



**Martin United Methodist Church  
Service of Worship**

*bold, bold italic are spoken/sung in unison*

March 14, 2021

8:30 a.m.

**Welcome**

Rev. Lara Franklin

**Prelude**

*My Jesus, I Love Thee*  
Jieun Lee

Pamela Robertson

## Call to Worship

Caleb Bennetch

One: Before we were born,

**All: Before we took our first breath,**

One: Before the week started,

**All: Before the year started,**

One: Before we said, "I love you,"

**All: Before we said, "I'm sorry,"**

One: Before we figured out who we really are,

**All: Before we figured out who we want to be,**

One: Before it all—

**All: God loved us.**

One: Unconditionally and freely,

**All: Fully and honestly—**

One: God loved us.

**All: Again and again, this is where our story begins.**

One: Let us worship God!

~Written by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)~

**Hymn**

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

# Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

1. Come, thou Fount of ev - ery bless - ing, tune my heart to sing thy  
2. Here I raise mine Eb - en - e - zer; hith - er by thy help I'm  
3. O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to

grace; streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est  
come; and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at  
be! Let thy good - ness, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to

praise. Teach me some me - lodious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a -  
home. Je - sus sought me when a stranger, wan - dering from the fold of  
thee. Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I

bove. Praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of thy re - deeming love.  
God; he, to res - cue me from danger, in - terposed his precious blood.  
love; here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

## Affirmation of Faith

Caleb Bennetch

**All: We believe God is love—  
Unconditional, constant love.**

**We believe this love exists for all,  
Choosing each and every one of us,  
Day after day,  
Again and again and again.**

**We believe that God's love is like a river.  
Rivers cannot help but flow toward the sea;  
God's love cannot help but move toward us.  
We are swimming in it.**

**We believe that God loved first.  
We believe that God breathed life into dust.  
We believe that God said, "This is good,"  
And because we believe that God loved first,  
We strive to build lives that reflect God's love.  
May we begin again here. Amen.**

~Written by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)~

## Gloria Patri

Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the be-  
gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A - men. A - men.

### 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**

John 3:14-21

Caleb Bennetch

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so must the Human One be lifted up so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life. God didn't send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him isn't judged; whoever doesn't believe in him is already judged, because they don't believe in the name of God's only Son.

“This is the basis for judgment: The light came into the world, and people loved darkness more than the light, for their actions are evil. All who do wicked things hate the light and don't come to the light for fear that their actions will be exposed to the light. Whoever does the truth comes to the light so that it can be seen that their actions were done in God.”

**Sermon***Again & Again God Loves First*

Rev. Lara Franklin

**Hymn***The Gift of Love*

1. Though I may speak with brav-est fire,  
 2. Though I may give all I pos-sess,  
 3. Come, Spir-it, come, our hearts con-trol,  
 and have the gift to all in-spire,  
 and striv-ing so my love pro-fess,  
 our spir-its long to be made whole.  
 and have not love, my words are vain,  
 but not be given by love with-in,  
 Let in-ward love guide ev-ery deed;  
 as sound-ing brass, and hope-less gain.  
 the prof-it soon turns strange-ly thin.  
 by this we wor- - ship, and are freed.

WORDS: Hal Hopson, 1972 (1 Cor. 13:1-3)

MUSIC: Trad. English melody; adapt. by Hal Hopson, 1972

© 1972 Hope Publishing Co.

GIFT OF LOVE

LM

**Musical Reflection**

*Allegro* from *Concerto in A Minor*  
Caleb Bennetch and Jieun Lee

Antonio Vivaldi  
arr. T. Nachez

**Invitation**

Rev. Lara Franklin

**Hymn**

*Jesu, Thy Boundless Love to Me*

# Jesu, Thy Boundless Love to Me

Paul Gerhardt,  
trans. John Wesley

ST CATHERINE

Frederick Faber

1. Je - su thy bound - less love to in my me no thought can reach, no  
2. O grant that noth - ing in thy soul may dwell, but thy pure  
3. O Love, how cheer - ing is thy ray! All pain be fore thy

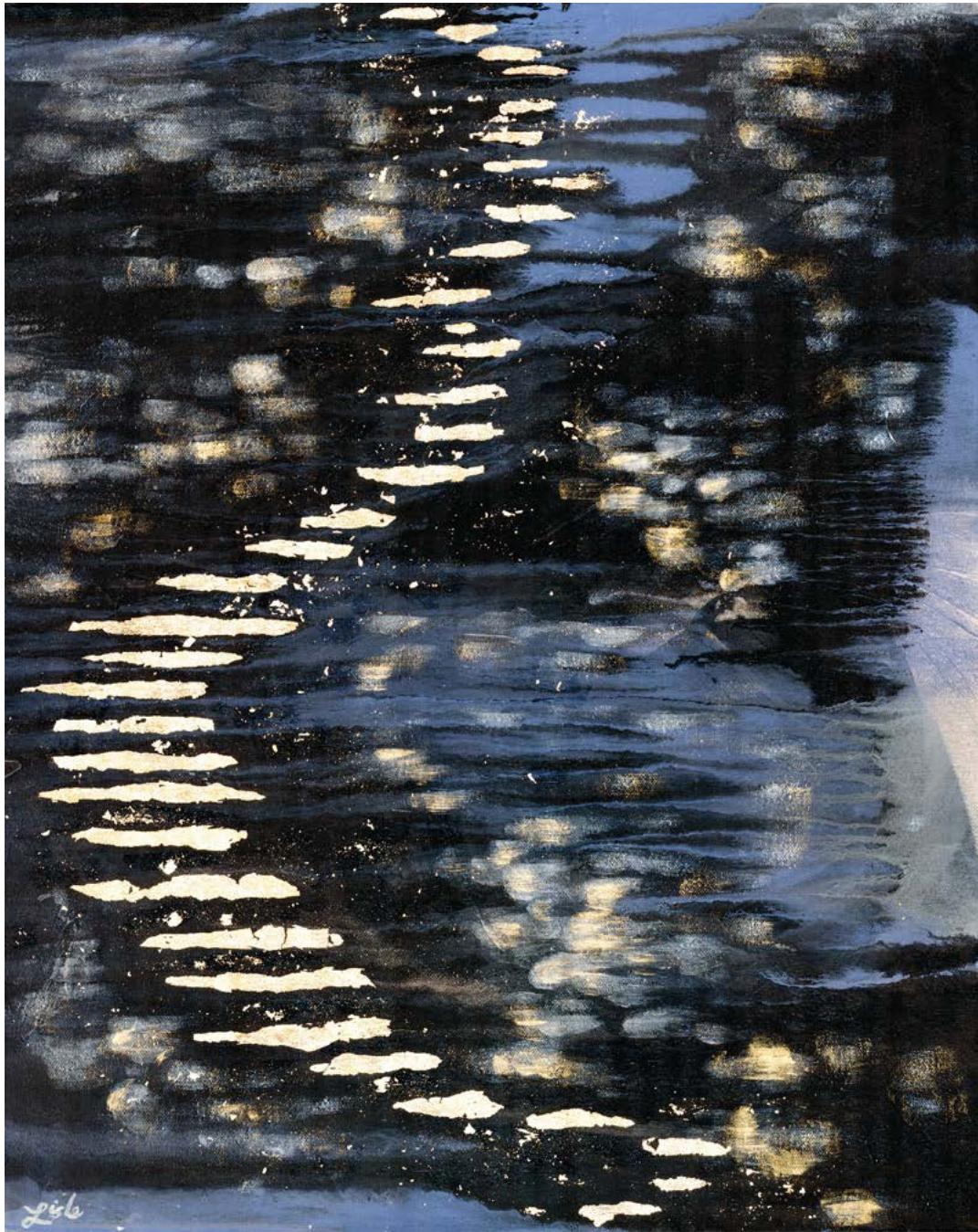
7  
tongue de - clare; O knit my thank - ful heart to thee  
love a - lone! O may thy pos - sess me whole,  
pres - ence flies! Care, an - guish, sor - row, melt a way

13  
and reign with out a ri - val there. Thine whol - ly, thine a -  
my joy, my treas - ure, and my beams ar - ise. Strange flames far from my  
where - ere thy heal - ing, ar - ise. O Jes - u, noth - ing

19  
lone, I am; be thou a - lone, my con - stant flame.  
soul re - move, ev - ery act, word, thought, be love.  
may I see, noth - ing hear, feel, or think, but thee!

# Benediction

Rev. Lara Franklin



**Light Wave**  
by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity  
Inspired by John 3:14-21  
*Acrylic painting with gold leaf on canvas*