



When in Our Music God Is Glorified

January 29, 2023
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Gathering

Welcome

Prelude

Spirit Song

The prelude signals the beginning of our sacred time together. During the prelude, you are invited to prepare your heart for worship by focusing your attention upon God.

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 96:1-5

Quinn Hetherington

O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

**Sing to the Lord, bless God's name;
tell of God's salvation from day to day.**

Declare God's glory among the nations,
God's marvelous works among all the peoples.

For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;

God is to be revered above all Gods.

For all the gods of the people are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

Let us worship God, who creates, redeems and sustains us. Amen.

***Opening Prayer**

Adapted from Ephesians 5:19-21

Quinn Hetherington

O Lord, we pray that the music we make or the songs that we sing are always from our hearts to you. We pray that as we sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, we genuinely dedicate each melody to you. We thank you that through our singing we may praise you by using our songs to glorify your name. We pray that we always give you thanks in all things. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***Hymn**

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

UMH 152

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Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance

Pastor Debra

Holy God, you created the earth and all that lives with amazing creativity and in great joy. You gave us abundant life and you filled us with your love. You asked us to boldly share that love and to joyfully praise and worship you with our whole hearts. You placed no bounds on our joyful expressions of praise, empowering us with your Spirit of creativity to give you glory. Yet, we confess we seldom worship you with unbounded praise. We are often timid in our lives of worship. We often hold back our own creativity. Forgive us, God, and help us to worship you more fully in our lives. To God be the glory for all that has been done for us in Jesus Christ. Amen

The Assurance of Pardon

My fellow children of God, do not fear:

Our God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

Therefore, believe the good news of the Gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Prayer for True Singing

UMH 69

Pastor Debra

Glorious God, source of joy and righteousness, enable us as redeemed and forgiven children evermore to rejoice in singing your praises. Grant that what we sing with our lips we may believe in our hearts, and what we believe in our hearts we may practice in our lives; so that being doers of the Word and not hearers only, we may receive everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Hymn**

Blessed Assurance

UMH 369

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Passing the Peace of Christ

Quinn Hetherington

Psalm 146

¹ Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord, my soul.

² I will praise the Lord all my life;

I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

³ Do not put your trust in princes,

in human beings, who cannot save.

⁴ When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;

on that very day their plans come to nothing.

⁵ Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,

whose hope is in the Lord their God.

⁶ He is the Maker of heaven and earth,

the sea, and everything in them—

he remains faithful forever.

⁷ He upholds the cause of the oppressed

and gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets prisoners free,

⁸ the Lord gives sight to the blind,

the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down,

the Lord loves the righteous.

⁹ The Lord watches over the foreigner

and sustains the fatherless and the widow,

but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

¹⁰ The Lord reigns forever,

your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the Lord.

Ministry of Music

Lessons from Colossians 3:12-15

Choir

Introduction to the Scripture

Quinn Hetherington

The letter from Paul to the church in Ephesus may have begun as a liturgy for baptismal candidates at Pentecost. The first three chapters consist of a great prayer of blessing ending with a rapturous petition for Christ to come alive in the hearts and lives of those who have just accepted the Good News. The end result will be that they will be filled with the fullness of God whose Spirit gives them the power to love as Christ himself loved.

In these verses I read from Ephesians, chapter 3, verses 14-21, Paul gives a final benediction ascribing praise to God who is able to do far more than anyone could ever ask or imagine.

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 3:14-21

Quinn Hetherington

Paul's Prayer for the Ephesians

¹⁴ For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

The Hymn Sing

Pastor Debra

During worship today, we will join in a 15-20 minute hymn sing. We will sing selected verses from hymns that you choose—either from the *United Methodist Hymnal* or *The Faith We Sing*. This process assures that our Mrs. Jennings can have the music readily available and that the congregation has access to the words. An index of titles can be found in the back of your pew hymnal. Have your hymn number/title ready and raise your hand!

*** The Apostles' Creed**

Quinn Hetherington

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 communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

**universal*

Preparation for Prayer

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

FSW 2193

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The Prayers of the People

Pastor Debra

The Lord's Prayer

Pastor Debra

Invitation to the Offering

Quinn Hetherington

We are living, breathing messages of God's love for the world. Our faith stories, our faith songs are words of praise and expressions of our love and steadfastness hope in Jesus Christ. Like the earliest Christians, we are here in this place because of the commitment and faith and generosity of others who shared the good news of the gospel in their time. So we turn now, in our time, and share our faith and our commitment through generous giving to support the ministry of this church in Christ's name. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Teach Me Thy Way

**Doxology*

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

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!

**Prayer of Dedication*

Quinn Hetherington

We give in grateful thanksgiving for all that God has given us. In the upside down world of the gospel, we measure our wealth not by what we have, but what we can give away. Let us give away generously, in this offering, To bless your church, your people, your creation. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Closing Hymn

When In Our Music God Is Glorified

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Benediction

From Psalm 63:6-7

Pastor Debra

As we leave this place, O God, we will still remember you.

We will think of you through the night,

knowing that you are with us, that you are our help.

And so we keep singing.

We will sing in the shadow of your wings.

Today. Every day. Amen.

Choral Benediction

On Eagle's Wings

*And God will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of God's hand.*

Postlude

Celebration

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

*I sing the almighty power of God,
that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad,
and built the lofty skies.*

*I sing the wisdom that ordained
the sun to rule the day;
the moon shines full at God's command,
and all the stars obey.*

*2. I sing the goodness of the Lord,
who filled the earth with food,
who formed the creatures thru the Word,
and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed,
where'er I turn my eye,
if I survey the ground I tread,
or gaze upon the sky.*

*3. There's not a plant or flower below,
but makes thy glories known,
and clouds arise, and tempests blow,
by order from thy throne;
while all that borrows life from thee
is ever in thy care;
and everywhere that we can be,
thou, God, art present there.*

Blessed Assurance

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.*

Refrain:

***This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.***

*2. Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.*

(Refrain)

*3. Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.*

(Refrain)

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

*Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace.*

When In Our Music God Is Glorified

*When in our music God is glorified,
and adoration leaves no room for pride,
it is as though the whole creation cried
Alleluia!*

*2 How often, making music, we have found
a new dimension in the world of sound,
as worship moved us to a more profound
Alleluia!*

*3 So has the church in liturgy and song,
in faith and love, through centuries of wrong,
borne witness to the truth in every tongue,
Alleluia!*

*4 And did not Jesus sing a psalm that night
when utmost evil strove against the light?
Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight:
Alleluia!*

*5 Let every instrument be tuned for praise!
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!
And may God give us faith to sing always
Alleluia!*