

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

The Second Sunday in Lent

Sunday, February 25, 2024

Building a community of faith unleashed into the world by the love of God.

Words & Music to Hymns/Responses are included at the end of the bulletin.

Gathering Around the Word

Centering Meditation

Rescue Me From Danger

“So next time you are afraid, remember the simple promise of God to the people of Israel, and to us in the person of Jesus: Take courage...I am with you...do not fear.”

– *Brother James Koester*

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude

Talk About a Child
(Traditional spiritual)

arr. by Calvin Taylor

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: God welcomes the dreamers and the doubters,

All: the courageous and the fearful,

One: the hungry and the hopeful,

All: the impatient and the reserved.

One: God welcomes the young and the old,

All: the poets and the prophets,

One: the faithful and the tired,

All: the curious and the convicted.

One: Wherever you are on your journey, wherever your boat is at sea,

All: there is room for all to gather here.

One: This is God's house.

All: Let us worship the one whom even the seas obey.

Opening Hymn # 720 (see below) Jesus Calls Us

Call to Confession

One: In our scripture passage for today, Peter is out on a boat with the disciples when a storm hits. Instead of cowering in fear, Peter spots Jesus on the water and bravely crawls out of the boat to move closer to Christ.

One: Friends, I think the prayer of confession is one way that we do the same; it's one way that we can crawl out of our boats. And here's what I mean: In the prayer of confession, we are honest about the storms that rage within and around us. In this prayer, we speak with honesty in an effort to move closer to God. This is our moment to crawl out of the boat. So friends, let's be like Peter. Join me in being courageous. Join me in truth-telling. Join me in prayer. It's time to get our feet wet. Let us pray together:

Prayer of Confession

All: Gracious God: There are days that threaten to swallow us, days when the storms of life feel too big. In those moments, we often cling to the sides of our ships in fear, spending more energy hiding from storms than looking for you. Forgive us for doubting ourselves. Forgive us for doubting you. Rescue us from the storms of today and from the fears that trap us. With hope in our hearts we pray. Amen.

Silent Prayers

Words of Forgiveness

One: Family of faith, you could get out of the boat and walk on water like Peter, or fall to your knees and stay in one place. No matter what you do, Christ's love for you is unchanging. Fearful or brave, faithful or doubting, Christ is always walking toward you. So hear and believe this good news: God's love is stronger than any storms. On our best days, and on our worst days, we are seen, forgiven, and loved. God is always walking toward you. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Passing of Christ's Peace

One: The peace of Christ always be with you.

All: And also with you.

Response # 698 (see below)

Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination

One: Holy God: there are days where the wind is loud. There are days where the rain tears through the trees and the storms of life beg for our attention. So just as you stilled the wind and the sea, still our wandering hearts. Quiet our restless minds. Reach out your hand to us and pull us into your Word so that we might hear, really hear, your message to us today. With one foot out of the boat, we pray, Amen.

First Reading	Psalm 22:23-31	pew Bible, page 435
Anthem	Lamb of God/Agnus Dei	by Lee H. Bristol, Jr.
Second Reading:	Matthew 14:22-33	pew Bible, page 796
Sermon	Rescue Me From Danger	Rev. Eric Koenig-Reinke

Affirmation of Faith:

All: I believe in a God who moves toward me when storms rage.
I believe in a God who invites me to be brave.
I believe in a God whom the wind and waves obey.
I believe in a God who knows my name.
I believe in a God of love. I am not afraid. Amen.

Responding to the Word

Hymn # 821 (see below) My Life Flows On

Mission Focus Rio Grande Food Project Kathi Cunningham

Invitation to the Offering

One: Jesus says: Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Offertory

Response # 692 *Refrain only* (Spirit open My Heart)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

All: We give you thanks, O God, that you have transformed us from individuals into the discipleship of Christ. Make us strong for your service that we may be messengers of your reconciling love for all people. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

All: Loving God, holy be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

***Bearing and Following the Word
Into the World***

Closing Hymn # 834 (see below) Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Matters of Community

Postlude

Go Down Moses

arr. by W.C. Handy

Charge and Benediction

Pastor: ... and let the people say:

All: Alleluia! Amen.

St. Andrew Staff

Transitional Pastor

Rev. Eric Koenig-Reinke

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Clerk of Session

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Worship Planners and Participants

Liturgist

Joe Woodworth

Musicians

JoAnn Rice – piano/organ
St. Andrew Vocal Choir
Lynne McLaughlin – choral conductor

Tech Team

Jim Dillow, David Schneider
Richard Irish, Rosemary Cochran
Chris Fogel, Janet McEwen
Valerie Dalton, Karen Ulack
Bob Busch, Suzanne Busch
Kevin Hughes, Barbara Sanders
James and Sharon Macklin
Josiah Fidel

Greeters Linda Barnes, Morgan DeLacy

Worship Planning

Lenten Worship Planning Team

Resources:

Sanctified Art: Lent and Easter – Wandering Heart:
Figuring our Faith with Peter
Book of Common Worship, Westminster John Knox
Press, 2018

Music

Take, O Take Me As I Am; Words and Music ©1995
Iona Community / WGRG (North America)
Contributors: Iona Community;
Precious Lord, take my hand © 1938 (Renewed)
Warner-Temrlane Publishing Corp.
Contributors: Thomas A Dorsey
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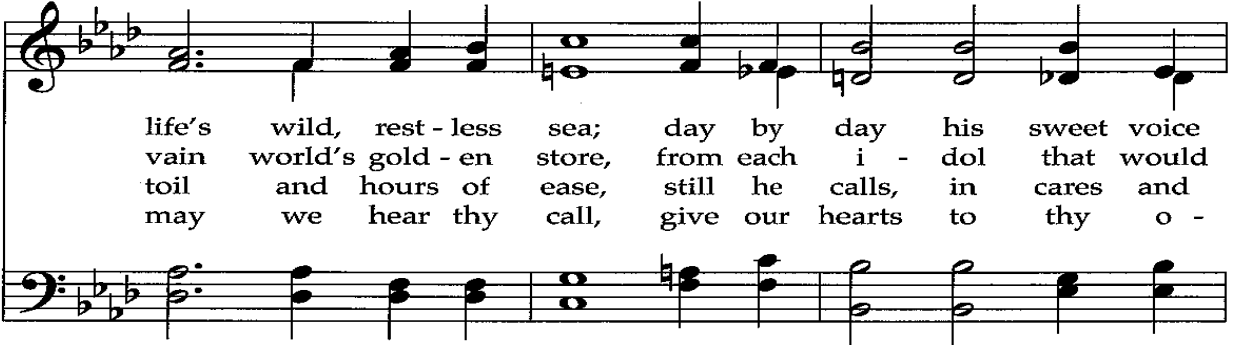
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Jesus Calls Us

720



1 Je - sus calls us: o'er the tu - mult of our
 2 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
 3 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
 4 Je - sus calls us: by thy mer - cies, Sav - ior,



life's wild, rest - less sea; day by day his sweet voice
 vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would
 toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and
 may we hear thy call, give our hearts to thy o -



sound - eth say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me."
 keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."
 plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."
 be - dience, serve and love thee best of all.

Like many hymns that adults have come to cherish, this text based on Jesus' calling of the disciple Andrew was written for a 19th-century collection of hymns for children. The popular tune used here was composed for these words more than a quarter of a century later.

DEDICATION AND STEWARDSHIP

698 Take, O Take Me as I Am

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The vocal line begins with a treble clef, a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall". The piano accompaniment begins with a bass clef, the same key signature and time signature, and features a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line lyrics are: "be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me." The piano accompaniment continues with the same accompaniment pattern, ending with a double bar line.

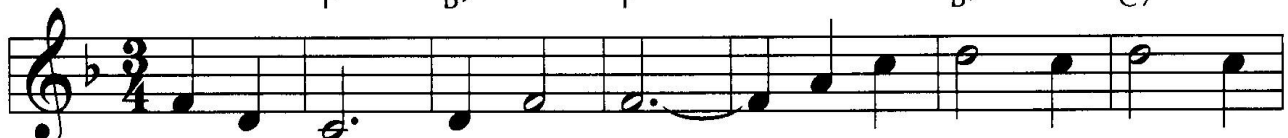
The brevity of this text and tune invite repeated singing, either as a sustained chain of sound or as a sung response in a series of prayers. It offers a more reflective approach to the same theme of self-dedication evident in older hymns such as "Just as I Am" (see no. 442).

DEDICATION AND STEWARDSHIP

692 Spirit, Open My Heart


Capo 3: (D) (G) (D) (G) (A7)
F B \flat F B \flat C7

Refrain




Spir - it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of

(Bm) (D/A) (G) (A7) (Bm) (D/A) (Em)
Dm F/C B \flat C7 Dm F/C Gm



liv - ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing

(D) (G) (Em7) (D) (G) (D)
F B \flat Gm7 F B \flat F



and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart. *Fine*

821

My Life Flows On

How Can I Keep from Singing?

1 My life flows on in end-less song, a-bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion.
 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? I know my Sav - ior liv - eth.
 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing!

I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
 What though the dark-ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain

No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.

Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

In the *New York Observer* of August 7, 1868, this text was titled "Always Rejoicing," and was attributed to "Pauline T." This may well be where the Baptist pastor and musician to whom it is usually credited encountered the words that he later published with his tune.

834 Precious Lord, Take My Hand

1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand; lead me on, help me
2 When my way grows drear, pre - cious Lord, lin - ger

stand; I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
near; when my life is al - most gone,

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I

light; take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.
fall; take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

This black gospel song, like much hymnody, sprang out of the author's deep personal loss (the death of his wife and newborn son), yet it has brought solace to many. He thought his fingers were playing new music, but they unlocked a deep memory of a tune almost a century old.

TEXT: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1938

MUSIC: George N. Allen, 1844; arr. Thomas A. Dorsey, 1938

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PRECIOUS LORD
6.6.9.D