

Lenten Dinner Church

Thursday, March 17, 2022



Under God's Wings

by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Inspired by Psalm 27 ©A Sanctified Art | sanctifiedart.org

Lighting the Christ Candle

One: May Christ, the Light of the World;

All: Enlighten our hearts with Love

Opening Song

Return Again

by Shlomo Carlbach

*Return again, return again,
Return to the land of your soul. (repeat)*

*Return to who you are,
Return to what you are,
Return to where you are born and reborn again
Return again, return again,
Return to the land of your soul.*

Gathering & Welcome

Opening Prayer

Holy God,
this life of ours is full to the brim.
Our days are overflowing with emails and to-do lists,
schedules and notifications,
assignments and deadlines.
We wake up feeling behind,
we go to sleep worrying about tomorrow,
and we know—there has to be more than this.
So we pray:

bend down and show us the way.
Leave breadcrumbs in the street.
Point us toward awe and wonder.
Guide us to intimacy and trust.
Gift us with laughter that will make us cry
and hope that will make us feel alive.
We want a new kind of life.
Show us the way.
We are listening for your cues.
Gratefully we pray, amen.

Breaking the Bread

Sharing the Feast

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

Can you recall an experience where your parents (or other family members) showed you unconditional love, even when you chose a difficult path?

What have you learned about unconditional love through that experience?

Scriptural Acclamation

In the Lord, I'll be ever thankful;

In the Lord, I will rejoice.

Look to God, do not be afraid!

Lift up your voices, the Lord is near;

Lift up your voices, the Lord is near!

Repeat 2x

Psalm 27

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh— my adversaries and foes— they shall stumble and fall.

Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

Psalm 27

Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!

“Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!” Your face, Lord, do I seek.

Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

If my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will take me up.

Psalm 27

Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.

Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me, and they are breathing out violence.

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

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

When the world is at its worst—
when grief clings to our bones,
when fear eats at our confidence,
when loneliness moves into our house—
God sets the table,
turns on the lights,
and invites us to dance.
We are loved, held, and forgiven.
Thanks be to God for a love like that! Amen.

Sharing the Cup

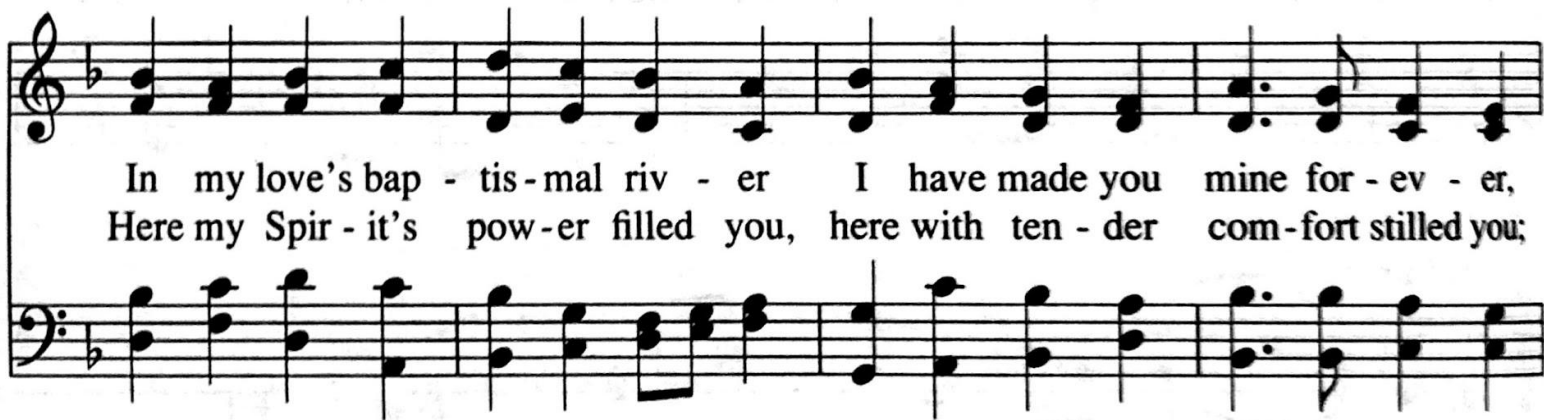
Closing Hymn

Go My Children with My Blessing

The image displays a musical score for a hymn, featuring two systems of music. Each system consists of a vocal melody line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef), both in 4/4 time and B-flat major. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system contains two verses of lyrics, and the second system contains two more verses. The music is written in a simple, clear style, suitable for a children's hymn.

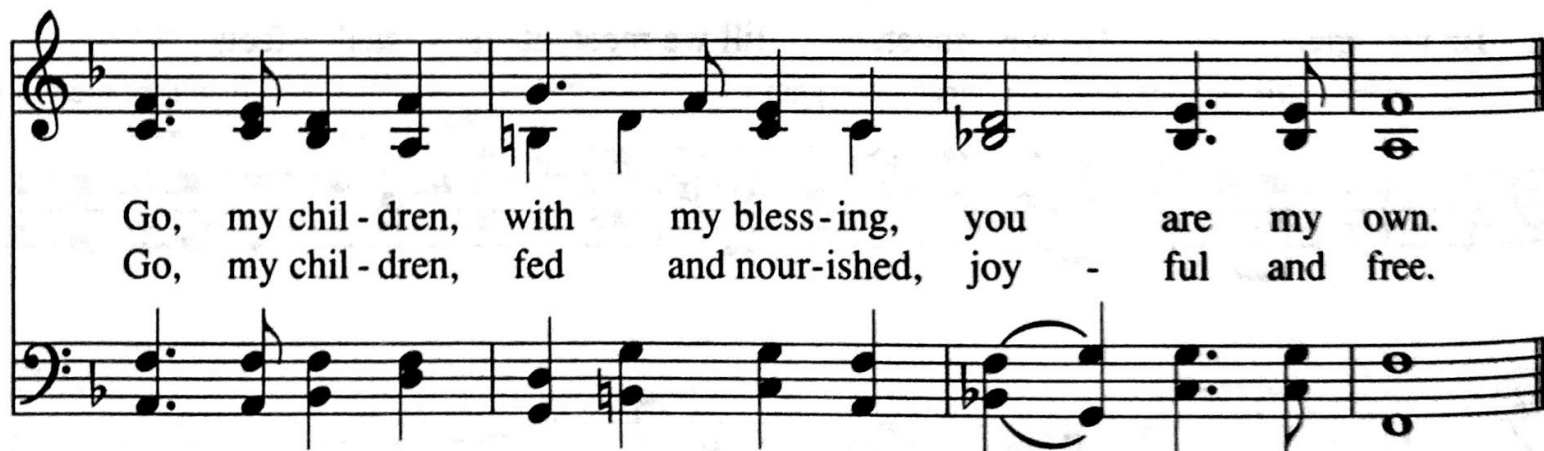
1 Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, nev - er a - lone;
2 Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me;

Wak - ing, sleep-ing, I am with you, you are my own;
Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er,
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here with ten - der com - fort stilled you;

The first system of the musical score consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. Both staves have a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the upper staff, and the bass line is in the lower staff. The lyrics are written below the staves, aligned with the notes.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free.

The second system of the musical score also consists of two staves in treble and bass clefs with a key signature of one flat. The melody continues in the upper staff, and the bass line continues in the lower staff. The lyrics are written below the staves, aligned with the notes.

Benediction

Friends, as you leave here tonight,
May you carry the comfort
that you are protected under God's wing;
That you are surrounded by layers of grace;
That at God's table there is always space for you.

Go forward with that comfort, with that radical love, with that peace.

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

Amen.