

Front Street United Methodist Church

3rd Sunday after Pentecost



Prelude

This Is My Father's World¹

Emma Lou Diemer (b. 1927)

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, who created us in your own image: grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the work of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Hymn

Children of the Heavenly Father²

UMH, 141

1. Chil-dren of the heav-en-ly Fa-ther safe-ly in his bos-om gath-er;
2. God his own doth tend and nour-ish; in his ho-ly courts they flour-ish;
3. Nei-ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil-dren sev - er;
4. Though he giv- eth or he tak-eth, God his chil-dren ne'er for- sak-eth;

nest-ling bird nor star in heav-en such a ref-uge e'er was giv - en.
from all e - vil things he spares them; in his might-y arms he bears them.
un - to them his grace he show-eth, and their sor-rows all he know-eth.
his the lov - ing pur-pose sole - ly to pre-serve them pure and ho - ly.

The Word, *Read*

Psalm 86:1-2, 15-17

Incline Your ear, LORD, and answer me,
for lowly and needy am I.
Guard my life, for I am faithful.
Rescue your servant who trusts in You
—You, my God.

You, O LORD, are a merciful, gracious God,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast kindness.
Turn to me and grant me grace.
Give Your strength to Your servant
and rescue Your handmaiden's son.
Show me a sign for good,
that those who hate me may see and be shamed.
For You, LORD, have helped me and consoled me.

Genesis 21:8-21

The child Isaac grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac."

The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring."

So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept.

And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him."

Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink.

God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

The Word, *Proclaimed*

Children's Message

The Scriptures in Conversation

Offering & Meditation

		
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Offertory

Lord, I Need You³

Matt Maher (b. 1974)

Use this time of offering to reflect prayerfully on this work of art that depicts the grief of Hagar, abandoned to the harshness of the desert near Beer-sheba with her son Ishmael. Will God see her and hear her? *Will we?*



Jean-Charles Cavin (1841-1901), “Hagar and Ismael,” oil on canvas, Tours, France.

Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

Response

Alleluia Verse

William Bradley Roberts (b. 1947)

The musical score consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/2 time signature. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half). The lyrics "Al-le-lu - ia," are written below. The second staff continues with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a 4/2 time signature. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half). The lyrics "al-le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le-lu - ia," are written below. The third staff continues with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a 3/2 time signature. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half). The lyrics "al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." are written below.

Prayers of the People

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.

Hymn

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy⁴

UMH, 121

1. There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy like the wide-ness of the sea;
2. There is wel-come for the sin-ner, and more grac-es for the good!
3. For the love of God is broad-er than the meas-ure of our mind;
4. If our love were but more sim-ple, we should rest up-on God's word;

there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.
There is mer-cy with the Sav-ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.
and our lives would be il - lu - mined by the pres - ence of our Lord.

Benediction

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, and grant us peace, now and always.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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Worship Notes:

¹ Emma Lou Diemer is an American composer who has composed prolifically for a wide variety of instruments, ensembles, and choirs. Her style as a composer is rather varied, ranging from tonal to atonal and from traditional to experimental. These two settings of the hymn “This Is My Father’s World” feature the tune TERRA BEATA in completely different ways. In the first setting, the tune is highly ornamented, such that it may not even be noticeable amid the numerous passing tones, turns, and trills. In the second setting, the tune is set more clearly, but the accompanying harmonies add an element of tension and instability against the melody.

² The author of this hymn’s text was Caroline V. Sandell-Berg (1832-1903), who was known as the Fanny Crosby (1820-1915) of Sweden. She began writing hymns as a result of the drowning of her father in 1858. Writing around 1,650 pieces in total, her style could be characterized as warm, personal, and evangelistic. This hymn’s text is an affirmation of God’s safekeeping in times of distress. The folk melody’s tune name TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA comes from the first line of the Swedish, literally, “No one can be safer.” The hymn is appropriate for children as they learn of God’s love, and it also provides comfort at funerals and memorial services.

³ Matt Maher has become one of modern Christian music’s most theologically rich and perennially relevant artists since his songwriting debut in 2001. Combining both ancient and modern themes, Maher writes music that helps Christians connect to the intimacy that God desires with humankind, as well as the corporate reality of Christian life together and worship. “Lord, I Need You,” from his 2013 album *All the People Said Amen*, takes the form of a confession, of owning human weakness, and naming our contingency upon God’s graciousness and steadfast love in Jesus Christ.

⁴ Frederick Faber (1814-1863), born in Yorkshire, England, was among a number of English clergy who converted from the Anglicanism to Roman Catholicism in the 19th century. Drawing inspiration from the hymns of John Newton, William Cowper, and the Wesleys, Faber recognized that Roman Catholics lacked a tradition of more recent metrical hymnody in English, and took it upon himself to remedy this. At his death, he had contributed 150 hymns to the Church. The core theme of this hymn, “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy,” is based on the premise that the God of Scripture, unlike earthly rulers, demonstrates welcome, kindness, grace, and mercy indiscriminately and above all else.