on ourselves;

We know this truth:

God sees us. God hears us. God loves us.

We are forgiven and claimed with all that we are.

We rest in that good news.

Thanks be to God, amen.

Sharing the Cup

Closing Song: *Thy Holy Wings, O Savior*

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

Unison

The image displays a musical score for a unison song. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal melody line in treble clef and a bass line in bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line of each system. The first system contains two verses of lyrics, and the second system contains the concluding lines of the song.

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.

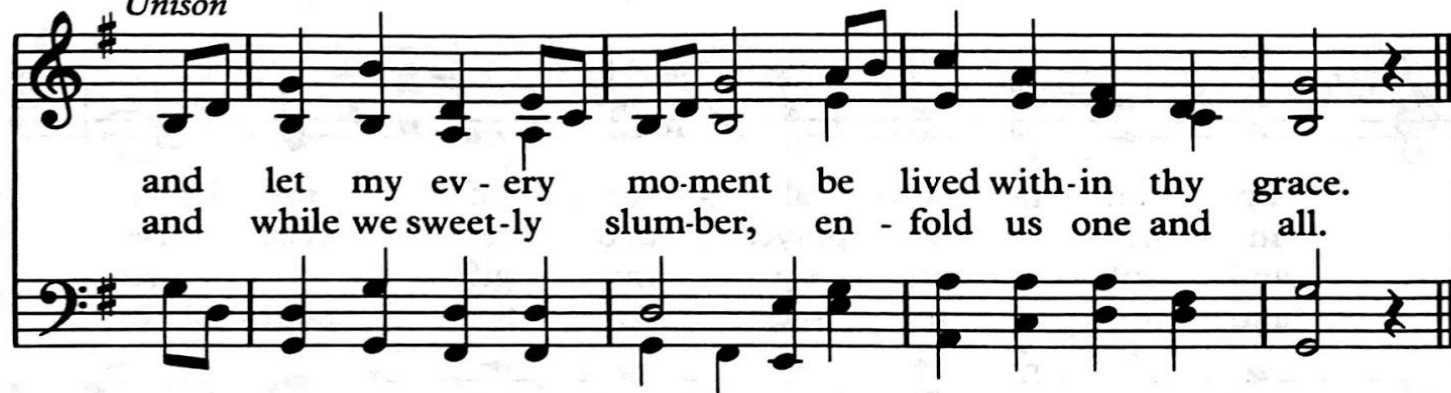
Harmony



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 notes.

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 notes.

Benediction

Friends, as you leave here tonight,

May you go forward knowing

that even when you wander in a desert place

You are so tenderly and lovingly held in God's Divine Embrace.

May you carry the light that you've found here

Out into this night.

And may you share it with those around in the days to come

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

go in peace. Amen.