

Order of Worship

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 29, 2020



Prelude

Call to Worship

Our help is in the name of the Lord, maker of heaven and earth.

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Let us worship God!

Hymn 821 *My Life Flows On*
(See text below.)

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING
Soloist: Greg Knauf

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, we pray for your presence and your blessing on your church today, scattered and apart, yet united in the power of your Holy Spirit.

Come and be among us.

Calm our anxious hearts and minds.

Let us be still and know that you are God.

Give peace, give rest, give assurance.

Give us strength and courage for the living of these days.

Let us find our consolation and our hope in you,

our rock and our redeemer;

through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

Life in Community

The peace and joy of the Lord be with you and yours today.

Here are several announcements we would like to highlight:

- Session decided last week to extend the suspension of in-person worship through the end of April. The building is also closed, but the office remains open.
- Plans are under way for Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter services.
- We will have online Zoom check-ins this week. Look for the invitation in your email.

- Thursday Morning Bible Study will meet again this week at 10:30 a.m., an invitation to join will go out on Tuesday evening.
- If we don't have a correct email for you—if you're not getting weekly mailings from us—just send me an email and we'll add you to the Constant Contact list.
- Catonsville Emergency Assistance is having a food drive. They are in urgent need of many items. They are accepting donations of food: Saturdays, Mondays, and Tuesdays from 9-12 p.m. You can also make a financial gift online.

Prayer for Illumination

Faithful God, your grace is our daily bread.

Nourish us by your Word

and fill us with your Spirit so that we may grow in faith and love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture:

Matthew 14:22-33

Message: *Take Heart*

Offering:

Do good and share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. ~Hebrews 13:16

While we can't take a collection in the sanctuary this morning, we can still remember all that God has given and gives us and offer our thanks. There are ways you can give online through our website—and here I'm talking specifically to CPC members and friends.

If you're not a member or friend of the CPC community, consider giving to a faith community where you live, a neighborhood church that could use your support at this time.

In a time of silence now, take a moment to offer thanks for God's gifts to you:
time, talent, money, family, friends, life itself. {Silence.}

And now ask yourself: where is the Spirit leading me to share my gifts through the work of the church and the love of neighbor? {Silence.}

Thanks be to God!

Musical Offering

"Be Thou My Vision"

Natalia Vladimirova, *violin*

Prayers of Intercession & Lord's Prayer

God of Grace,
we come before you feeling like we're on a small boat in a stormy sea.
We are battered by the winds, tormented by forces we cannot control.
So we pray to you: Calm the waves. Calm the wind.
Give balm to our hearts. Give us courage to face these days.

We name our fears to you, and we trust that, as our Loving Parent,
you hear us and surround us with love.
We come, longing for peace. Aching for assurance.
Lord, Lord. Save us. Hear our prayers.

(Song: Hymn 184 -adapted)

*Calm to the waves. Calm to the wind. Jesus whispers, "Peace, be still."
Balm to our hearts. Don't be afraid. In stillness, hear his voice.*

Gracious God, we name before you those who are working so hard to keep us safe in the chaos, who are making great sacrifices for the sake of others: for medical personnel who are working around the clock in their efforts to save lives, for government leaders, public health professionals, researchers, and scientists. Continue to give them strength, wisdom, courage. May they Take Heart.

We lift up those who cannot protect themselves with self-isolation because they are serving the public good: sanitation workers, fire fighters and police, transportation workers, grocery store workers, care providers. We pray that you would watch over them. Keep them safe in the storm, O God.

*Calm to the waves. Calm to the wind. Jesus whispers, "Peace, be still."
Balm to our hearts. Don't be afraid. In stillness, hear his voice.*

Merciful One, we lift up to you those who are struggling economically, those whose livelihoods are at risk, those who wonder how they will pay the rent. We pray for all who are anxious and afraid: for those who are immune-compromised, for those struggling with mental health conditions, for those whose loved ones are ill, are dying, and who cannot even reach out to touch their hands and offer a word of comfort. For all those suffering around the world, for those who are vulnerable in any way. Calm the waves, O God. Give them peace.

Calm to the waves. Calm to the wind. Jesus whispers, "Peace, be still."

Balm to our hearts. Don't be afraid. In stillness, hear his voice.

We pray for those who are sheltering at home: for those who face the demands of working at home, of parenting, of being isolated or alone; for children and youth whose school routines are disrupted, whose activities are cancelled, who cannot visit and play with friends. We acknowledge the challenges that staying together can bring..... the irritations, the annoyances, the stresses of sharing close spaces.

In the midst of this crisis, we are grateful for the many ways that we are discovering that we can connect. And we rejoice in the new ways that we are able to support and sustain one another.

We give thanks for those who have reached out to others in their communities: by delivering groceries, by making a simple phone call, by offering a gracious prayer. Keep awakening us, Loving One, to ways we can care for one another. Grant us all wisdom, grant us courage for the living....truly living of these days. Help us all to Take Heart.

For all who are grieving, for all who are dying, for all who need your healing touch. For all who need peace. For all who need hope. For all of us who long to keep singing... may we hear the music of your voice. Help us to Take Heart.

Calm to the waves. Calm to the wind. Jesus whispers, "Peace, be still."

Balm to our hearts. Don't be afraid. In stillness, hear his voice.

And now, we join our voices as we pray the prayer that Christ taught us saying, Our Father....

Hymn 307

God of Grace and God of Glory
(See text below.)

CWM RHONDDA

Blessing

The peace of the Lord be with you.

Be of good courage.

Hold fast that which is good.

Render to no one evil for evil.

Strengthen the fainthearted.

Support the weak.

Help the afflicted.

Show love to everyone.

Love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen

Postlude

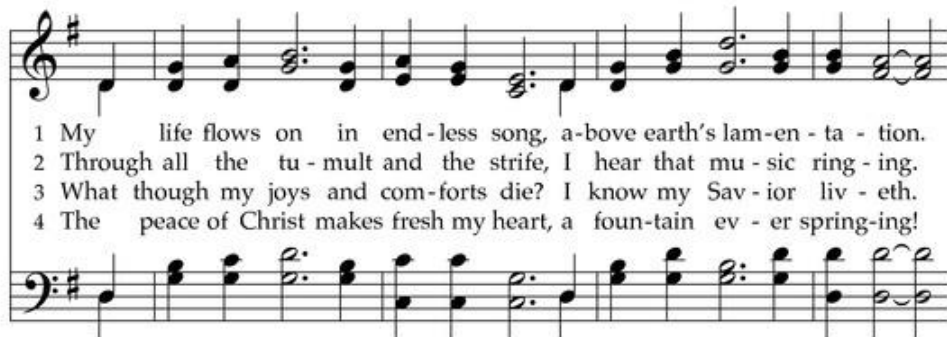
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Hymns: *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2013).

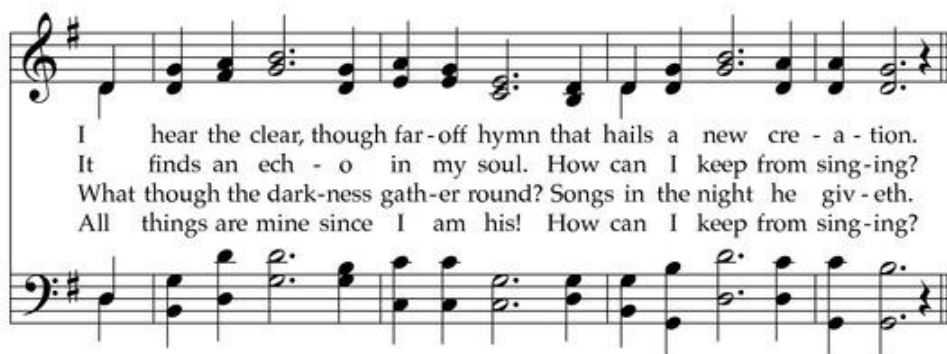
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My Life Flows On

How Can I Keep from Singing?

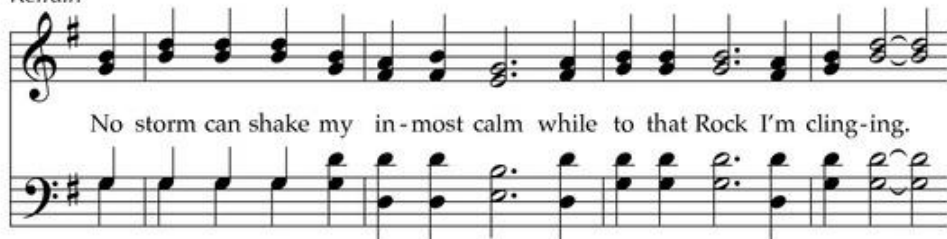


1 My life flows on in end-less song, a-bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion.
 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? I know my Sav - ior liv - eth.
 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing!



I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
 What though the dark-ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

In the *New York Observer* of August 7, 1868, this text was titled "Always Rejoicing," and was attributed to "Pauline T." This may well be where the Baptist pastor and musician to whom it is usually credited encountered the words that he later published with his tune.

307 God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour thy power; crown thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry; bring its
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our
 thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in
 we de - plore. Let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our

bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss thy king - dom's goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

This stirring hymn used at the opening of Riverside Church in New York in 1930 was penned by its widely-known and influential pastor, and it has gained a firm place in English-language hymnals around the world. The Welsh tune name honors the Rhondda Valley in Glamorganshire.

