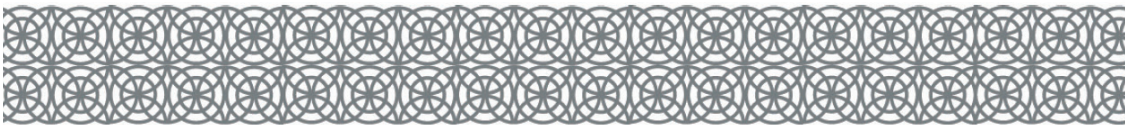




SUNDAY EVENING

Vespers



CONCLUDING THE LORD'S DAY IN WORSHIP

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 1, 2023 AT 6:00 P.M.

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

1 Peter 2:4-5

Come worship the Lord, and as you come to Him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Evening Prayer

Corporate Prayer of Intercession

Adapted from Johann Habermann (1516-1590)

O Lord, may Your glorious Majesty surround us,
the blessed Trinity protect us,
 and the eternal Godhead preserve us.

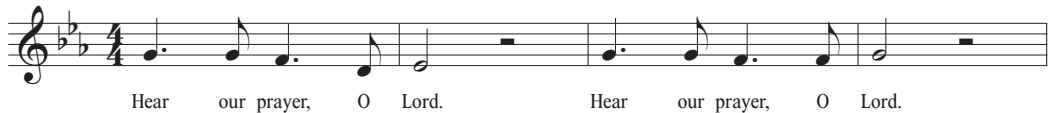
May Your unlimited mercy support us,
 your loving kindness encompass us
and Your favor make us rejoice.

May the eternal truth of God be our delight,
the saving knowledge of Christ strengthen us,
 and the all-prevailing grace of God be sufficient for us.

May the grace of God the Father lead us,
 the wisdom of God the Son be our consolation,
and the power of the Holy Spirit enlighten us.

O Lord, our Creator, stand by us;
our Redeemer, save us; and our Comforter, dwell in us.
Amen and Amen.

Prayer Response

Hear Our Prayer, O Lord

Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.

**Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;
for His steadfast love endures forever!**

I thank You that You have answered me
and have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.

**Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;
for His steadfast love endures forever!**

This is the LORD'S doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;
for His steadfast love endures forever!**

The LORD is God,
and He has made His light to shine upon us.
You are my God, and I will give thanks to you.

**Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;
for His steadfast love endures forever!**

Hymn Medley

<i>Steadfast</i>	<i>(see page 6)</i>
<i>Pearly Gates</i>	<i>(see page 7)</i>
<i>Revive Us Again</i>	<i>(see page 8)</i>

At the last stanza of "Revive Us Again," children are dismissed to attend their classes.

“There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.’ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’ And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house— for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’”

Homily

ALMOST PARADISE

Rev. Kurt Cooper

Luke 16:19-31

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A sermon outline can be found on page 5.

Closing Prayer

Benediction

Congregational Response

Revive Us Again

**Hallelujah! Thine the glory, halleluhah! Amen.
Hallelujah! Thine the glory, revive us again.**

Sermon Notes

I. Contrasting Lives

II. Contrasting Eternities

III. So what?

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to Him by the Majestic Glory, “This is My beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased,” we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with Him on the holy mountain. And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. – 2 Peter 1:16-21

**_ L _ P P _ N _
T H R O _ _ H
P _ _ E S**

My Hope is Built



1. My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je - sus' blood and right - eous-ness.
2. When dark-ness veils His love - ly face, I rest on His un-chang - ing grace.
3. His oath, His cov - e - nant, His blood, sup-port me in the whelm-ing flood.
4. When He shall come with trum-pet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found.



I dare not trust the sweet-est frame, but whol-ly lean on Je - sus' name.
In ev' - ry high and storm - y gale, my an-chor holds with-in the veil.
When all a - round my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.
Dressed in His right - eous-ness a - lone, fault-less to stand be-fore the throne.

Refrain



On Christ the sol - id Rock I stand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand;

*Words by Edward Mote, 1834
Music by William B. Bradbury, 1863*

Steadfast



1. I will build my house, wheth-er storm— or drought on the
2. By the Word You spoke all the star - ry host are called
3. I— will not trust in the strength of kings; on Your



rock that does not move. I will set my hope in Your
out by name each night. In Your watch - ful care, I will
pro - mise I will stand. I will shout for joy,— I will



love,— O Lord, and Your faith - ful - ness will prove:
rest— se - cure— as You lead us with Your light.
raise— my voice, "Hal - le - lu - jah to the Lamb!"

CHORUS



You are stead - fast, — stead - fast. — You are



stead - fast, — stead - fast. —

*Words and music by Sandra McCracken,
Leslie Jordan and John Silverberg*

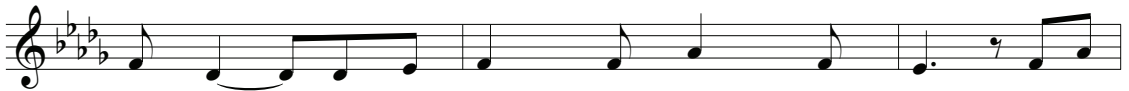
Pearly Gates



1. Love di - vine so great and won - drous, — Deep and
2. Like a dove when hunt - ed fright - ened, — As a
3. Love di - vine so great and won - drous, — All my
4. In life's ev - en - tide at twi - light, — At His



migh - ty, pure sub - lime; Com - ing from the heart of
wound - ed fawn was I; Bro - ken heart - ed yet He
sins he then for - gave! I will sing His praise for -
door I'll knock and wait; By the pre - cious love of



Je - sus — Just the same through tests of time. He the
healed me, — He will heed the sin - ners cry.
ev - er, — For His blood, His pow'r to save.
Je - sus, — I shall en - ter hea - ven's gate.



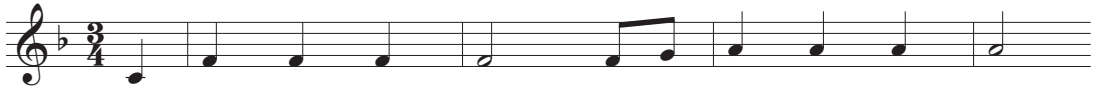
pear - ly gates will o - pen, — So that I may en - ter in; For He



pur - chased my re - demp - tion — And for - gave me all my sin.

Words by Fredrick A. Blom (1917). Music by Clint Wells and Brian T. Murphy.
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Revive Us Again



1. We praise Thee, O God, for the Son of Thy love—
2. We praise Thee, O God, for Thy Spi - rit of light,
3. All glo - ry and praise to the Lamb that was slain,
4. Re - vive us a - gain; fill each heart with Thy love.



for ____ Je - sus who died and is now gone a - bove.
who has shown us our shown us our scat - tered our night.
who has borne all our borne all our cleansed ev - 'ry stain.
May each soul be re - soul be re - fire from a - bove.

Refrain



Hal - le - lu - jah! Thine the glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah! A -



men! Hal - le - lu - jah! Thine the glo - ry! Re - vive us a - gain.

*Words by William Paton Mackey
Music by John Jenkins Husband*

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

Commanded to Sing- What and How We Sing

We have much creative freedom in our music and in our songs, which is magnificently displayed in the diversity of sounds and styles expressed in the Church all over the world. But the Bible is more specific about what we should sing.

Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. (Colossians 3:16).

One of the ways the Word of Jesus can dwell in us richly is for us to sing it to one another. Fundamentally, we are to sing about God, revealed in Christ and supremely in His suffering and His glory. The songs we sing should not brush along the surface, or pluck phrases out of context, or focus exclusively on ourselves, or describe Jesus in a way His Word does not (or even worse in contradiction to His Word). If you are singing as a member of the assembly of the saints, then don't just sing, but think. What are you singing? How does it point you to Jesus as He reveals Himself in His Word? Which lines in the lyrics flood you with joy because they move you to consider Christ afresh, and how will you sing them to others and back to yourself this week?

The Colossians passage above also speaks to how we sing. We are not to sing with a begrudging heart – “I sing because I must” – but rather “with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” We sing because He is marvelous. It is impossible to sing what you are excited about in your spirit and grateful for in your heart in a way that is tepid, tentative, and withdrawn. Deeply felt thankfulness produces a sound from our voices that is robust and enthusiastic. So, as we obey the command to sing, we are (or should be) unleashing a congregational sound of conviction. If we aren't, our children or visitors looking on have every right to question whether what we are singing is truly important to us.

Liberally taken from *Sing!, How Worship Transforms Your Life, Family and Church*, by Keith and Kristyn Getty, Chapter 2, pp 16-19.



VISITORS

We are honored to have you as our guest today. Please complete the information on our Friendship Register (by scanning the QR code) so that we may respond properly to your visit.

*To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest;
to all who mourn and long for comfort;
to all who struggle and desire victory;
to all who sin and need a Savior;
to all who are strangers and want fellowship;
to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness;
and to all who will come,
this church opens wide her doors and offers welcome
in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.*



A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)

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