

# St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Gifts of Women Sunday

April 28, 2024

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*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.**

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## ***Gathering Around the Word***

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### **Centering Meditation**

*Dear God, you know God, we are entering into that nebulous period  
of not quite Pentecost; and I think about this moment in time;  
As we all are waiting for the Holy Spirit. (and everything else)  
Have you seen her, God? Does she look like a Dove?  
Or a Pigeon? Or a Wild Goose?*

### **Ringing of the Bell**

**Prelude**                      **Sheep May Safely Graze**      **by Johann Sebastian Bach**  
performed by Sharon Macklin, cello

### **Welcome**

### **Call to Worship**

One: I will sing to the Lord, for the Holy One has triumphed gloriously.

**All: The Lord is my strength and my might.  
The Holy One has become my salvation.**

One: This is my God, and I will praise her, my mother's God, and I will exalt her.

**All: Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods?**

One: Who is like you, majestic holiness, awesome in splendor, doing wonders?

**All: The Lord will reign forever and ever.**

One: Sing to the Lord.

**All: for the Holy One has triumphed gloriously.**

**Opening Hymn # 401 (see below) Here in This Place (Gather Us In)**

### **Call to Confession**

One: Since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach our Creator with a true heart in full assurance of faith.

### **Litany of Confession**

One: O mighty God, who created us in your image,  
we confess to pressuring ourselves to be all things to all people.

**All: Have mercy on us.**

One: O wise God, who created the Sabbath for us, we confess to busying ourselves  
and others to fulfill every tenet of a metaphorical woman.

**All: Have mercy on us, O God.**

One: Merciful God, who created guides for us, we confess that we have forced ourselves  
and others to measure ourselves against impossible standards.

**All: Forgive us, O God.**

One: Restful God, who offers your light yoke, we confess to perpetuating tropes  
of individual strength and radical self-sufficiency.

**All: In your mercy, O God, forgive us.**

One: You have modeled rest for us.

**All: Help us to embrace it.**

One: You have shown us truth.

**All: Help us to live it.**

One: That we may live in wisdom and purpose.

**All: In Christ, Amen.**

### **Silent Prayers**

#### **Words of Forgiveness**

One: As Jesus tells us, "For my yoke is easy and my burden is light, in me you will find  
rest for your souls." Siblings in Christ receive the good news of the gospel.  
In Christ Jesus, we are forgiven.

#### **Passing of Christ's Peace**

One: The peace of Christ always be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

**Response # 442 (see below) Just as I Am, without One Plea (verse 3)**

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## ***Proclaiming the Word***

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#### **Prayer for Illumination**

One: O God, give me ears to hear. Help me to use the whisper that I hear to turn my  
full attention when others are speaking.

**First Reading**

**John 15:1-8**

**Pew Bible page 877**

**Special Music**

**Would You  
Composer – Buryl Red; Lyrics – Grace Hawthorne**

**Julie Taylor, Soloist**

**Second Reading****Proverbs 31:10-31****(a modern adaptation)**

Who can find a capable wife? She's more precious than life. Her heart is a source of trust, she challenges her partner to grow; she brings them joy and supports them for sure. She shops for the best, with a mindful budget; investing wisely, her earnings she doesn't forget. She's proactive, not afraid of the night; always ready to tackle what's wrong or what's right. A businesswoman, she seeks new ventures; her skills and talents are her greatest adventures. She rises early to manage her day; balancing work and home in a purposeful way; she explores the market for healthy cuisine; nourishing her family, keeping them lean. She's savvy with trends and embraces the new; adapting with grace in all that she'll do. Her hands are skilled in various trades; creating with passion, her project never fades. She extends a hand to the needy and poor; compassion and kindness, she constantly pours. She faces the future with confidence and might; laughing without fear, embracing the night. She clothes her family in garments so fine, giving them confidence to live down the line. She speaks with wisdom; her words carry weight. She's a pillar of strength, never fueled by hate. Her partner is respected in the city gates, and thanks to her efforts, their prominence elevates. She weaves her own narrative, with power and grace; leaving a legacy that time can't erase. Strength and dignity are her daily attire; she laughs at the future, her heart full of fire. She opens her mouth with words that inspire, wisdom and kindness, she never tires. She oversees the workings of her household; excellence and order, her stories unfold. She speaks wisely and teaches faithfully, her influence on others reaches near, far and wide, even closing great divides. Charm may be fleeting, beauty will fade; but a woman who respects the Lord will never be swayed. Acknowledge her efforts with praise and acclaim; her worth is beyond what titles can name. Let her be celebrated for all she's done; in the tapestry of life, she's brightly spun.

**Sermon****Speak Wisely, Teach Faithfully****Esther Irish**

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***Responding to the Word***

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**Hymn # 451 (see below)****Open My Eyes, That I May See****Mission Focus****Family Promise****Sharon Frey Prewitt****Invitation to the Offering**

One: Who knows what gifts we have discarded that might be picked up as treasures or tossed back into the river. We wish we could know that our generosity will be remembered and our errors forgotten. Tomorrow cannot be owned any more than yesterday. Whether it was our best, we cannot profess that it was – but it was your best, God. This life has been good, and we are thankful to have known it.

Offertory

Open My Eyes, That I May See  
by Clara H. Scott

arr. Raluca Bjo

Response # 710 (see below) We Lift Our Voices

**Litany of Gratitude and Celebration**

One: For the gifts of women throughout the ages,

**All: We give thanks.**

One: For the ways that they have shown up – from Shiphrah and Puah to Miriam and Hagar, from Deborah and Jael to Ruth and Rahab, to Vashti and Esther,

**All: We celebrate you.**

One: For their courage and strength, resistance and rest, wisdom and subversiveness,

**All: We celebrate you.**

One: For Mary, the mother of Jesus, and Elizabeth, her cousin; we see your brave faith,

**All: We honor you.**

One: For mothers, aunts, wives, daughters, sisters; for all the women – in every walk of life, throughout all space and time,

**All: We give thanks. We celebrate you. We honor you.**

**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**

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

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Closing Hymn # 450 (see below) Be Thou My Vision

**Matters of Community**

Postlude

You Raise Me Up

arr. by Stephen DeCesare

**Charge and Benediction**

One: Go into the world, liberated ones. Remember God has liberated us from over-producing. Remember the gift of Sabbath. Embrace your gifts, knowing that you are enough; and let all the people say...

**All: Alleluia! Amen**

**St. Andrew Staff**

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Esther Irish

**Liturgist**

Janet McEwen

**Musicians**

Denise Baccadutre – piano

Sharon Macklin – cello

Julie Taylor – soloist

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Sharon Frey Prewitt

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Richard Irish, Rosemary Cochran

Chris Fogel, Janet McEwen

Valerie Dalton, Karen Ulack

Bob Busch, Suzanne Busch

Kevin Hughes, Barbara Sanders

James & Sharon Macklin, Josiah Fidel

**Worship Planning**

Debbie Steffen

**Music**

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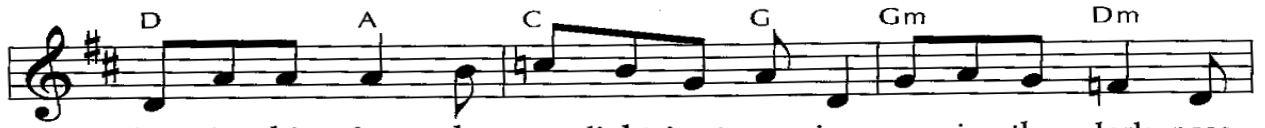
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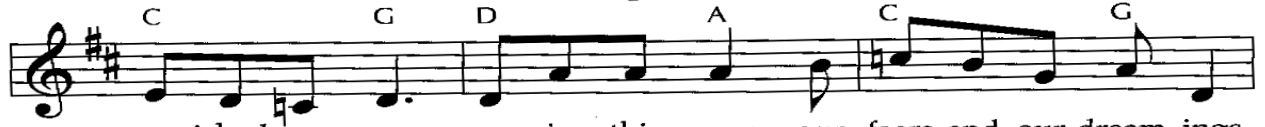
# Here in This Place

## Gather Us In

401



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness  
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who  
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the  
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



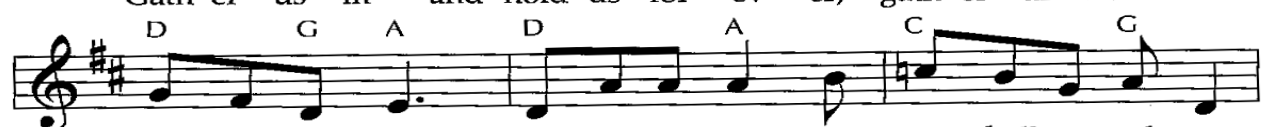
van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,  
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,  
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.  
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.  
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the  
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the  
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the  
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;  
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion  
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.  
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.  
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.  
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

The "you/your" mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God's witnesses and for God's purposes.

FORGIVENESS

# 442 Just as I Am, without One Plea

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea but that thy  
 2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - ya  
 3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come,  
 4 Just as I am, thy love un - known has bro - ken

blood was shed for me, and that thou biddest me  
 con - flict, man - ya doubt, fight - ings and fears with -  
 par - don, cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise  
 ev - ery bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea,

come to thee,  
 in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!  
 I be - lieve,  
 thine a - lone,

**SPANISH**

1 *Tal como soy de pecador,  
 sin más confianza que tu amor;  
 a tu llamada vengo a ti,  
 ¡Cordero de Dios, heme aquí!*

**KOREAN**

1 큰-죄에 빠-진 날 위해  
 주보-혈 흘려주시고  
 또-나를 오-라 하시니-  
 주께로 거-저 갑니다

When illness limited her involvement in a bustling household, the author wrote this hymn that helped her both to achieve and to express a renewed sense of worth grounded in Christ's self-giving. Its simple, direct, and deeply felt language has made it a source of comfort to many.

# Open My Eyes, That I May See 451

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.



# We Lift Our Voices

## We Are an Offering

710

F C F C  
 We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our  
 F C 3 Dm7 F  
 lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our  
 C F C  
 voices; Lord, use our hands; Lord, use our  
 F C 3 Dm7 F G7  
 lives; they are yours: we are an offering.  
 Em7 Asus A Dm7 F G Esus E Am  
 All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we  
 F C Bb Dm F  
 give to you, we give to you. We lift our  
 C F C F C  
 voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you:  
 3 Dm7 3 C  
 we are an offering; we are an offering.

This praise and worship song can best be understood as reflecting on and expanding 1 Chronicles 29:14b: "For all things come of you, [O Lord,] and of your own have we given you." There are also echoes of Paul's appeal for Christians to be living sacrifices (Romans 12:1).

## 450

## Be Thou My Vision

Capo 1: (D) E<sup>b</sup> (G) A<sup>b</sup> (D/F#) E<sup>b</sup>/G (A7) B<sup>b</sup>7 (D) E<sup>b</sup>



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,

(A) B<sup>b</sup> (D) E<sup>b</sup> (G) A<sup>b</sup> (A) B<sup>b</sup>



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!

(G) A<sup>b</sup> (D) E<sup>b</sup> (F#m7) Gm7 (G) A<sup>b</sup> (A) B<sup>b</sup>



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,

(Bm) Cm (D/F#) E<sup>b</sup>/G (G) A<sup>b</sup> (D) E<sup>b</sup>



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 raise thou me heaven - ward, O Power of my power.  
 High King of Heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

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.