

Downtown Presbyterian Church
Order of Worship for June 21, 2020
Second Sunday after Pentecost

Opening Voluntary

Chorale Prelude on *Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr*
Translation: *All Glory Be To God On High*

Friedrich W. Zachau
Andreas N. Vetter

Welcome

Call to Worship

Psalm 86:1-10 (CEB, alt.)

Dixie Williamson

*LORD, listen closely to us and answer us,
because we are poor and in need.
Guard our lives because we are faithful.
Save your servants who trust in you—you! Our God!
Have mercy on us, Lord,
because we cry out to you all day long.
Make your servants' lives happy again
because, our Lord, we offer our lives to you,
because, our Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of faithful love for all those who cry out to you.
Listen closely to our prayer, LORD;
pay close attention to the sound of our requests for mercy.
Whenever we are in trouble, we cry out to you,
because you will answer us.
Our Lord! There is no one like you among the gods!
There is nothing that can compare to your works!
All the nations that you've made will come and bow down before you, Lord;
they will glorify your name,
because you are awesome and a wonder-worker.
You are God. Just you.*

Hymn

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"
Ryan Norris, cantor

Gathering Prayer

*God of those empty of hope and those who are cast out:
into the chaos of every life you enter with the silence of love;
when we choke on bitter memories, you hand us the cup of healing;
when we wander down lonely streets, you bring us home to your heart.*

*Jesus Christ, conqueror of sin's power:
into our deepest pain where life has bottomed out, you dare to enter;
when we cry out with fear, you cradle our hearts;
when we face death, you stride out of the grave,
pointing the way to the kingdom.*

Spirit of the forsaken and bearer of compassion:

you are the mist shimmering over the valleys, stirring the waters of creation;

you are the dew bathing the flowers every morning, anointing us with resurrection's grace.

God in Community, Holy in One,

forgive our failures to appeal to your hope, your power and your compassion.

Amen.

(Silent prayer)

Assurance of God's Grace

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Announcements

Children's Message

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading

Matthew 10:24-39

Jesus said, "Disciples aren't greater than their teacher, and slaves aren't greater than their master. It's enough for disciples to be like their teacher and slaves like their master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, it's certain that they will call the members of his household by even worse names.

"Therefore, don't be afraid of those people because nothing is hidden that won't be revealed, and nothing secret that won't be brought out into the open. What I say to you in the darkness, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, announce from the rooftops. Don't be afraid of those who kill the body but can't kill the soul. Instead, be afraid of the one who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Aren't two sparrows sold for a small coin? But not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father knowing about it already. Even the hairs of your head are all counted. Don't be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows.

"Therefore, everyone who acknowledges me before people, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven. But everyone who denies me before people, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

"Don't think that I've come to bring peace to the earth. I haven't come to bring peace but a sword. 35 I've come to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. People's enemies are members of their own households.

"Those who love father or mother more than me aren't worthy of me. Those who love son or daughter more than me aren't worthy of me. Those who don't pick up their crosses and follow me aren't worthy of me. Those who find their lives will lose them, and those who lose their lives because of me will find them.

Sermon

Rev. Mike Wilson

*Why should I feel discouraged? Why should the shadows come?
Why should my heart be lonely and long for heaven and home,
When Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is he:
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.*

*“Let not your heart be troubled,” his tender word I hear,
And resting on his goodness, I lose my doubts and fears;
Though by the path he leadeth but one step I may see:
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.*

*Whenever I am tempted, whenever clods arise,
When song gives place to sighing, when hope within me dies,
I draw the closer to him; from care he sets me free:
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.*

*I sing because I’m happy, I sing because I’m free,
For his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.*

— Civilla Durfee Martin

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.*

Hymn

“O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee”
Ryan Norris, cantor

Charge and Benediction

Chorale Prelude on *Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr*, BWV 715

J. S. Bach

Closing Voluntary

Note about Today’s Voluntaries

The hymn text and melody of *Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr* is believed to have been written in 1523 which makes for one of the earliest hymns of the Reformation. Adapted from the Gloria of the Easter mass in Gregorian chant, the popular hymn was easily harmonized by the organist and sometimes given short improvisational bridges. Bach provides an excellent example of such re-harmonization and improvisational skills in today’s closing voluntary.

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1 *Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;
2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee.
sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide,

Thou chang - est not; thy com - pas - sions they fail not.
join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row:

As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.
to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

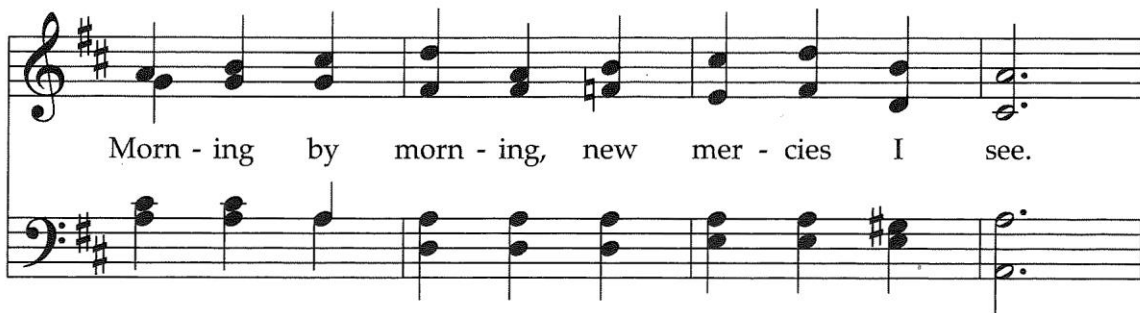
**Or "Great is thy faithfulness, O God, Creator."*

Written as a meditation on Lamentations 3:22-23, this text is one of the few hymns among the 1200 poems by this Methodist writer and pastor that has gained much currency. The tune that appears here was composed especially for these words, and the pairing has proved enduring.

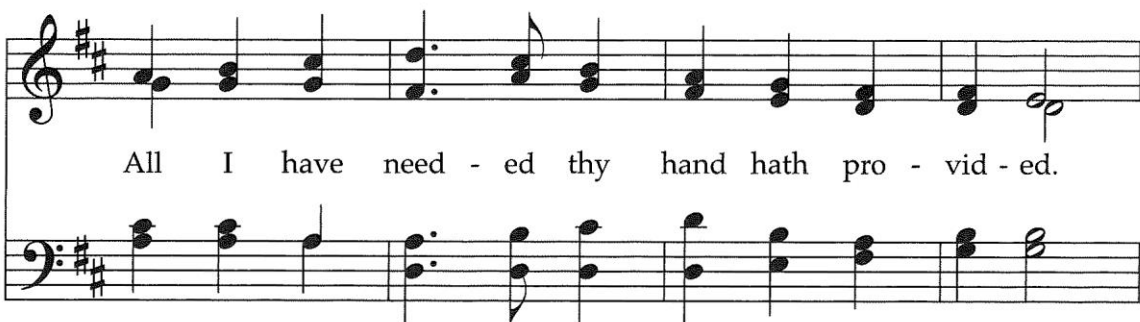
Refrain



Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!



Morn - ing by morn - ing, new mer - cies I see.



All I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed.



Great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with thee
2 Help me the slow of heart to move
3 Teach me thy pa - tience, still with thee
4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray

in low - ly paths of ser - vice free;
by some clear, win - ning word of love;
in clos - er, dear - er com - pa - ny,
far down the fu - ture's broad - ening way;

tell me thy se - cret; help me bear the
teach me the way - ward feet to stay, and
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in
in peace that on - ly thou canst give, with

strain of toil, the fret of care.
guide them in the home - ward way.
trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong.
thee, O Mas - ter, let me live.

In honestly admitting the limits of human ability, this prayerful hymn does not seek a sense of God's presence for self-comfort but for strength and companionship in pursuing the tasks that God sets before us. The author specifically chose this tune to accompany his words.