



In Preparation for Worship

“It should be a privilege to be able to say "I love you" to someone. It shouldn't be something people say just because they feel like it. A privilege that is earned. They say you have to earn the right to be loved; no, love is unconditional, if you love someone, they don't have to earn it. But. The right to tell someone that you love them? That has to be earned. You have to earn the right to be believed.”

- C. JoyBell C.

Gathering Prayer

Prelude

Spring Morning *Edward McDowell*

Welcome and Announcements

At this time, please take a moment to let us know you are worshipping online with us by sharing your name in the "comments" on our video feed.

The Light of the Hour

Hymn #692*

Spirit, Open My Heart

**Hymn sheets are located at the end of the bulletin.*

Call to Confession

Leader: The Lord be with you. Let us pray...

Prayer of Confession

God forgive us in our disbelief. We know the promises you make to us but do not live as though those promises are true. You promise life-giving abundance, but we respond with anxious hoarding. You promise hope, but we respond with fear. You promise a resurrection-world filled with miracles, but we respond with doubt-filled cynicism. As we enter a time of silence help us name our struggles and seek ways of restoration, in order to hear the words of the angel's command, "Do not be afraid." (*Silence is kept for personal reflection.*)

Leader: Lord, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Song of Praise

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God whom we adore. Amen.

Passing the Peace of Christ Passing of the Peace

We encourage you to pass the peace with your fellow worshippers in the "comments" of the video feed and to take time today to reach out and share Christ's peace with your friends, neighbors and family.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Tell Us Our Story

Catherine Anne Thomas

Sermon

What Love Is

David Lower

Meditation

Adagio *Felix Mendelssohn*

Affirmation of Faith

From A Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God.

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of the People and The 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.

Offering

*Giving is a tangible sign of worship. During this interesting time in our world, we encourage you to continue to share your time, talent and treasure. You may also "Text to Give" to **73256**. The body of the text needs to start with the keyword GIVETOSLPRES followed by the amount.*

Hymn #541*

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

**Hymn sheets are located at the end of the bulletin.*

Benediction

Postlude

Fugue on "O God Our Help in Ages Past" J.S. Bach

DEDICATION AND STEWARDSHIP

692 Spirit, Open My Heart

Capo 3: (D) (G) (D) (G) (A7)
 Refrain F B^b F B^b C7

Spir - it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of

liv - ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing

and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart. *Fine*

1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's

2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my

3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of

kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and

goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and

sis - ter, broth - er. In the wel - come of

fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.

deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.

Christ, may we wel - come one an - oth - er.

The pace and diversity of modern life often hinder us from remaining vulnerable to our emotions and to the humanness of other people. This prayerful text to be open to such joys and pains draws on Ezekiel 11:19 and 36:26 in stanza one and echoes Jeremiah 31:33 in stanza two.

TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1994
 MUSIC: Irish melody; arr. Alfred V. Fedak, 2011
 Text © 1996 The Pilgrim Press
 Music Harm. © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak

WILD MOUNTAIN THYME
 Irregular

God Be with You Till We Meet Again 541

Unison *Harmony*

1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; lov - ing coun - sels
 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; un - seen wings pro -
 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's per - ils
 4 God be with you till we meet a - gain; keep love's ban - ner

guide, up - hold you, with a shep - herd's care en - fold you:
 tect - ing hide you, dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you:
 thick con - found you, put un - fail - ing arms a - round you:
 float - ing o'er you; smite death's threat - ening wave be - fore you:

Unison

God be with you till we meet a - gain.

A North American Congregational minister wrote this text as a Christian expansion of the root sense of "good-bye": God be [with] ye/you. The tune, named for a cousin, was composed by one of the few 20th-century British composers to make a major contribution to hymnody.

TEXT: Jeremiah Eames Rankin, 1880, alt.
 MUSIC: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

RANDOLPH
 9.8.8.9
 (alternate tune: GOD BE WITH YOU, 542)