

We Seek You

One: Knowing God, let us not
stray from your wise path.

All: We seek you with all our mind.

One: Righteous God, let us not
stray from your vision of justice.

All: We seek you with all our strength.

One: Loving God, let us not
stray from your course of mercy.

All: We seek you with all our heart.

One: Faithful God, let us not
stray from your lovingkindness.

All: We seek you with all our soul.

One: Your teachings are rich,
your commands are worthy,
and your precepts are wondrous.

**All: We delight in all your ways,
and we hold them in our depths.**

—Ralph McCoy
Lafayette, Indiana

"I treasure your word in my heart, so that I may not sin against you" (Psalm 119:11, NRSVie). Today's Bible readings from the lectionary: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33.

March 17, 2024, Fifth Sunday of Lent. Photo © Anne Willoughby Petry. Used by permission.
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I treasure your word in my heart

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland

*Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my mind, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

MORNING WORSHIP **10:45 AM**

March 17, 2024
Fifth Sunday in Lent

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Ed Beachley, Worship Leader

PRELUDE "Lord, Be Glorified" (Arr. Warner)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Are you feeling tired and worn out?
All: *Call on the name of the Lord.*
One: Are mistakes from the past weighing you down?
All: *Come to the fount of living water.*
One: Are you the person you wish to be?
All: *Seek God's help and it shall be granted.*
One: Are you looking for a better path?
All: *Ask Christ to show you the way.*
One: Come! Let us worship.

***HYMN #517** "Open my eyes, that I may see"

[Verse 1]

*Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me.
Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp, and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.*

Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

[Verse 2]

*Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear,
and while the wave notes fall on my ear, ev'rything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.*

Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

[Verse 3]

*Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth ev'rywhere.
Open my heart, and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.*

Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

[Verse 4]

*Open my mind, that I may read more of thy love in word and deed.
What shall I fear while yet thou dost lead? Only for light from thee I plead.*

***OPENING PRAYER**

Our souls are troubled, Holy One, until they find their rest in you. When we live in fear of our mortality, help us face the future unafraid. Write the truth of Christ's words on our hearts: "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it can only be a single seed. But if it dies, it bears much fruit." In our living and in our dying, draw us together with all your people. Amen.

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN

SERVICE OF GIVING

Call to Giving

The One who writes the law of love on our hearts, the One who saves us from the worst parts of ourselves, is here to bless us once more. In giving, we receive; in loving, we find love. Let us show our care for those in need as we offer our tithes and offerings to God.

We joyfully give as one body, both gathered in his house of worship and gathered through virtual technology. We give by placing our offerings in the plate, mailing to or dropping off at the church, or using Paypal. Together, as we give, we declare our dedication to Jesus and our obedience to serve him.

Offertory "Looking Toward the Cross" (Smith)

***Doxology** "Praise God from whom"

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us pray. With hearts washed clean and with spirits made new, we celebrate the joy of your salvation, O God. May the tithes and offerings we share this day reflect the law of love you have written on our hearts. May these gifts bear the fruit of your Spirit, and may they bless those who need it most. Amen.

MORNING ANTHEM "More About Jesus" (Shackley)
Temple Choir

SHARING OUR JOYS, CONCERNS, AND HOPES

*Please remember our worship is also on Facebook Live and our website.
Please do not share any personal information you do not want to be made public.
An usher will hold the microphone for you while you share.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN #566 *"In the cross of Christ I glory"*

[Verse 1]

In the cross of Christ I glory, tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.

All the light of sacred story, gathers round its head sublime.

[Verse 2]

*When the woes of life o'ertake me, hopes deceive and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me; lo! it glows with peace and joy.*

[Verse 3]

*When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way,
from the cross the radiance streaming, adds more luster to the day.*

[Verse 4]

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified.

Peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.

SCRIPTURE READING John 12:20-33 NT 106

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew, then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say: 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

MESSAGE *"Was that Thunder I heard?"* Pastor Twyla Rowe

*HYMN #259 *"When I survey the wondrous cross"*

[Verse 1]

*When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died, my richest
gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.*

[Verse 2]

*Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them through his blood.*

[Verse 3]

*See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?*

[Verse 4]

*Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an off'ring far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.*

*CHORAL BENEDICTION *"Old Irish Blessing"* (Agay) Temple Choir

After the Benediction, you may be seated.

Please continue in a spirit of worship as we listen to the Postlude music.

*POSTLUDE *"A Celtic Set for Lent"* (Keesecker)

*(Worship Resources - Beu, B.J.; Scifres, Mary. The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024
(p. 69, 71). Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.)*

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\*Please rise — in body or spirit — as an act of worship  
Thank you for joining us in worship today.

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