



UNLEASHING HEAVEN

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS HERE



Martin United Methodist Church Service of Worship

bold, bold italic are spoken/sung in unison

TFWS: The Faith We Sing hymnal supplement

W&S: Worship and Song hymnal Supplement

All able are invited to stand for all portions marked with an asterisk (*)

January 15, 2023

11:00 A.M.

Prelude

Adoration

Felix Borowski

Caleb Bennetch and Dr. Jieun Lee

Welcome

Rev. Daniel Hawkins

*Call to Worship

Caleb Bennetch

One: We have come to worship God, the living God,

All: Who calls prophets and teachers to bear witness.

One: We have come to praise God, the almighty God,

All: Who answers the forces of hatred and hurt with the power of grace.

One: We have come to worship God, all-gracious God,

All: Who chooses even you and me,
to receive and carry the Word of life and hope.
All glory to God!

~ adapted from a post on the United Church of Christ's Worship Ways Archive. <http://www.ucc.org/>

*Opening Hymn

God Is Here

UMH 660

1. God is here! As we your peo-ple meet to of-fer
2. Here are sym-bols to re-mind us of our life-long
3. Here our chil-dren find a wel-come in the Shep-herd's
4. Lord of all, of church and king-dom, in an age of

praise and prayer, may we find in full-er mea-sure
need of grace; here are ta-ble, font, and pul-pit;
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak-en,
change and doubt keep us faith-ful to the gos-pel;

what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the world a -
 here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es - ty of
 Christ sus - tains us, as of old. Here the ser - vants of the
 help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's ded - i -

round us, all our var - ied skills and arts wait the
 preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech, here, in
 Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore what it
 ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive; we, who

com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
 new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
 means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
 can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

WORDS: Fred Pratt Green, 1978
 MUSIC: Cyril V. Taylor, 1941

ABBOT'S LEIGH
 87.87 D

Words © 1979 Hope Publishing Co.; music © 1942, renewed 1970 Hope Publishing Co.

*Affirmation of Faith

Dr. Daniel Reeves

**We are not alone,
 we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:
 who has created and is creating,
 who has come in Jesus,
 the Word made flesh,
 to reconcile and make new,
 who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

**to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

~ posted on The United Church of Canada website. <http://www.united-church.ca/beliefs/creed>

***Gloria Patri**

***Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.***

The Passing of the Peace

Dr. Daniel Reeves

We invite you to share the peace of Christ
with those that surround you.

Children's Time

Rev. Daniel Hawkins

One of God's great gifts to the world is our kids. We welcome children in worship,
and celebrate their presence with this special moment just for them.

The Lord's Prayer

***Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.***

Scripture Reading

Luke 3:1-14

¹ In the fifteenth year of the rule of the emperor Tiberius—when Pontius Pilate was governor over Judea and Herod was ruler over Galilee, his brother Philip was ruler over Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was ruler over Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas—God's word came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ John went throughout the region of the Jordan River, calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. ⁴ This is just as it was written in the scroll of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

A voice crying out in the wilderness:

*"Prepare the way for the Lord;
make his paths straight.*

⁵ Every valley will be filled,
and every mountain and hill will be leveled.

The crooked will be made straight
and the rough places made smooth.

⁶ All humanity will see God's salvation."

7 Then John said to the crowds who came to be baptized by him, “You children of snakes! Who warned you to escape from the angry judgment that is coming soon? **8** Produce fruit that shows you have changed your hearts and lives. And don’t even think about saying to yourselves, Abraham is our father. I tell you that God is able to raise up Abraham’s children from these stones. **9** The ax is already at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that doesn’t produce good fruit will be chopped down and tossed into the fire.”

10 The crowds asked him, “What then should we do?”

11 He answered, “Whoever has two shirts must share with the one who has none, and whoever has food must do the same.”

12 Even tax collectors came to be baptized. They said to him, “Teacher, what should we do?”

13 He replied, “Collect no more than you are authorized to collect.”

14 Soldiers asked, “What about us? What should we do?”
He answered, “Don’t cheat or harass anyone, and be satisfied with your pay.”

Sermon

Preparing the Way

Rev. Daniel Hawkins

Hymn of Response

Prepare the Way of the Lord

UMH 207

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff has two measures, each starting with a circled number (1 and 2). The second staff has three measures, each starting with a circled number (3, 4, and a final measure with a repeat sign). The lyrics are written below the notes.

Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre - pare the way of the Lord,
and all peo-ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God. Pre -

WORDS: Isaiah 40:3; 52:10

MUSIC: Jacques Berthier and the Community of Taizé, 1984

Music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, by permission of G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

PREPARE THE WAY
Irr.

Offertory Prayer

Rev. Daniel Hawkins

You may give an offering at www.martinmethodist.org/give, by mail,
or [give via text to 844-976-2515](tel:844-976-2515). Simply enter the amount
you would like to give, and instructions will follow.

*Martin United Methodist Church
2621 Bedford Road
Bedford, Texas 76021*

Offertory

*Give Me A Song
The Worship Choir*

Heather Sorenson

*Jesus, give me a song to sing when the world goes silent.
Jesus, give me a song.
Lord, give me a song for my heart to soar,
A melody I've never sung before.
Jesus, give me a song.*

*Jesus, give me a word to speak when the world stops listening.
Jesus, give me a word.
Lord, send down the message that they need to hear,
Then help me to speak it loud and clear.
Jesus, give me a word.*

*Jesus, give me your light to shine in a world of darkness.
Jesus, give me your light.
Lord, turn this night-time into day,
then use me to show that there's a better way.
Jesus, give me your light.*

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

Lord, give me your light. Lord give me a word. Lord, give me a song.

*Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here be - low: Al-le -

lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Praise God the source of all our gifts! Praise Je - sus Christ whose pow'r up -

lifts! Praise the Spir - it, Ho - ly Spir - it! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!

*Invitation

Rev. Daniel Hawkins

*Hymn of Commitment

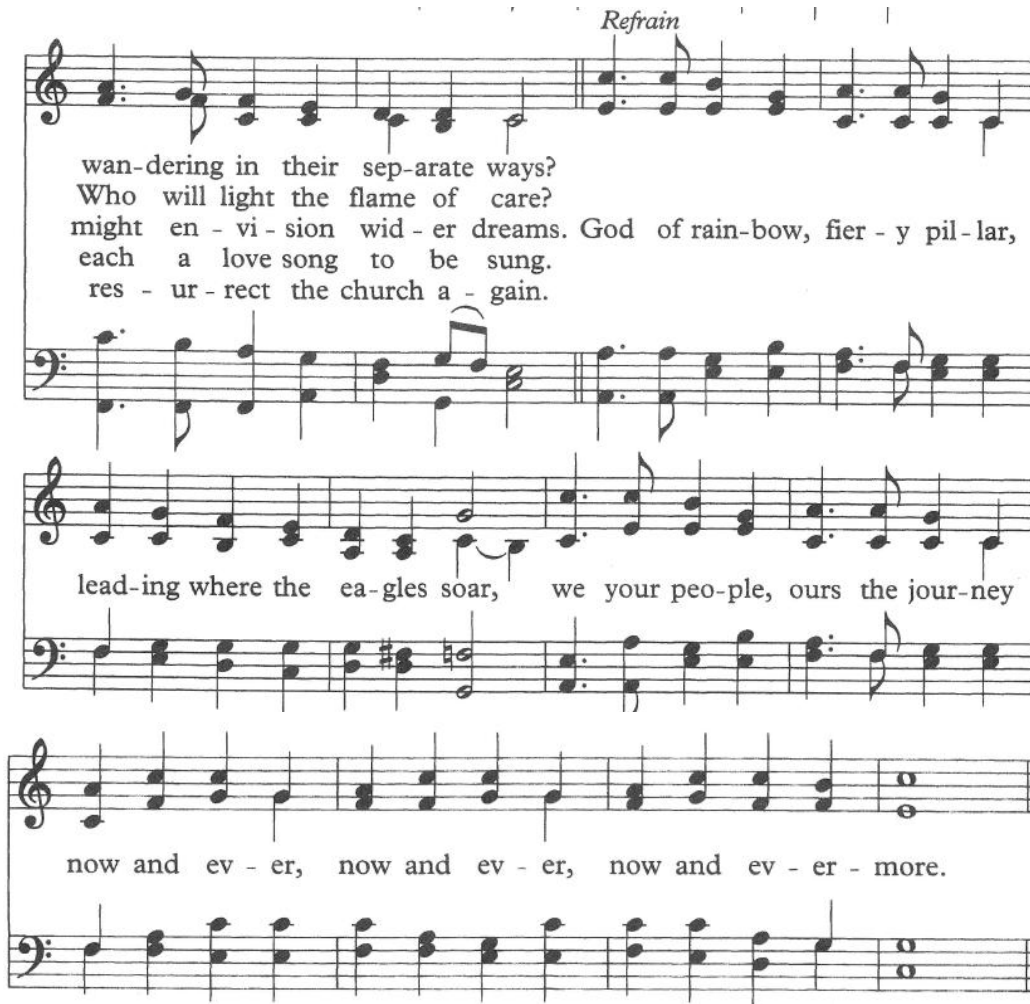
In the Midst of New Directions

TFWS 2238

1. In the midst of new di - men - sions, in the face of
2. Through the flood of starv - ing peo - ple, war - ring fac - tions
3. As we stand a world di - vid - ed by our own self -
4. We are man and we are wom - an, all per - sua - sions,
5. Should the threats of dire pre - dic - tions cause us to with -

chang - ing ways, who will lead the pil - grim peo - ples
and de - spair, who will lift the ol - ive branch - es?
seek - ing schemes, grant that we, your glob - al vil - lage,
old and young, each a gift in your cre - a - tion,
draw in pain, may your blaz - ing phoe - nix spir - it

Refrain



wan-dering in their sep-arate ways?
 Who will light the flame of care?
 might en - vi - sion wid - er dreams. God of rain-bow, fier - y pil - lar,
 each a love song to be sung.
 res - ur - rect the church a - gain.

lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, we your peo-ple, ours the jour-ney

now and ev - er, now and ev - er, now and ev - er - more.

WORDS: Julian B. Rush (Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14) ^r
 MUSIC: Julian B. Rush
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NEW DIMENSIONS
 87.87 with Refrain

***Benediction**

Rev. Daniel Hawkins

Postlude

Emma Wimberg



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