



DOWNTOWN

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



ONE IN THE SPIRIT

Celebration of Worship

Sunday, March 7, 2021,

Third Sunday in Lent

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Prelude

Meditation on "We Are One"

Words of Welcome

The Rev. Deborah Fae Swift

Chime

Introit

Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18
from *The Message* translation

Lee Wright

Please join in singing the antiphon:

Antiphon

The musical score is written for Soprano/Alto and Tenor/Bass. It features a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The melody is primarily composed of eighth and sixteenth notes, with frequent triplets indicated by a '3' above the notes. The lyrics are: "I thank you high God, you're breath taking! Body and soul, I am marvelously made!"

SOPRANO
ALTO

TENOR
BASS

I thank you high God, you're breath taking! Body and soul, I am marvelously made!

God, investigate my life;

get all the facts firsthand. I'm an open book to you;

even from a distance, you know what I'm thinking.

You know when I leave and when I get back I'm never out of your sight.

(Antiphon)

You know everything I'm going to say before I start the first sentence.
I look behind me and you're there, then up ahead and you're there, too—
your reassuring presence, coming and going.
This is too much, too wonderful—

I can't take it all in!

(Antiphon)

Oh yes, you shaped me first inside, then out;
you formed me in my mother's womb.
I worship in adoration—what a creation!
You know me inside and out, you know every bone in my body;
You know exactly how I was made, bit by bit, how I was sculpted
from nothing into something.

(Antiphon)

Like an open book, you watched me grow from conception to birth;
all the stages of my life were spread out before you,
The days of my life all prepared before I'd even lived one day.
Your thoughts—how rare, how beautiful!
God, I'll never comprehend them! I couldn't even begin to count them— any
more than I could count the sand of the sea.

(Antiphon)

Call to Worship

Susan Riblett

I will sing of mercy and justice,

For mercy and justice praise the Living One.

How beautiful are the feet of the messengers of God

Who bring peace and good tidings from the Living One.

Let us rejoice together and set aside all that no longer serves us well. Let us move beyond all that stands in the way of the new life to which we are called.

With open arms, open hearts, and open minds, we welcome the Divine Energy and Presence of the Living One – the Holy Birther of Tomorrow and the Peaceful Reconciler of our Yesterdays.

Hymn

In Christ There Is No East or West
(Music may be found at the end of the bulletin)

MCKEE

Centering Prayer: Psalm 139:1-12 (unison)

Susan Riblett

Where could I go to escape from you?

Where could I get away from your presence?

If I went up to heaven, you would be there;

if I lay down in the world of the dead, you would be there.

If I flew away beyond the east

or lived in the farthest place in the west,
you would be there to lead me,

you would be there to help me.

I could ask the darkness to hide me

or the light around me to turn into night,
but even darkness is not dark for you,
and the night is as bright as the day.

Darkness and light are the same to you.

You created every part of me;

you put me together in my mother's womb.

First Prayer (unison)

God of peace and justice, we long for the peace within, and without. We long to find serenity of spirit in the midst of life's struggles. We long for harmony in our families and in all our relationships. We long for the day when each family everywhere might live in peace without fear, enjoying the fruit of vine and tree. Yet we confess that there is much anxiety, fear, distrust, and even violence around us. Sometimes we are just too tired to take the risks and make the sacrifices which peace requires. Send us your spirit of kindness and mercy; fill our hearts and our world; and show us how to walk on your path; through the grace of our brother, Jesus. Amen.

Second Prayer (unison)

We thank you, God, that you have provided for all the worlds that ever were or will ever be by giving yourself to them in love. If we go to the heights of the mountains, or if we make the grave our bed, you are with us. If we go to the depths of the sea, your right hand holds us fast.

We thank you for Jesus, your Word, who lived among us, uncovering your presence. We thank you that you stamped his death with victory and that Life, not Death, was the final word.

We ask now that you bless us, as we prepare to share this bread and cup, that we might be nourished by that same unbounded love and so be encouraged to be your servants to the world. Amen.

The Invitation

The table is now prepared for us.

We are invited to share in the Spirit's Feast.

This is Christ's table and not our own.

It stretches across time and space, yet still, *our* name appears before us to mark our place and our invitation.

At this table we celebrate Jesus who touches our brokenness with his life; who gathers us together, inside and out.

We give ourselves to that wholeness, moving from hurt to happiness and from shadow to light, filling our lives with love, laughter, and each other ... and joining with all created things to say: "Holy are you, the Living and Loving God."

And now, as your daughters and sons, whom you have reconciled to yourself, we pray together:

Our Creator
Who art in heaven
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy Spirit 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 Spirit,
And the power,
And the glory forever.
Amen.

. . .and so, the invitation is for US to move ahead in FAITH,
praising God for the new life that is ours.

We remember and give you thanks for those called out with a vision of possibility and promise: for Noah and his family ... for Abraham and Sarah ... for Moses and Miriam.

We thank you for your people who paved the way for us to enjoy freedom and closeness with you, O Holy One.

We thank you for the courage of Mary and Joseph and for the unfailing Light that shines through Jesus, in whom we live, and move, and have our being.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Blessing of the Meal

“This is the cup of the NEW covenant ... a new way of being in relationship with God. Do this remembering me.”

As this grain once was scattered in the fields and has come together in one bread, so we, with different needs and hopes, come together as one, for we share one Spirit.

Friends, this IS the Bread of Life, food for our journey.

The cup which we share is the cup of the New Covenant, new Hope, renewed Focus ... new Life.

As we take these within our bodies, may we feel the holy Presence and Assurance of God’s everlasting Love.

In every place, in every moment, God is present with us.

In every place, at this moment, we are called to be totally aware of God’s presence.

Communion of the People

Post-Communion Prayer (unison)

We have come here today, Jesus, to join you at your table. The world around us is not what we wish and certainly not what you would have it be. Keep us from coming to this meal for solace alone, but instead, fill us with your strength and your compassion that we might be your Light Warriors, your Healing Presence and your Ambassadors of Grace as we carry your Word into the world. Let us draw from the witnesses who have come before us, and be a touchstone for

317 In Christ There Is No East or West

1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no
 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev - ery - where their high com -
 3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what - e'er your
 4 In Christ now meet both east and west; in him meet

south or north, but one great fel - low -
 mu - nion find; his ser - vice is the
 race may be. All chil - dren of the
 south and north. All Christ - ly souls are

ship of love through - out the whole wide earth.
 gold - en cord close - bind - ing hu - man - kind.
 liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
 one in him through - out the whole wide earth.

This setting expands and enhances the thematic inclusiveness of an early 20th-century text by adapting the melody of a traditional spiritual to carry these words. This 1940 pairing marked the first use of African American musical material in a mainline North American hymnal.

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Be Thou My Vision

Capo 1: (D) E^b (G) A^b (D/F#) E^b/G (A7) B^b7 (D) E^b



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^b (D) E^b (G) A^b (A) B^b



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^b (D) E^b (F#m7) Gm7 (G) A^b (A) B^b



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^b/G (G) A^b (D) E^b



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.

We Are One in the Spirit 300

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

Capo 1: (Em) (Bm) (Em)
Fm Cm Fm

1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;
2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;
3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side;
4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,

(Am) (Em)
B^bm Fm

we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,
we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,
we will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,
and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,

(Am) (Em)
B^bm Fm

and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:
and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

Refrain (C) (Em)
D^b Fm

And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our

(Am) (Em) (Am) (Bm) (Em) (Am/E) (Em)
B^bm Fm B^bm Cm Fm B^bm/F Fm

love; yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

A parish priest at St. Brendan's on the South Side of Chicago in the 1960s was very involved in the local Civil Rights movement and needed something for his youth choir to sing at ecumenical, interracial events. Finding nothing, he wrote this song in a single day.

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