

**The Downtown Presbyterian Church  
Order of Worship for July 12, 2020  
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Opening Voluntary**

Coro from *Water Music*  
William Taylor, organist & director of music

G. F. Handel

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

Stephanie & Dave Coleman

*Generously. Lavishly. Abundantly.  
God spreads seeds of holy possibility far and wide.*

***Who will nurture their potential?***

***Who will tend to their growth?***

*The Spirit of Life cries out for co-operation.  
**May all who long for God join in the labors of liberation.***

*That love may blossom.  
That justice may be a bountiful crop.  
That courage may grow unencumbered.*

*Let not the gifts of God be wasted but the harvest be plenty.*

***Let Divine Life flourish among us.***

**Hymn**

“O God In Whom All Life Begins”  
Ryan Norris, cantor

**Gathering Prayer**

*O God in whom all life begins,  
Till the rocky soil of our hearts and minds  
so that we are ripe for planting.  
Fertilize us with your Spirit,  
so that your seeds grow quickly and with deep roots.  
Sow in us seeds of faith  
so that when confronted with life's challenges we will not wither.  
Pull up the weeds of confusing and clamoring voices  
so that your Word is not choked out of our hearts.  
Water us with your grace  
so that we might bear delicious fruit for your kingdom.*

(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

### Scripture Reading

Matthew 11:16-19

*That day Jesus went out of the house and sat down beside the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he climbed into a boat and sat down. The whole crowd was standing on the shore.*

*He said many things to them in parables: "A farmer went out to scatter seed. As he was scattering seed, some fell on the path, and birds came and ate it. Other seed fell on rocky ground where the soil was shallow. They sprouted immediately because the soil wasn't deep. But when the sun came up, it scorched the plants, and they dried up because they had no roots. Other seed fell among thorny plants. The thorny plants grew and choked them. Other seed fell on good soil and bore fruit, in one case a yield of one hundred to one, in another case a yield of sixty to one, and in another case a yield of thirty to one. Everyone who has ears should pay attention."*

[Then Jesus explained the parable to his disciples in private]

*"Consider then the parable of the farmer. Whenever people hear the word about the kingdom and don't understand it, the evil one comes and carries off what was planted in their hearts. This is the seed that was sown on the path. As for the seed that was spread on rocky ground, this refers to people who hear the word and immediately receive it joyfully. Because they have no roots, they last for only a little while. When they experience distress or abuse because of the word, they immediately fall away. As for the seed that was spread among thorny plants, this refers to those who hear the word, but the worries of this life and the false appeal of wealth choke the word, and it bears no fruit. As for what was planted on good soil, this refers to those who hear and understand, and bear fruit and produce—in one case a yield of one hundred to one, in another case a yield of sixty to one, and in another case a yield of thirty to one."*

### Sermon

Rev. Mike Wilson

### Special Music

"A Sower Came From Ancient Hills"

Ryan Norris, tenor

*A Sower came from ancient hills  
and cast good seed abroad;  
his field, ten thousand human hearts;  
his seed, the word of God.*

*And some who listened would not hear,  
and some who heard forgot.  
But some received in fertile soil  
the truth the sower taught.*

*A Sower walked throughout the land  
and, everywhere he trod,  
he sowed his life because he was  
himself the Seed of God.*

*But then, atop a barren hill,  
beneath a darkening sky,  
they threw God's Seed on stony ground  
and left it there to die.*

*The seed was buried deep in death  
beneath a bloodied sky,  
and deeper still was buried hope  
for those who watched him die.*

*But then, in Joseph's garden fair,  
as dawn broke o'er the land,  
the Seed, from three days' silent sleep,  
awoke at God's command!*

*O Christ, you come among us still,  
the Sower and the Seed.  
As once you sowed the truth of God  
in glowing word and deed,  
impart your Word in waiting hearts,  
and let it there take hold,  
until it bears in fruitful lives  
a harvest hundredfold.*

**Moment for Mission**

**Leah Susi  
Monroe Harding**

**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**

**"Open My Eyes, That I May See"**

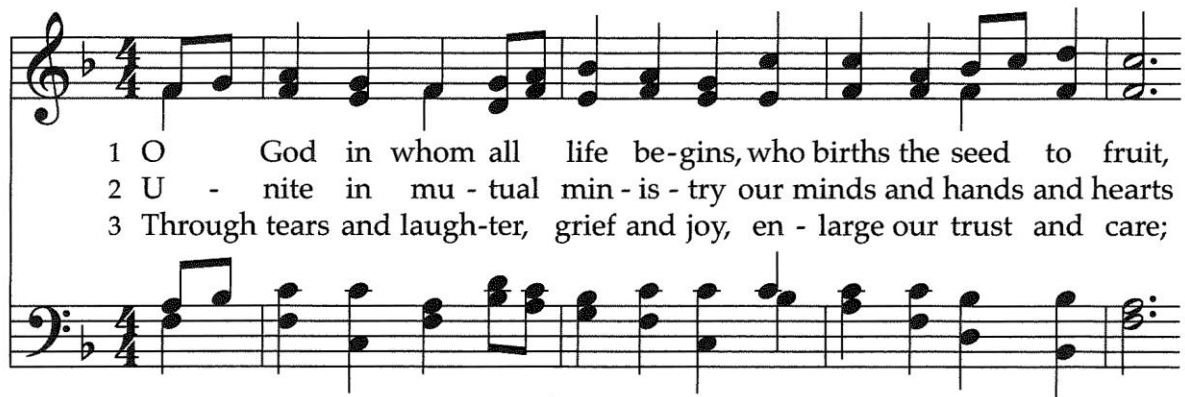
**Charge and Benediction**

**Closing Voluntary**

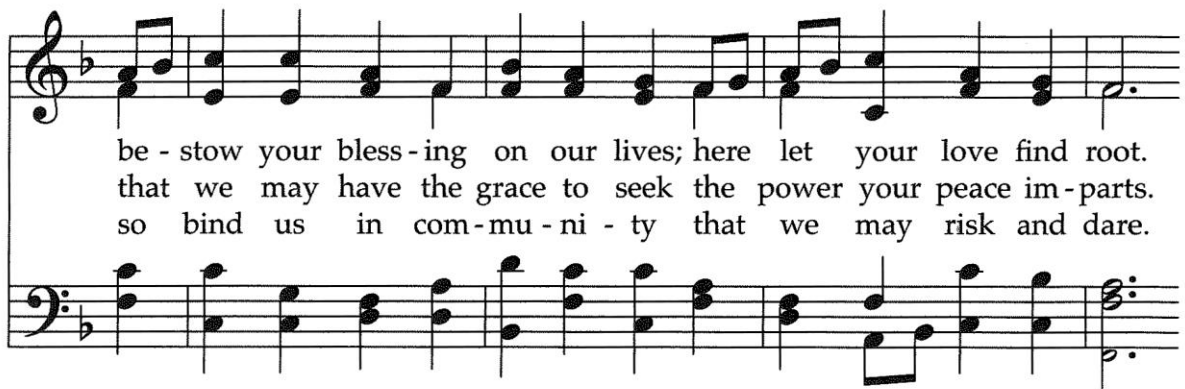
Hornpipe from *Water Music*

G. F. Handel

# O God in Whom All Life Begins



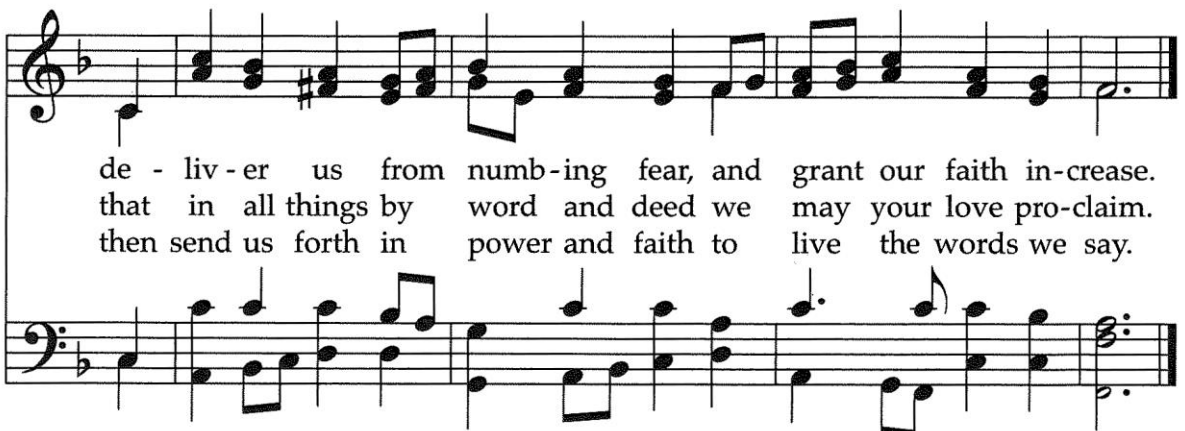
1 O God in whom all life be-gins, who births the seed to fruit,  
2 U - nite in mu - tual min - is - try our minds and hands and hearts  
3 Through tears and laugh-ter, grief and joy, en - large our trust and care;



be - stow your bless-ing on our lives; here let your love find root.  
that we may have the grace to seek the power your peace im-parts.  
so bind us in com-mu-ni - ty that we may risk and dare.



Bring forth in us the Spir - it's gifts of pa-tience, joy, and peace;  
So let our var-ied gifts com-bine to glo - ri - fy your Name  
Be with us when we gath - er here to wor-ship, sing, and pray;



de - liv - er us from numb-ing fear, and grant our faith in-crease.  
that in all things by word and deed we may your love pro-claim.  
then send us forth in power and faith to live the words we say.

Although it was written for the installation of a pastor, this text is really about the mutual ministry shared by all members of a worshipping community, both when they are gathered and when they go forth into the world. The tune used here may have Christmas associations for some.

# Open My Eyes, That I May See



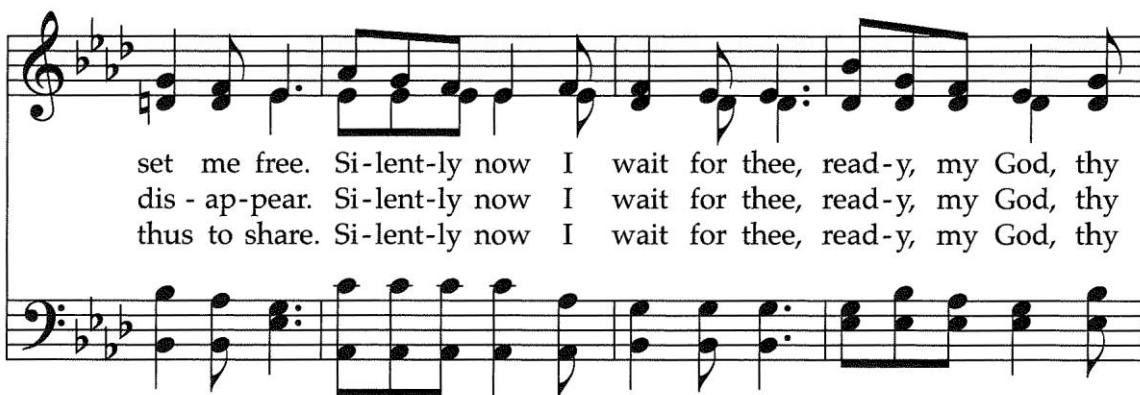
- 1 O-pen my eyes, that I may see glimps-es of truth thou hast for me.
- 2 O-pen my ears, that I may hear voic - es of truth thou send-est clear.
- 3 O-pen my mouth, and let me bear glad - ly the warm truth ev-ery-where.



Place in my hands the won-der-ful key that shall un - clasp and  
And while the wave notes fall on my ear, ev - ery-thing false will  
O - pen my heart, and let me pre-pare love with thy chil-dren



set me free. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy  
dis - ap-pear. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy  
thus to share. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy



will to see. O-pen my eyes; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di-vine!  
will to see. O-pen my ears; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di-vine!  
will to see. O-pen my heart; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di-vine!



The first woman to publish a collection of her own anthems, this author/composer has created in this hymn a sung prayer for illumination. It not only asks God to help us understand Scripture but also prays for the strength and courage to make God's love known to others.