



DOWNTOWN

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



“They agreed they were in this for good. . .”

-Acts 1:14 (MSG)

Celebration of Worship

Sunday, March 21, 2021,

Fifth Sunday in Lent

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Prelude

Nun bitten wir den heiligen Geist

Dietrich Buxtehude

“We Pray Now to the Holy Spirit”

Lee Wright, organ

Words of Welcome

The Rev. Deborah Fae Swift

Chime

Introit

Day by Day

Martin How

“Day by day, dear God, of thee three things I pray.

To see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly,

Follow thee more nearly, day by day.”

Text: Prayer of St. Richard of Chichester (c.1197-1253)
(recording from the service for Sunday, February 28, 2021)

Call to Worship

Nora and Callie Babbitt

God has set this day before us,
A day set apart, a day of rest and praise.

God has set our lives before us,
A span of years in which we love, and learn, and serve.

God has set God’s seal upon our hearts,
So that we might live fully in deep love, working for justice and serving all.

Hymn

Lord, You Teach Us to Be Humble
(Music may be found at the end of the bulletin)

NETTLETON

Creating God,
Loving Son,
Guiding Spirit,
With springtime sun and the promise of new life,
you wake us from our slumbers.
We glorify your name for you are faithful to us
through every season of the year and every season of life.
We are grateful for your patience and persistence,
drawing near to us even through the times we cannot draw near each other.

Your promise of hope in Jesus Christ,
drawing life out of the grip of death, means so much to us.
Even as his cross looms on the horizon in this season of Lent,
we praise you for Jesus' courage and compassion
which bring renewal to us in the midst of our challenges,
and ask that you make us more like you.
Instill in us your Spirit of Resurrection and New Life, we ask as
we praise you, O God, for the love that never lets us go.
Amen.

Scripture Reading

Acts 1:9-14; 2:41-47
from *The Message* translation

Nora and Callie Babbitt

Acts 1:9-11 As [the Disciples] watched, [Jesus] was taken up and disappeared in a cloud. They stood there, staring into the empty sky.

Suddenly two men appeared—in white robes! They said, “You Galileans!—why do you just stand here looking up at an empty sky? This very Jesus who was taken up from among you to heaven will come as certainly—and mysteriously—as he left.”

12-13 So they left the mountain called Olives and returned to Jerusalem. It was a little over half a mile. They went to the upper room they had been using as a

meeting place: Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James, son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, Judas, son of James.

14 They agreed they were in this for good, completely together in prayer, the women included. Also Jesus' mother, Mary, and his brothers.

Acts 2 41-42 [Later on the day of Pentecost] about three thousand took Peter at his word, were baptized and were signed up. They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers.

43-45 Everyone around was in awe—all those wonders and signs done through the apostles! And all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common. They sold whatever they owned and pooled their resources so that each person's need was met.

46-47 They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God.

People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved.

Music for Reflection

Give Me Jesus

American Negro Spiritual

*"In the morning when I rise, give me Jesus.
Oh when I come to die, give me Jesus.
And when I want to sing, give me Jesus."*

Arr. Lee Wright

Reflection

"The 21st century Church" – Part II

Rev. Swift

Hymn

Christ, You Offer Us Your Welcome
(Music may be found at the end of the bulletin)

BEACH SPRING

Invitation to the Offering*

Offertory Anthem

How Lovely Are the Messengers

Felix Mendelssohn

*"How lovely are the Messengers that preach us the gospel of Peace.
To all the nations is gone forth the sound of their words,
Throughout all the lands their glad tidings."*

Isaiah 52 v. 7

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Let songs rise up from earth below;
Let stars and galaxies enthrone;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One! Amen.

* We gratefully receive your offerings through the mail to the church office:
121 N. Fitzhugh St, 14614, Attn: Penny Crudup.

Prayers for Healing and Transformation
Prayer of Jesus

Rev. Swift

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.

Closing Hymn

O God, in Christ You Call Us
(Music may be found at the end of the bulletin)

AURELIA

Benediction

Rev. Swift

Postlude

Improvisation on Beach Spring

Thank you to . . .

Participants: Rev. Deb Swift, Callie Babbitt,
Jason Cloen, Alan Jones, Anna Martin, and Lee Wright

Choir: Caitlin Glastonbury, Hannah Stokes, Anna Martin, Emmalouise St. Amand,
Jason Cloen, Mark Darling, Ben Magruder, Kevin Iacovelli, Alan Jones
Jason Cloen, organ, Lee Wright, conductor

Sound Engineers: Donald Fairman, David McDowell, Ben Magruder (Choral Music)
Website integration: Donald Fairman

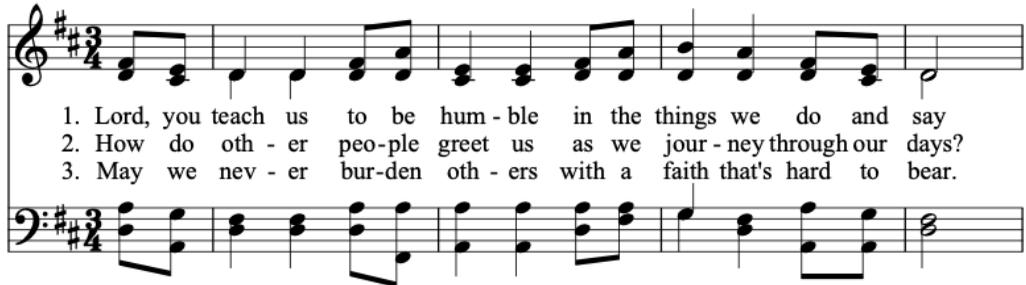
Call to Worship: Adapted from a call to worship by Beth Merrill Neal, found on her blogspot,
Hold Fast to What is Good. <https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/call-to-worship/>

Centering Prayer: Adapted from online resources for the Presbyterian Church of Canada, 5th
Sunday in Lent. <https://presbyterian.ca/worship/>

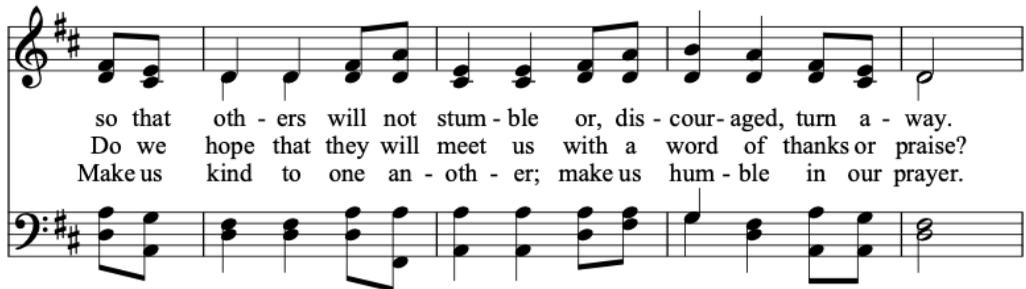
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This week's hymn texts are reprinted with permission from Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.

Lord, you teach us to be humble



1. Lord, you teach us to be hum - ble in the things we do and say
2. How do oth - er peo - ple greet us as we jour - ney through our days?
3. May we nev - er bur - den oth - ers with a faith that's hard to bear.



so that oth - ers will not stum - ble or, dis - cour - aged, turn a - way.
Do we hope that they will meet us with a word of thanks or praise?
Make us kind to one an - oth - er; make us hum - ble in our prayer.



For a faith that's lived for glo - ry, full of brag - ging, full of show,
Do we seek con - grat - u - la - tions for the kind of life we lead?
As we give up seats of hon - or, may we give you glo - ry, too.



can - not tell the gos - pel sto - ry that your peo - ple long to know.
Do we want their ad - mir - a - tion for the things that we be - lieve?
Lord, you teach us to be hum - ble; may we hum - bly fol - low you.

Christ, You Offer Us Your Welcome

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2019

Beach Spring, attr. B. F. White;

harm. Christopher Gage

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, while the piano accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are arranged in five systems, each corresponding to a line of music. The lyrics are: 1. Christ, you of - fer us your wel - come; it's a pre - cious gift you give! 2. In a world that's of - ten fear - ful, where so ma - ny stand a - lone, 3. You have giv - en us a mis - sion— to in - vite our neigh - bors in— 4. May we set a wel - come ta - ble, may we find a com - mon ground 5. Christ, your call to of - fer wel - come is an ur - gent, migh - ty call; You bring re - con - ci - li - a - tion and you show us how to live. you in - vite us to your ta - ble and you wel - come peo - ple home. and your call to love and lis - ten is a place we can be - gin. where no one will feel they're la - beled, where ac - cept - ance can be found. you have giv - en us a vi - sion of your Way that wel - comes all. You call poor ones from their sad - ness, you call rich ones from their pride. Then you point us to the stran - gers that, it seems, no - bo - dy sees. We need more than o - pen hou - ses; we need, first, to give our hearts. We don't need to en - ter - tain there, or to do things that im - press— May we seek to meet our neigh - bors in their vast di - ver - si - ty. You call peo - ple who are out - cast, tell - ing all to "Come in - side!" and you say, "These are your neigh - bors. I am here, in each of these." By your Spi - rit, make us ser - vants; that's the way your wel - come starts. just to hear folks' joy and pain there, and to love so all are blest. As your loved and wel - comed peo - ple, may we build com - mu - ni - ty.

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New Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com | Email: carolynshymns@gmail.com

This hymn was commissioned for the conference "Gather at the Table: Answering Christ's Call to Radical Hospitality," June 10-14, 2019, at Kanuga Conference Center, Hendersonville, North Carolina.

Erin Redden, Conference Director.

O God, in Christ you Call Us



1. O God, in Christ you call us to wit - ness to your grace —
2. In Christ is our sal - va - tion; in him you've set us free —
3. In Christ, we're bound to - geth - er; in him we find your peace.
4. In Christ, the poor and hun - gry are shown they mat - ter, too —
5. In Christ, you bless cre - a - tion and show this plan - et's worth;



To share the life you give us in ev - 'ry time and place.
We make this proc - la - ma - tion in bold hu - mil - i - ty.
Yet ev - en as we gath - er, the wounds of war in - crease.
And where your church has plen - ty, you give us work to do.
May ev - 'ry con - gre - ga - tion find ways to tend the earth.



So man - y things di - vide us — yet we are not our own;
Your im - age is in oth - ers who fol - low dif - f'rent ways;
Where ter - ror brings di - vi - sion, God, make us brave to say
Now may we put in prac - tice the faith that we de - clare,
Now fill us with your Spir - it, that we, as one, may be



For we be - long to Je - sus who pray'd, "May they be one."
To - geth - er, seek - ing jus - tice, we of - fer you our praise.
Our church - es share a vi - sion of Je - sus' peace - ful way.
Seek e - con - om - ic jus - tice, and find new ways to share.
A faith - ful, lov - ing wit - ness to all hu - man - i - ty.



The Downtown Church Staff

The Rev. Deborah Fae Swift,
Bridge Pastor
Jackie Griffin, Nursery Coordinator
Mark Anderson, Director of Operations
Joseph Taylor, Maintenance Supervisor
Ed Verna, Maintenance
Moses Nhial, Maintenance
Robert Clement, Maintenance

Dr. Lee S. Wright,
Director of Music Ministry
Jason Cloen, Associate Musician
Alan Jones, Associate Musician
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David Mear, Business Manager
Teresa Ward, Bookkeeper
& Receptionist Coordinator
Keisha Betts, Receptionist
Theresa Reddick, Receptionist

Parish Leaders

John DeHority, Clerk of Session
Joan Mackey and Carol Snook, Co-Moderators of Deacons

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