

Association of Presbyterian Church Educators
Saturday Closing Worship
10:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., February 12, 2022
Chicago, IL

SUSTAINING CIRCLES OF FAITH

GATHERING MUSIC

“Be Thou My Vision”



Be thou my vi - sion, O God of my heart;
Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word,
Great God 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;
may I reach heav-en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
thou and thou on - - ly, first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,
wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

WORDS: Ancient Irish,trans. by Mary E. Byrne, 1905,
versed by Eleanor Hull, 1912, alt.

MUSIC: trad. Irish melody; harm by Carlton Young, 1963

“Mambo Sawa” trad. Swahili

Mam - bo sa - wa, sa - wa, mam - bo sa - wa sa - wa,
 Things al - read - y bet - ter, things al - read - y bet - ter,
 mam - bo u - pen - do a ci - ti - le, mam - bo sa - wa sa - wa,
 when Love is on our side, things al - read - y bet - ter,
 mam - bo sa - wa sa - wa, mam - bo sa - wa sa - wa.
 things al - read - y bet - ter, things al - read - y bet - ter!

“May I Be Filled” words, Lindy Thompson music, Mark A. Miller

(© GIA 2020)

May you be filled with joy - ful lov - ing - kind - ness, —
 May we be filled with joy - ful lov - ing - kind - ness, —
 — may you be calm ————— and at peace.
 — may we be calm ————— and at peace.
 May you be safe, ————— may happ - i - ness sur - prise you, —
 May we be safe, ————— may hap - pi - ness sur - prise us, —
 — may you be a - wake and free.
 — may we be a - wake and free!

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

In anticipation we gather.

With curious hearts, we gather!

We aren't the same people we were when we arrived.

For here, in this space, we have been changed by God's Word.

And in this time God will continue to transform us.

What will we become? What does God ask of us?

Will God call on us to “bring about justice, realize promises, shut the mouths of lions,
 Or put out raging fires?” (Heb. 11:33)

Or will it simply be enough to “keep on going as if [we] can see what is invisible.”
(Heb. 11:27)

Let us embrace the mystery of God’s call! Let us worship God!

OPENING HYMN “O For a Thousand Tongues To Sing” words, Charles Wesley music,
Mark A. Miller

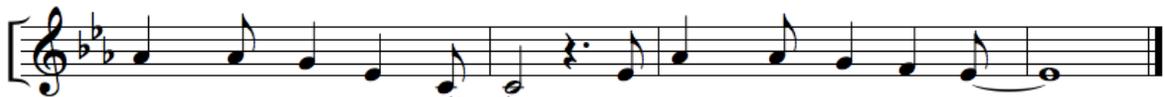
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1. O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my
2. My grac - ious Mas - ter and my God as -
3. Je - sus! the name that charms our fears, that
4. Glo - ry to God, and love and praise be



great re-deem-er's praise, the glor - ies e - ver e - cho - ing, the
sist me to pro-claim, to spread through all the earth a - broad the
bids our sor - rows cease, 'tis mu - sic in the sin-ner's ears, tis
e - ver, e - ver giv'n by all the saints in e - very age, the



tri - umphs of God's grace, the tri - umphs of God's grace.
ho - nors of your name, the ho - nors of your name.
life and health and peace, 'tis life and health and peace.
church in earth and heaven, the church in earth and heaven.

CALL OF CONFESSION

How good it is to live in God’s forgiving embrace. Though it is never easy to admit our mistakes, much easier to ignore them, we know that is a shallow way to live. God invites us into a much fuller experience, promising that the truth will set us free. Let us go to God in prayer.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (responsive)

God of the generations,

God of unlimited patience,

We open scripture and read the stories of people of faith who were far from perfect.

When we say to ourselves, “Well, at least I’ve never done *that!*”

Forgive us.

When we think to ourselves, “Well, I would *never!*”

Forgive us.

When we laugh under our breath or draw back in disgust,

Forgive us.

For we have also doubted.

We have also betrayed.

We have also excluded.

We have also denied.

We have disappointed ourselves,

Disappointed You,

with choices we regret.

God of mercy, hear our prayers. . .

(Silent confession)

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God rejoices in our honesty.

God rejoices when we “throw off the extra baggage,”

when we “get rid of the sin that trips us up.”

So then, with endurance, let us journey together,

knowing that the saints surrounding us were human, too!

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and freed!

PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you. ***And also with you.***

(Share signs of peace)

**SUNG RESPONSE “Lord’s Prayer” words, adapt. M Miller & Laurie Zelman, music,
Mark A. Miller**

(© Abingdon Press, 2008)

Our God, in hea-ven,
 ho - ly is your name, your reign come, your will done, on
 earth as in hea-ven. Give us to-day our
 dai - ly bread, and help us for-give, as we have been for - giv-en.
 In the time of tri - al lead us in - to light, for
 yours is the kin - dom, and the po - wer, and the
 glo-ry, for - e - ver. Our God, in
 hea-ven, ho - ly is your name, ho - ly is your name.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gathering God,

Your Word is often a mystery to us,
 and we approach it with humility.

Sometimes we are afraid to read the words on the page,
 for fear they will unsettle us.

Sometimes we are confused by the message and wonder what to do with it.

Sometimes we are enraged by these stories,

and don't know how to reconcile them with what we believe about You.

Pour out your spirit upon us all, that as your Word is preached,
 our understanding will be expanded.

Pour out your Spirit upon us all,
that we will be empowered by your living Word to be your witness in the world.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 12: 1 - 2

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka

RESPONDING TO THE WORD PROCLAIMED - IN MEMORIUM

Hear these words from holy scripture:

I am convinced that neither death, nor life,
Nor angels, nor rulers,
Nor things present, nor things to come,
Nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
Nor anything else in all creation,
Will be able to separate us from the love of God
In Christ Jesus our Lord. Rev. 1: 17 - 18

As we give thanks for our siblings in Christ,
fellow educators who have been welcomed home into the arms of God,
we give to God our sorrow.
We turn to God in faith.

We offer our gratitude to God for sharing these precious lives with us.

We know that things will not be the same without their faces at our tables, without
their presence in our lives.

God of love,
Before whom generations rise and pass away,
We praise you for all your servants
Who, having lived this life in faith,
Now live eternally with you.

Especially we thank you for your servants: (names spoken)

Whose baptisms are now complete in death.

We praise you for the gift of their lives,

For all in them that was good and kind and faithful,

For the grace you gave them,

That kindled in them the love of your name,

And them to serve you faithfully.

We thank you that they have now entered the joy you have prepared;

And we look forward to the day when we will see them once more.

Through Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

© Book of Common Worship, Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1993, p. 916.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE*

And the table
will be wide.

And the welcome
will be wide.

And the arms
will open wide
to gather us in.

And our hearts
will open wide
to receive.

And we will come
as children who trust
there is enough.

And we will come
unhindered and free.

And our aching
will be met
with bread.

And our sorrow
will be met
with wine.

And we will open our hands
to the feast
without shame.
And we will turn
toward each other
without fear.
And we will give up
our appetite
for despair.
And we will taste
and know
of delight.

And we will become bread
for a hungry world.
And we will become drink
for those who thirst.
And the blessed
will become the blessing.
And everywhere
will be the feast.

*Permission to use this invitation by Jan Richardson, *The Painted Prayerbook* © Jan Richardson.
janrichardson.com

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

Creator God,
We celebrate that from the invisible you imagined the visible, and joyfully called it
into being, welcoming us as your traveling companions.

We are a caravan of faith, traveling this world with you.

Like Abraham and Sarah, human as they were,

may we walk with faith even when we do not know the destination,
anticipating a city with foundations,
whose architect and builder is You. (Heb. 11:10)

Like Sarah and Abraham, human as they were,
when we can only see the promises from a distance,
may we welcome those promises as they did. (Heb. 11:13)

So many have gone before us,
too many to name,
glimpses of their stories contained in your Word.
They are the great cloud of witnesses,
whose stories sustain us.
They saw themselves as strangers and immigrants on this earth,
Waiting for the promise of a better country, a heavenly country. (Heb. 11:16)

You have not promised us that this journey of faith would be care-free.
Your servants have suffered: hunger, oppression, mistreatment, imprisonment,
execution.
Into the world's brokenness, you sent your Son, to remind us of your way of shalom.

Thank you for Jesus, always traveling in search of those who needed to hear the
promise of your love. May we continue his journey, sustained by your Spirit. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

We come to this table to remember that Jesus traveled to Jerusalem with his disciples
to share the Passover meal with them one last time.

He gathered with them, knowing how desperately they needed to witness this act of
love.

He took the bread, blessed and broke it.

“This is my body, given for you. Eat this and remember.”

After the meal, he took the cup, and filling it he said,

“This is a new covenant poured out with my blood.” Drink this and remember.

And so we eat this bread and drink this cup and remember the one who died that we
might live.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God!

Thanks be to God!

SHARING THE MEAL

COMMUNION MUSIC

“Give Me Jesus” Negro Spiritual, public domain

“Bless The Lord My Soul” Jacques Berthier (©1984 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA)



Bless the Lord, my soul and bless God's ho - ly name.

The image shows a musical score for the first part of the hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.



Bless the Lord, my soul who leads me in - to life.

The image shows a musical score for the second part of the hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

“Child of God” [led by choir]

words & music by Mark A Miller (© Choristers Guild 2014)



No mat-ter what peo - ple say, say or think a - bout
 No mat-ter what peo - ple say, say or think a - bout
 No mat-ter what the church says, says or thinks a - bout
 No mat-ter what the church says, de - ci-sions, pro-nounce-ments on



me, I am a child, I am a child of God.
 you, you are a child, you are a child of God
 me, I am a child, I am a child of God
 you, you are a child, you are a child of God



And there is no thing, or no one who can se-pa-rate, they can't



se - pa-rate you from the truth that you're some - one, you are



fam - i - ly, you are meant to be, a



child, a child of God!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God, whose promises never fail, thank you for the gift of this meal. May we carry it with us in our souls, trusting its sustenance so that we might be your witnesses in the world. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN "Draw the Circle Wide" [led by choir]

words, Gordon Young, music, Mark A Miller (words ©Common Cup 1994, © Abingdon Press. 2008)

Draw the cir-cle wide, draw it wid-er still, let this
be our song, no one stands a - lone, stand - ing
side by side, Draw the cir-cle, draw the cir - cle wide.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: "Draw the cir-cle wide, draw it wid-er still, let this be our song, no one stands a - lone, stand - ing side by side, Draw the cir-cle, draw the cir - cle wide." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords and some melodic movement in the right hand.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev Dr Rodger Nishioka

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