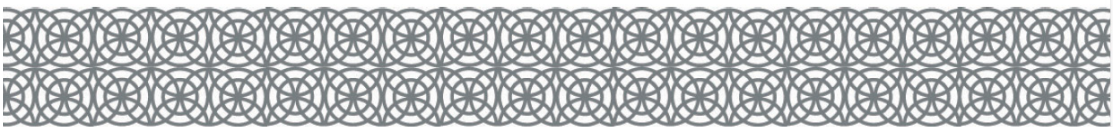




SUNDAY EVENING

Vespers



CONCLUDING THE LORD'S DAY IN WORSHIP

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JANUARY 8, 2023

Lord's Day Vespers

EVENING WORSHIP AT 6:00 P.M.

EVENING VESPER MEDITATION

Almighty God, we give You thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of vesper light; and we implore You in Your great mercy that, as You enfold us with the radiance of Your light, so You would shine into our hearts the brightness of Your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord dispel the darkness of our hearts, that by Your brightness we may know You to be the true God and Eternal Light, living and reigning forever and ever. Amen.



Prelude

Call to Worship

Psalm 104:1-2

Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, You are very great! You are clothed with splendor and majesty, covering Yourself with light as with a garment, stretching out the heavens like a tent.

Hymn

We Three Kings

(see page 6)

Evening Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, Who has made known the Incarnation of Your Son by the bright shining star, and did guide the wise men to behold Your Son, our Lord. And grant that as they presented gold, frankincense, and myrrh, we now may bring Him the offering of a loving heart, an adoring spirit, an obedient will and true worship, for His honor, and for Your glory. Grant that the star of Your righteousness may always shine into our hearts; and that, as our treasure, we may give ourselves and all we possess to Your service; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Prayer Response

We Long to See You

Words and Music: Wendell Kimbrough

Al - migh - ty God we long to see You.

3
O - pen our hearts and make them pure. Spi - rit, please wash us

6
in your mer - cy; come teach our souls to love Your truth.

Responsive Psalm Reading

Portions of Psalm 107

Minister: Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever!
Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, Whom He has redeemed from trouble
Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to a city to dwell in; hungry
and thirsty, their soul fainted within them. Then they cried to the Lord in their
trouble, and He delivered them from their distress.

People: **Let them thank the Lord for His steadfast love, for His wondrous works to
the children of man!**

Minister: Some sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, prisoners in affliction and in
irons, for they had rebelled against the words of God, and spurned the counsel
of the Most High. Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and He delivered
them from their distress.

People: **Let them thank the Lord for His steadfast love, for His wondrous works to
the children of man!**

Minister: Some went down to the sea in ships, doing business on the great waters; for He
commanded and raised the stormy wind, which lifted up the waves of the sea.
They mounted up to Heaven; they went down to the depths; their courage
melted away in their evil plight; they reeled and staggered like drunken men
and were at their wits' end. Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and He
delivered them from their distress.

People: **Let them thank the Lord for His steadfast love, for His wondrous works to
the children of man!**

Hymn Medley

Oh, Give Thanks!

(see page 6)

Be Thou My Vision

(see pages 7)

Almost Home

(see pages 8)

At "Almost Home," children are dismissed to attend their classes.

11 But when Christ appeared as a High Priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) 12 He entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of His own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. 13 For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, 14 how much more will the blood of Christ, Who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

Homily

THE ETERNAL REDEMPTION OF THE SON

Mr. Howell

Hebrews 9:11-14

1. The Superior Anticipated High Priest: v. 11a

2. The Superior Heavenly Tabernacle: v. 11b

3. The Superior Offering

A. His Very Own Blood: vv. 12a, 14a

B. Not Animal Blood: v. 13a

4. The Superior Outcome

A. Eternal Redemption & Cleansed Consciences: vv. 12b, 13b, 14b

B. Service for the Living God: v. 14c

Benediction

Congregational Response

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

Turn your eyes to the heavens
Our King will return for His own
Every knee will bow, every tongue will shout,
'All glory to Jesus alone!'

Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full in His wonderful face
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace

Postlude

We Three Kings

1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,
2. Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,
3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a De - i - ty nigh;
4. Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;
5. Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise; King and God and sac - ri - fice:

field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
prayer and prais - ing, voic - es rais - ing, wor - ship him, God on high.
sor - r'wing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain

O star of won - der, star of light, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,

west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light.

Oh, Give Thanks!

Words and Music: Wendell Kimbrough



We were wan - d'ring in the des-ert— with our souls so starved and weak;
 We were locked out of the gar-den and our backs bent down with pain;
 We were fools in our re - bel-lion with our hun - ger strike of pride;
 We were far out on the o - cean, mak-ing wealth and chas - ing dreams,



we were hun - gry for a home-land we did not know how to seek;—
 in the sha - dow of death's dark-ness we were slaves to sin and blame;—
 we were sick and grow - ing clos - er to the death we should have died;—
 but the waves of great de - struc-tion brought us trem-bling to our knees;—



but we lift - ed up our voic - es to the on - ly One Who hears, —
 then we cried out in our la - bor to the on - ly One Who hears, —
 then He heard of our con - di - tion and He called us by our names, —
 and we cried like drunk-en sail - ors to the on - ly One Who hears, —



and the God of mer - cy came — and brought us near. *Go to verse 2*
 and the God of mer - cy wiped — a - way our tears.
 and the God of glo - ry took — a - way our shame.
 and the God of com - fort took — a - way our fears.



Oh, give thanks to the Lord — for His love — en-dures for-ev - er!



We were wan - der-ing and lost, — and our Fa - ther brought us home —



to a safe — dwell-ing place, — to a feast — of joy and laugh - ter.



Oh, give thanks — to the Lord — for He is good.

Be Thou My Vision

Unison

1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart; naught be all
2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word; I ev - er
3. High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won; may I reach

else to me, save that thou art — thou my best thought by
with thee and thou with me, Lord; thou my great Fa - ther,
heav-en's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun! Heart of my own heart, what

day or by night, wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
I thy true son; thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.
ev - er be - fall, still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Almost Home

Words and Music: Matt Boswell, Matt Papa and Lauren Papa



1. Don't drop a sin - gle an - chor; we're al - most home.
2. That prom - ised land is call - ing; we're al - most home.
3. This jour - ney ours to - geth - er, we're al - most home.
4. This life is just a va - por; we're al - most home.



Through ev - 'ry toil and dan - ger, we're al - most home.
And not a tear shall fall then, we're al - most home.
Un - to that great for - ev - er, we're al - most home.
That sun is set - ting yon - der, we're al - most home.



How man - y pil - grim saints have be - fore us gone?
Make read - y now your souls for that King - dom come.
What song a - new we'll sing 'round that hap - py Throne!
Take cour - age, for this dark - ness shall break to dawn.



No stop - ping now, we're al - most home. *(Go to verse 2)*
No turn - ing back, we're al - most home.
Come, faint of heart, we're al - most home.
O lift your eyes! We're al - most home!



Al - most home, we're al - most home; — so press on t'ward that bless - ed shore; O



praise the Lord! We're al - most home!

Making a Joyful Noise

Devotional Thoughts on Congregational Singing

*Let God speak directly to His people through the Scriptures,
and let His people respond with grateful songs of praise.*

–Martin Luther

Created and Designed to Sing

We are a singing people because it is how God has created us. We are all singers. We may not all be very good singers, but we are all created to be singers nonetheless (Psalm 139:13-14). God designed our psyche for singing. He gave us minds to judge pitch and lyric; to think through the concepts we sing; to engage the intellect, imagination, and memory, and to remember what is set to a tune. Almost all of us can remember more lyrics set to music than memorized Scripture. God has formed our hearts to be moved with depth of feeling and a whole range of emotion as the melody-carried truths sink in, convicting us of the Lord's nature, and our own.

Christian singing begins with the heart, not on the lips (Ephesians 5:19). He is far less concerned with your tunefulness than your integrity. Singing with your whole heart may not manifest itself in loud, or at times even audible singing, but it is the bare minimum of what our Lord requires. If we view singing in worship as communing with our Lord, we will not settle for mumbling, merely listening, or performing for our neighbors in the pew. Instead, we will be so thrilled with the beauty of His holiness, the truths of the text, and the remembrance of His grace that we will forsake our image and only seek to glorify His. Whatever your ability is, bring it all before the Lord and enjoy Him through this most gracious and beautiful gift of communicating with Him!

God does not mind how well you sing, but that you sing as part of the ultimate choir – the congregation. No audition is required and everyone can be and should be in it. The true beauty of such a congregational choir is that our voices and our hearts are knit together in praise. It is exhilarating to be part of a body of believers singing truth together. Your voice may not be of a professional standard, but it is of a confessional standard.

We are all singers. Some have talents that allow them to sing with beautiful tone and good pitch, while others have talents to sing with their soul. What a beautiful sound we all make as singers to our heavenly Father's ears as we join our voices in worship.

Liberally taken from *Sing!, How Worship Transforms Your Life, Family and Church*, chapter 1 pp 1-5.



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