FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

# Traditional Service
# The Fifth Sunday of Lent

## March 17, 2024

## *The Service for the Lord's Day*

*WE GATHER*

PRELUDE Arietta — Thomas Kerr

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: O God, we seek you, and our souls thirst for you.
**All: Our flesh faints for the Lord, as in a dry and weary land.**
One: O God, your steadfast love brings us life!
**All: Let us bless the Lord as long as we live.**
One: With seeking, thirsty hearts, let us worship God,
**All: trusting that the Spirit will meet us here and quench what is parched.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN — #298

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy — IN BABILONE

**1** There's a wideness in God's mercy,
Like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in God's justice,
Which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
Are more felt than up in heaven;
There is no place where earth's failings
Have such kindly judgment given.

**2** For the love of God is broader
Than the measures of the mind;
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
We would gladly trust God's word;
And our lives reflect thanksgiving
For the goodness of our Lord.

*Please stand if you are able.

## *WE CONFESS*

CALL TO CONFESSON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**Holy God, we long to be lifelong learners. We long to approach you with curiosity and an open mind. Instead, we often live as if we know best. We forget that the disciples called you "Rabbi, Teacher." Forgive us for the times when we fail to be curious. Forgive us for the times when we assume we know best. Forgive us for the moments when we imagine that our learning is done and that we have all the answers. Spark in us more attentiveness and more imagination. Help us choose your will and your way. With hope and humility we pray. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## *WE LISTEN*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 55:1-9; Luke 13:6-9 Jeanne Hunsicker

Leader: The word of the Lord;

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON The Rev. Lindsey Altvater Clifton

"Wandering Heart, Teach Me"

## *WE RESPOND*

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

*SERMON HYMN

Light Dawns in a Weary World (from *Glory to God* – see insert) TEMPLE OF PEACE

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS

Elders: Richard Hjorth, Kari Young Keyock, Kim Morey Miner, and JoAnne Turcotte

Deacons: Kate Arrington, Jeanette Claessens, Evelyn Kuserk, Jane Masters, and Phyllis Walker

Trustees: George Bickford, Rich Gorton, and Cynthia Hahn

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from *New Zealand Book of Prayer*)

**Eternal Spirit,**
**Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,**
**Source of all that is and that shall be,**
**Father and Mother of us all,**
**Loving God, in whom is heaven:**
**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!**
**The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!**
**Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!**
**Your commonwealth of peace and freedom**
**sustain our hope and come on earth.**
**With the bread we need for today, feed us.**
**In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.**
**In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us.**
**From trials too great to endure, spare us.**
**From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**
**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,**
**now and forever. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.**

CALL FOR OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory The Lord Bless You and Keep You — John Rutter

Chancel Choir

The Lord bless you and keep you
The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and
be gracious unto you
The Lord lift up the light of his countenance
upon you and give you peace
Amen

*Doxology #592

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow — OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

*SENDING HYMN — #356

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing — NETTLETON

**1** Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of God's unchanging love!

**2** Here I raise my Ebenezer,
Hither by Thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed his precious blood.

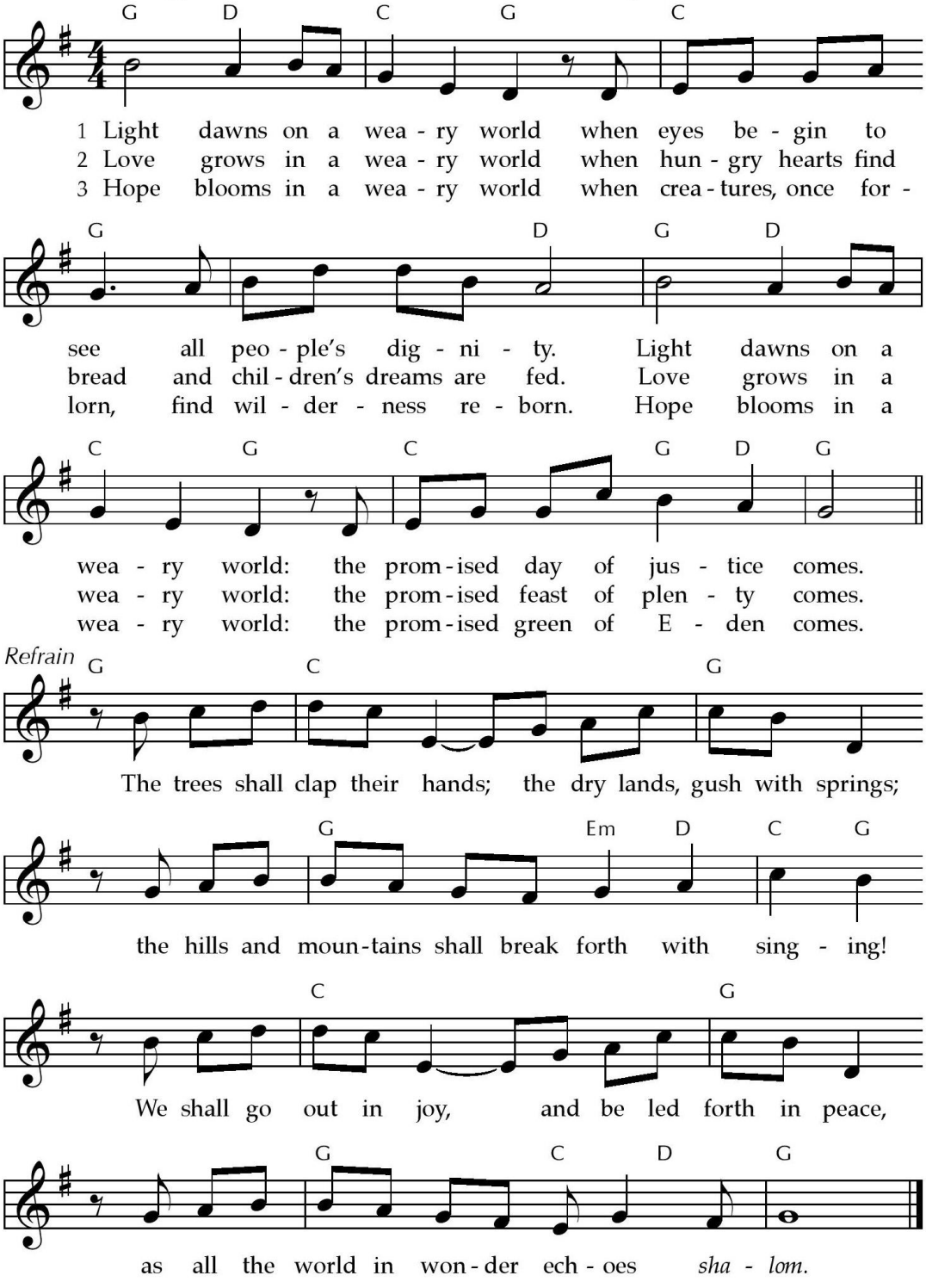
**3** O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Postlude on Song 22 — Charles V. Stanford

*Flowers given by Cynthia A. Hahn in honor of her parents, Barbara and Ted Hahn*

# 79 Light Dawns on a Weary World




This is a hymn whose tune came first. Upon hearing it, the author recalled the watered garden of Isaiah 58:11, which in turn led to Isaiah 55:12, paraphrased in the refrain. Then came the stanzas, organized around their first two words: Light dawns, Love grows, Hope blooms.

TEXT: Mary Louise Bringle, 2001
MUSIC: William P. Rowan, 2000
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TEMPLE OF PEACE
7.6.6.7.8 with refrain