

**The Downtown Presbyterian Church
Order of Worship for July 26, 2020
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

Opening Voluntary

Chorale Prelude on *Dundee*
Chorale Prelude on *Slane*
William Taylor, organist & director of music

Rolf Unkel
Ronald Arnatt

Welcome

Call to Worship

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led by Brenda and Jonathan Hutchins

*Let us come together rejoicing!
For nothing can separate us from the love of God.
Not life nor death.
Not prejudice nor power.
Not our grief nor our fears.
Not the wrongs we have done nor the wrongs done against us.
Love comes to us still.*

*When nothing feels certain, this truth remains:
The Spirit is our constant companion, ushering us toward life.
Let every heart be lifted!
The kin-dom of God is so close.
Nothing can keep the power of love from becoming enfleshed among us.*

Hymn

“O God, in a Mysterious Way”
Ryan Norris, cantor

Gathering Prayer

*Spirit of God, you intercede through us with your sighs too deep for words.
In the midst of our aching and the world’s groaning, you promise that you are with us.
We feel the loss of certainties we never realized we had –
 help us to shed the expectations we have grasped too tightly;
 rid us of dreams which can never rightly be fulfilled;
 replace our illusory thinking with appreciation
 for the simple truth of your love and presence;
 help us to hear when a voice calls out for something we can provide.
You accompany us with compassion and wisdom;
 may we be encouraged to journey with others in the same way.*

(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

Romans 8:12-25 (CEB, alt.)

In the same way, the Spirit comes to help our weakness. We don't know what we should pray, but the Spirit the Spirit's-self pleads our case with unexpressed groans. The one who searches hearts knows how the Spirit thinks, because Christ pleads for the saints, consistent with God's will. We know that God works all things together for good for the ones who love God, for those who are called according to God's purpose. We know this because God knew them in advance, and God decided in advance that they would be conformed to the image of God's Son. That way God's Son would be the first of many siblings. Those who God decided in advance would be conformed to God's Son, God also called. Those whom God called, God also made righteous. Those whom God made righteous, God also glorified.

So what are we going to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? God didn't spare God's own Son but gave him up for us all. Won't he also freely give us all things with him?

Who will bring a charge against God's elect people? It is God who acquits them. Who is going to convict them? It is Christ Jesus who died, even more, who was raised, and who also is at God's right side. It is Christ Jesus who also pleads our case for us.

Who will separate us from Christ's love? Will we be separated by trouble, or distress, or harassment, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written,

We are being put to death all day long for your sake.

We are treated like sheep for slaughter.

But in all these things we win a sweeping victory through the one who loved us. I'm convinced that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord: not death or life, not angels or rulers, not present things or future things, not powers or height or depth, or any other thing that is created.

Sermon

Rev. Mike Wilson

Special Music

"Shall Tribulation or Distress"

Ryan Norris, tenor

*Shall tribulation or distress,
shall persecution, fire or sword,
or any peril of the world
— or even death, or even death —
shall any power of earth or heaven
divide us from your love, O Christ?*

*No, neither angel host nor thrones,
nor height or depth of evil's reach,
nor present things, nor things to come
— not even death, not even death —
not any power of earth or heaven
can part us from your love, O Christ.*

*Shall illness, hunger or despair,
shall lonely grief or anxious fears,
or deeds of hatred and disdain
— or even death, or even death —
shall any power of earth or heaven
divide us from your love, O Christ?*

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

"Be Thou My Vision"
Ryan Norris, cantor

Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

Postlude

Alan Rideout

O God, in a Mysterious Way

1 O God, in a mys - te - rious way great won - ders you per - form.
2 Deep in un - fath - om - a - ble mines of nev - er - fail - ing skill,
3 O fear - ful saints, fresh cour - age take. The clouds you so much dread
4 Our un - be - lief is sure to err and scan your work in vain.

You plant your foot-steps in the sea and ride up - on the storm.
you trea - sure up your bright de - signs and work your sov - ereign will.
are big with mer - cy and shall break in bless - ings on your head.
You are your own in - ter - pret - er, and you will make it plain.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "O God, in a Mysterious Way". It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble and bass staff. The first system contains four lines of lyrics, and the second system contains two lines. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and single notes.

This classic text gains renewed energy and focus from its recasting here: despite our fear and confusion, we can trust that God's providential purposes will eventually be revealed. In its original source the tune printed here is one of twelve not assigned to a specific hymn.

Be Thou My Vision



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true Word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;
 4 High King of Heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!



thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tower;
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

These stanzas are selected from a 20th-century English poetic version of an Irish monastic prayer dating to the 10th century or before. They are set to an Irish folk melody that has proved popular and easily sung despite its lack of repetition and its wide range.

TEXT: Irish poem; trans. Mary E. Byrne, 1905; vers. Eleanor Hull, 1912, alt.
 MUSIC: Irish ballad; harm. David Evans, 1927
 Music Harm. © 1927 Oxford University Press

SLANE
 10.10.10.10