

**The Downtown Presbyterian Church
Order of Worship for January 17, 2021
Second Sunday after Epiphany**

Opening Voluntary

My God Is So High

arr. Hall Johnson

My God is so high, you can't get over Him, He's so low, you can't get under Him,
He's so wide you can't get around Him you must come in, by and through the Lamb.

He is so high, you can't get over Him, He's so low you can't get under Him,
He's so wide you can't get around Him, you must come in, by and through the Lamb.

One day as I was walkin' along the heav'nly road,
my Savior spoke unto me and filled my heart with love.

I'll take my gospel trumpet and I'll begin to blow,
and if my Savior help me I'll blow wherever I go.

Ryan Norris, tenor

Welcome

David Maddox

Call to Worship

based on Micah 6:1-8
led by Chuck Cardona

Hear what the LORD says:
Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord,
And you enduring foundations of the earth;
For God has a controversy with the people:

"O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!
For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam."

With what shall I come before the Lord,
and bow myself before God on high?

God has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you

but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Hymn

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"
Ryan Norris, cantor

James Weldon Johnson

Prayer of Confession (unison)

based on Ephesians 4:31-32

Put away from you all bitterness
and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander,
together with all malice;
be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another,
as God in Christ has forgiven you.
Let us confess our sins against God and one another,
confident in God's abundant mercy.

(Silent prayer)

Assurance of God's Grace

based on Ephesians 2:1-8
led by Chuck Cardona

You were dead through the trespasses and sins
in which you once lived.
But God, who is generous in mercy, out of great love for us made us alive together with Christ,
and raised us up with him.
By grace you have been saved through faith,
and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.
Thanks be to God!

L: May the peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

Announcements

Erin Bell

Word for our Young Disciples

Suzie Lane

Prayer for Illumination

Dave Coleman

Message

The Belhar Confession - Why now?

Stephanie and Dave Coleman
with Ruth and Max Butler

Historical Perspective

Joel Dark

Music

"People Get Ready"

Curtis Mayfield

People get ready there's a train a comin'
You don't need no baggage you just get on board
All you need is faith to hear the diesel's hummin'
You don't need no ticket You just thank the Lord

So people get ready for the train to Jordan
Picking up passengers coast to coast
Faith is the key open the doors and board them
There's hope for all among those loved the most

There ain't no room for the hopeless sinner
Whom would hurt all mankind just to save his own
Have pity on those whose chances grow thinner
For there's no hiding place against the kingdom's throne
You know there's no hiding place there's no hiding place

So people get ready there's a train a comin'
You don't need no baggage you just get on board
All you need is faith to hear the diesel's hummin'
You don't need no ticket you just thank the Lord
People get ready

Dave Coleman, soloist

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION, PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER (people read bold)

Kim McMullin

Holy God, one in grace, one in glory, one in love,
You call us to love and serve you as one people,
To do what is right and seek your truth,
United in heart, mind, spirit, and strength.

Help us see what we can do in this city, in this church,
To bring justice to the oppressed and give bread to the hungry,
To support the disenfranchised and protect the stranger,
United in heart, mind, spirit, and strength.

You call us to stand by people in any form of suffering or need,
To speak out against injustice and free the prisoner who has been wrongly accused,
To address inequities and systemic racism,
United in heart, mind, spirit, and strength.

You call us to witness against the powerful and privileged,
Who selfishly and dangerously seek their own interests and thus control and harm others,
You call us to be bold,
United in heart, mind, spirit, and strength.

You gather us as a people of faith to do what is right,
You desire justice and true peace among people,
You teach us through Word and Spirit,
United in heart, mind, spirit, and strength.

Help us to love one another, living in unity and peace,
Working together through Jesus Christ, our reconciler and redeemer,
For the good of all,
United in heart, mind, spirit, and strength.

All this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, God's Son, who taught us to pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be they name.
Thy kingdom come, they 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

"Guide My Feet"
Ryan Norris, cantor

Charge and Benediction

L: Let all God's people say,

P: Alleluia, Amen!

Closing Voluntary

"Steal Away to Jesus"

arr. Fred Offutt

About The Belhar Confession:

The Belhar Confession was written as a protest against a heretical theological stance by the white Dutch Reformed Church that used the Bible and the Confessions to justify the harsh and unjust system of apartheid. While apartheid is the human context for the Confession of Belhar, it is never mentioned in the confession. Rather, Belhar lifts up the heart of the Gospel as a bringer of hope for the human condition. Belhar presents a Christian view of racism, separation, and suffering by those who had experienced the realities of these evils. It demonstrates that confessional affirmations can arise from social ethics. Belhar has three central points: Unity, Reconciliation, and Justice. Originally published in September 1986, The Belhar Confession was added to the PC(USA) Book of Confessions in 2016.

Sources:

A Study of The Belhar Confession and its Accompanying Letter by Eunice T. McGarrah

Belhar Confession Historical Context by Jack Rogers

339 Lift Every Voice and Sing

1 Lift ev - ery voice and sing till earth and heav - en
 2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - tening
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent

ring, ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er -
 rod, felt in the days when hope un - born had
 tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the

ty. Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - tening
 died. Yet, with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry
 way; thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the

skies; let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
 feet come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?
 light, keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

Initially a poem for a school assembly at which Booker T. Washington spoke on Lincoln's birthday in 1900, this text and tune have gained national recognition and devotion, not only within the African American community, but also among all who seek liberation from oppression.

TEXT: James Weldon Johnson, 1900
 MUSIC: J. Rosamond Johnson, 1905

LIFT EVERY VOICE
 Irregular

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;

sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought
 we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh -
 lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get

us. Fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be -
 tered, out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at
 thee; shad - owed be - neath thy hand may we for - ev - er

gun, let us march on, till vic - to - ry is won.
 last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
 stand, true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

Guide My Feet

741

1 Guide my feet while I run this race;
(yes, my Lord!)

guide my feet while I run this race;
(yes, my Lord!)

guide my feet while I run this race, for I

don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)

- 2 Hold my hand ...
- 3 Stand by me ...
- 4 I'm your child ...
- 5 Search my heart ...
- 6 Guide my feet ...

This African American spiritual is based on the imagery of "the race that is set before us" in Hebrews 12:1-2. Its call-and-response structure allows for the improvisation and addition of stanzas related to an athletic metaphor that is as vivid today as it was centuries ago.

TEXT: African American spiritual
MUSIC: African American spiritual; harm. Wendell P. Whalum, c. 1984
Music Harm. © Estate of Wendell P. Whalum

GUIDE MY FEET
8.8.8.10