

Lexington Presbyterian Church
120 South Main Street
Lexington, VA 24450
www.lexpres.org
14 March 2021
11:00AM

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

SIGN IN AND FELLOWSHIP

MUSIC OF PREPARATION

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

We give you thanks, O God, for you are good; your steadfast love endures forever.

When we cried to you with our troubles, O Lord, you saved us from our distress.

We give you thanks, O God, for your wonderful works to all of humanity.

Hear now our offerings of praise and thanksgiving, as we tell of your deeds with songs of joy.

Let us worship God!

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

God of infinite patience, we call on you once more, knowing that you have every reason to question our coming together. We have worshiped without expectation. We have gathered without diligent preparation, as if meeting you laid no requirements on us. Amid the complexities of our lives, we have forgotten to set aside time to be still before you. Sometimes we feel as if we are bitten by snakes all week long, so we assemble here for some relief and healing. O God, will you meet us as we are? Amen.

OPENING HYMN 215

What Wondrous Love Is This

A TIME OF CONFESSION

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (unison)

God of grace, we are impatient, complaining, and troubled. We love the night because it hides the evil we have done and the doubt that shows on our faces. By our self-indulgent habits, we are destroying ourselves and depriving others. As a church, we seem content to be dead in our trespasses, for we are afraid to embrace the things that come with the new life you offer. We cry out to you in trouble. Save us from our distress as we pray in silence.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Hymn 417, v. 1&3

Lord Jesus, Think on Me

***Lord Jesus, think on me, and purge away my sin.
From earthborn passions set me free, and make me pure within.***

Lord Jesus, think on me, nor let me go astray.

Through darkness and perplexity point thou the heavenly way.

The Peace (responsive)

We are washed in the waters of God's amazing grace. Let us share this good news of God's love for us: The peace of Christ be with you.

and also with you...

SPECIAL MUSIC : Scott Williamson, tenor *The Call* Ralph Vaughan Williams

[The text of the solo is printed in the announcements at the end of the bulletin.]

THE BLESSING OF OUR OFFERINGS

Prayer of Dedication

Hymn 606

The Doxology

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

HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING Numbers 21:4-9

A TIME WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE

NEW TESTAMENT READING John 3:14-21

SERMON *All In Christians*

Rev. Tom Groome

HYMN 209

My Song Is Love Unknown

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

AFFIRMATION IN SONG - Hymn 582

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

***Glory to God, whose goodness on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.***

***World without end, without end, Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.***

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

SENDING

HYMN 749

Come! Live in the Light!

BLESSING IN WORD

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE - Hymn 377, v. 1 *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*
***I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.
In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.***

FELLOWSHIP/BREAKOUT ROOMS

The **flowers** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of James G. and Kathleen "Kitty" Dunlap by Jane and Jim Dunlap and their families.

Thank you to our worship team - Andy Coffey (moderator), Mary and David Dugan (waiting room), and Doug Caldwell (cameras). **Thank you** to our guest musician, tenor Scott Williamson. **Thank you** to our ushers - Kevin Burke, Tom Shupe, Linda Franke, Buddy Bryan, Liz Shupe, Carol Bryan and Chuck Skoog.

The musical solo following the sharing of the peace, is taken from radiant *Five Mystical Songs*, composed 1906-1911 by the British musician, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), on mystical texts by the poet/priest, George Herbert (1593-1633).
The text:

THE CALL

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a way as gives us breath;
such a truth as ends all strife; such a life as killeth death.
Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: such a light as shows a feast;
such a feast as mends in length; such a strength as makes his guest.
Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: such a joy as none can move;
such a love as none can part; such a heart as joys in love.

Text: George Herbert - PUBLIC DOMAIN
Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1911 - PUBLIC DOMAIN

Lexington Presbyterian Church: Congregational Songs – MARCH 14, 2021

PUBLIC DOMAIN (text and music)

Hymn 417 Lord Jesus, Think on Me

Hymn 606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Vocal Solo The Call

COPYRIGHTS - reprinted and broadcast with permission OneLicense.net A-717842:

Hymn 215 What Wondrous Love Is This

Text: American Folk hymn, c. 1811. Text: Public Domain

Music: Walker's Southern Harmony, 1835; harm. Carlton R. Young, 1965

Music harm. © 1965 Abingdon Press (admin. The Copyright Company)

Hymn 209 My Song Is Love Unknown

Text: Samuel Crossman, 1664 Text; Public Domain

Music: John Ireland, 1918. © 1924 Trustees of the John Ireland Charitable Trust

Hymn 582 Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Text & Music: Paul M. Vasile. © 2008 Paul M. Vasile.

Hymn 749 Come! Live in the Light! (We Are Called)

Text & Music: David Hass, 1988

Text & Music: © 19 GIA Publications, Inc.

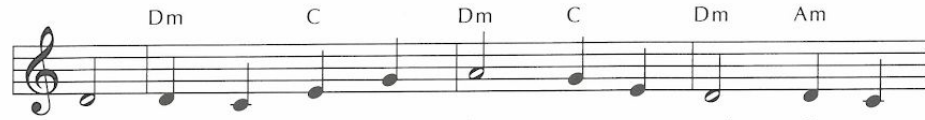
Hymn 377 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Text and Music: Kathleen Thomerson, 1966

Text and Music © 1970, 1975 Celebration.

All hymns from *Glory to God* (Westminster/John Knox Press, 2013).

What Wondrous Love Is This 215



1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing
 3 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing



soul, what won - drous love is this, O my soul! What
 down, when I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
 sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will sing; to
 on; and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this that caused the Lord of
 I was sink - ing down be - neath God's righ - teous
 God and to the Lamb who is the great I
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joy - ful



bliss to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul, for my
 frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul, for my
 AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing, I will
 be, and through e - ter - ni - ty, I'll sing on, I'll sing



soul, to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul!
 soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul!
 sing; while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing!
 on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

With its ballad-like repetitions before and after each stanza's central narrative lines, this meditative text needs performance in order to be effective. Its haunting melody proves the means of convincing us that the only adequate response to "wondrous love" is to "sing on."

My Song Is Love Unknown 209

1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to
 2 He came from heav - en's throne sal - va - tion to be -
 3 Some - times we strew his way, and his sweet prais - es
 4 Un - heed - ing, we will have our dear Lord made a -
 5 Here might I stay and sing, no sto - ry so di -

me, love to the love - less shown that they might love - ly
 stow; the world that was his own would not its Sav - ior
 sing, re - sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas to our
 way, a mur - der - er to save, the prince of life to
 vine: nev - er was love, dear King, nev - er was grief like

be. O who am I that for my sake my
 know. But O my Friend, my Friend in - deed, who
 King. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all our breath, and
 slay. Yet stead - fast he to suf - fering goes, that
 thine. This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise I

Lord should take frail flesh, and die?
 at my need his life did spend!
 for his death we thirst and cry.
 he his foes from thence might free.
 all my days could glad - ly spend.

The opening line here could equally well have been a courtier's lament for a secret affair, but it soon becomes a path into a vivid and poignant reflection on Christ's Passion. This 17th-century text is beautifully embraced by its sensitive and lyrical 20th-century tune.

749 Come! Live in the Light!

We Are Called



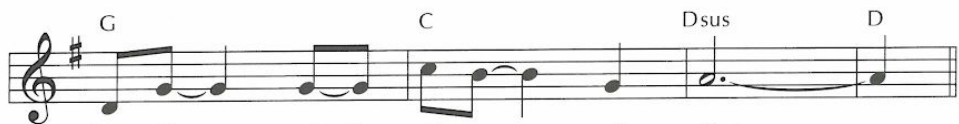
1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the
 2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your
 3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that



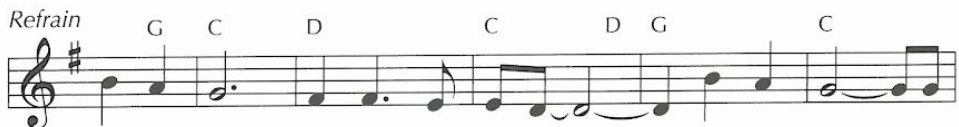
joy and the love of the Lord! We are called
 mer - cy to all those in fear! We are called
 great day when all will be one! God will reign,



to be light for the king - dom, to live in the
 to be hope for the hope - less so ha - tred and
 and we'll walk with each oth - er as sis - ters and



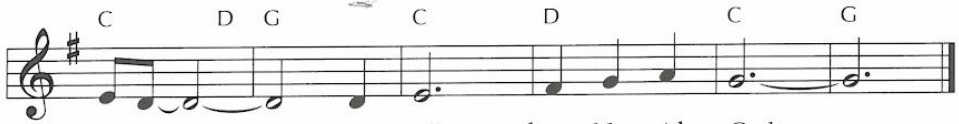
free - dom of the cit - y of God.
 vio - lence will be no more.
 broth - ers u - nit - ed in love.



Refrain
 We are called to act with jus - tice; we are called to



love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -



oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

The thematic and musical center of this hymn on the vocation of all believers is found in the refrain, which is based on the well-known challenge of Micah 6:8, "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"