



Online Worship Resource (Sunday, August 30, 2020)

BOLD TYPE IS SPOKEN BY THE CONGREGATION

Prelude: **His Eye Is on the Sparrow** Janet Gayle Lumpkins, soloist
Jane Kerr, Organist

*Why should I feel discouraged? Why should the shadows come?
Why should my heart be lonely and long for heaven and home,
when Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is he:
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me;
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.*

Refrain:

*I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,
for his eye is in on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.
"Let not your heart be troubled," his tender word I hear,
and resting on his goodness, I lose my doubts and fears;
though by the path he leadeth but one step I may see:
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me. (Refrain)*

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship Charles Frempong, Liturgist

Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

In you, we come home--

to rest, to wrestle, to love, to be loved.

We dwell in you, Lord.

Before the mountains rose, before you delivered the whole world, from
everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

In you, we are home--

we dream, we flourish, we fade, we rejoice.

We dwell in you, Lord.

Opening Hymn:

"Amazing Grace"

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come.
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun;
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun.

Call to Confession

Sisters and brothers, God never forgets God's promises; God's covenant endures in each new generation. We are free to speak the truth about our lives because God's faithfulness embraces us as we examine our hearts. Therefore, let us confess our sins together....

Prayer of Confession

We acknowledge before you, O God, that we have fallen short of who you call us to be. We take credit and give blame. We minimize and excuse our own faults while harshly judging others. We hold on to grudges and in spite of the grace you have shown to us, we are slow to give mercy. Forgive us, Lord. Renew and restore us that we may serve you with joy and thanksgiving.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, believe again the gospel, that in Christ we are accepted as we are.
God forgives us! Thanks be to God. Amen.

Passing the Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Children's Time

Prayer for Illumination

Let us prepare our hearts to hear God's Word by praying together the Prayer for Illumination:

Holy God, whose Word is a light to our paths, illumine our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit. In the reading and proclamation of your Scripture, confront us in our sin, comfort us in our sorrow, heal our wounds and inspire us to follow you. For the sake of Christ we pray. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Genesis 29:15-28

¹⁵ Then Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" ¹⁶ Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. ¹⁷ Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. ¹⁸ Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." ¹⁹ Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." ²⁰ So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

²¹ Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." ²² So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. ²³ But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. ²⁴ (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) ²⁵ When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" ²⁶ Laban said, "This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. ²⁷ Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." ²⁸ Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn after Sermon: “Give Thanks to God Who Hears Our Cries”

Give thanks to God who hears our cries and saves in troubled days
With wondrous works to humankind that call for highest praise.
Let all who know God's saving love sing grateful songs always.

If you have ever wandered where no human help was near,
And in your trouble cried to God, who rescued you from fear,
Then thank the God of steadfast love who dries your every tear.

So praise the One whose love is great, whose kindness is well known.
Consider well the healing hand and help you have been shown,
And tell the world what God has done, Praise God and God alone!

Prayer of Dedication

Please join me as we pray together:

Gracious God, we thank you for the gift of family, both the families we are given by birth and the family of faith into which we are baptized. We thank you for those who parent us -- who encourage us to grow, who model healthy relationships, who teach us the ways of Christ. We thank you for those who stand in the gap when family lets us down, as they inevitably do. We pray for the brokenness that afflicts all our families and ask you to bring healing and restoration where relationships are strained or severed. Use these gifts, given in thanks and praise, and bless us as we endeavor to walk as faithful disciples within our families, to the praise and honor of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer and 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Benediction

Postlude:

Thanks Be to Thee

G. F. Handel

Thanks be to Thee! Thanks be to Thee!

Glory and praise ever be Thine.

For Thy great mercies, thanks be to Thee.

Lord God almighty, thanks be to Thee.

Today's Worship Participants:

Rev. Michelle Fincher, Jane Kerr, organist, Judy Viccellio, guitar,
David Maley, piano, Janet Gayle Lumpkins, soloist, Charles Frempong, liturgist,
and Glenn Fahrig, technology team