**March 5th, 2023 Second Sunday in Lent – Email/At Home Missal**

**ZOOM INFORMATION:**

**The ZOOM link for today’s service, which opens at 9.30 am on March 5th, 2023, can be found here:**

**Sunday Worship March 5th, 2023 09:30 am ZOOM room opens; service begins at 10:00 am.**

**Join Zoom Meeting click here:**[**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86144723429?pwd=bDM1S2Q5ZVY3eGxhdlhuWG9UOHIvUT09**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86144723429?pwd=bDM1S2Q5ZVY3eGxhdlhuWG9UOHIvUT09)

**Meeting ID: 861 4472 3429 Passcode: 701596**

**You don’t have to have a computer or internet to connect to any of our church Zoom services; you can also just call in on one of these numbers (long distance charges may apply): (All Canadian numbers). You can also access the ZOOM from your telephone by using the “One tap mobile” option:**

**+17789072071,,86144723429#,,,,\*701596# Canada**

**+17806660144,,86144723429#,,,,\*701596# Canada**

**Dial by your location:**

**+1 778 907 2071 Canada**

**+1 780 666 0144 Canada**

**+1 204 272 7920 Canada
+1 438 809 7799 Canada**

**+1 587 328 1099 Canada**

**+1 647 374 4685 Canada
+1 647 558 0588 Canada**

**Meeting ID: 861 4472 3429 Passcode: 701596**

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kHrnL3MpQ>
…………………………..

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THIS WEEK:**

**Lenten Discussion Series – Bless the Lent We Actually Have**

**On Zoom, Wednesdays at 7:15PM**

**The ZOOM link for this series opens at 6.45 pm.**

**Join Zoom Meeting click here**:
[**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86719040403?pwd=akxCWllYMXYySjUxNUxuUlJzTkxxQT09**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86719040403?pwd=akxCWllYMXYySjUxNUxuUlJzTkxxQT09)

**Meeting ID: 867 1904 0403 Passcode: 865095**

**March 8 – Blessed Are The Curious**

**March 15 – Blessed Are Those Who Suffer**

**March 22 – Blessed Are The Lonely**

**March 29 – Blessed Are Those Who Mourn**

Each session will be about 45 mins. You’re invited to join us for any or all, as you are able and interested. For more information, contact Pastor Laura at pastor@st-peters-cambridge.org

1. **……………………….**

**Here is the YouTube link for the sermon from this past Sunday’s (February 26th) service:** [**https://youtu.be/OVoI5YZLvRI**](https://youtu.be/OVoI5YZLvRI)

**……………..……….**

**Organ Recital Series**

**Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Wolff Opus VIII Organ**

**Bradley Moggach Sunday March 19, 2023 at 3:00 PM**

**$10.00 at the door (Students free)**

**…………………………………**

The **annual meeting** will be held in the sanctuary on March 26 following worship. Coffee and tea will be available (no potluck). Annual reports will be handed out to the congregation on March 12, 2023.

**………………………**

**PASTORAL VISITS: Pastor Laura Sauder is available** for safe visits with social distancing requirements in place, and also for telephone visits. Please reach out to her by calling the church office at 519-653-4721 to arrange a visit.

**……………………….**

1. **Presiding Pastor: Rev. Laura Sauder**
2. **Organist & Director of Music: Bradley Moggach**

**Land Acknowledgement:**

**C: With thankful hearts we acknowledge that the land upon which we live and worship here at St Peter’s is the treaty land of the Six Nations, comprising in part the territory of the Haudenosaunee, Anishinaabe and Neutral Peoples. This land is covered by treaties such as the Dish with One Spoon Treaty, the Two Row Wampum Treaty and the Haldimand Treaty of 1784. As we continue to learn more about the truth of our shared history, we desire to grow in Peace, Friendship and Respect, leading ultimately to true reconciliation.**

**Confession & Forgiveness:**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

who looks upon us in compassion,

forgives our sin,

and heals our lives.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Have mercy, O God,

***C: against you, you alone,***

***we have sinned.***

***In your compassion,***

***cleanse us from our sin***

***and take away our guilt.***

***Create in us a new heart***

***and give us a steadfast spirit.***

***Do not cast us away,***

***but fill us with your Holy Spirit***

***and restore your joy within us.***

***Amen.***

As tender as parent to child,

so deep is God’s compassion for you.

As high as heaven is above earth,

so vast is God’s love for you.

As far as east is from west,

so far God removes your sin from you,

renewing your life through Jesus Christ.

Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.

***C: Blessed be God forever.***

**Gathering Hymn: ACS # 924 ‘As the Winter Days Grow Longer’**

1 As the winter days grow longer,

 drawing short the hours of night;

 as our eager expectation

 waits for Easter's dawning light—

 yearning people, here we gather,

 turning watchful eyes to you:

 God who blesses earth with springtime,

 shine within our world anew!

2 As the vines burst into blossom,

 fragrant in the morning air,

 lifting spirits with their sweetness,

 luring hearts to thankful prayer—

 Lenten people, here we gather,

 seeking lives refreshed from sin.

 God who blesses earth with springtime,

 bloom within our hearts again!

3 As we journey through this season,

 pilgrims through a thirsty land,

 quench us with your living presence;

 guide us with your loving hand.

 Wand'ring people, here we gather,

 called to rest along our way.

 God who blesses earth with springtime,

 grant us sabbath joy this day!

*(Title: As the Winter Days Grow Longer; Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953; Text © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved Used by permission. Music: Welsh melody; Arr. © 2020 Augsburg Fortress; All rights reserved Used by permission. Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Greeting**:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

**Kyrie: ELW Setting 4 (page 147)(sung)**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above,

and for our salvation,

let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world,

for the well-being of the Church of God,

and for the unity of all,

let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house,

and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**Prayer of the Day**:

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.\***

**Lesson Introduction: (Pastor Laura)z**

**Genesis 12:1-4a**

Abram – or Abraham as he later became known – is often remembered for being obedient to God. But he also had to have been naturally curious, and certainly adventurous, to take God up on this plan – to take his family and move with them to a foreign land.

As settler Canadians, we are all descended from folks who took similarly bold risks. Often because they needed to; but also because they had curiosity and a hope that the unknown would offer blessing.

God makes it clear that this venture would bring blessing not only for Abram and his family, but for all the families of the earth.

Ventures into the unknown are rarely easy, but Abram’s story shows us that there is indeed blessing in curiosity. Let us listen to the word…

**The Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a**

The Lord said to Abram, “Leave your land, your family, and your father’s household for the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation and will bless you. I will make your name respected, and you will be a blessing.

I will bless those who bless you,
    those who curse you I will curse;
        all the families of the earth
            will be blessed because of you.”

Abram left just as the Lord told him, and Lot went with him. *(CEB)*

Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**\*

**Psalm: Psalm 121 *(expressed in song) -* Hymn ACS # 1080 ‘Total Praise’**

Lord I will lift my eyes to the hills
Knowing my help is coming from You
Your peace You give me in time of the storm

You are the source of my strength
You are the strength of my life
I lift my hands in total praise to You

Lord I will lift my eyes to the hills
Knowing my help is coming from You
Your peace You give me in time of the storm

You are the source of my strength
You are the strength of my life
I lift my hands in total praise to You

Amen, amen.

Amen, amen.

Amen, amen.

Amen, amen.

*(Title: Total Praise; Text: Richard Smallwood, b. 1948;* © 1996 Bridge Building Music, Inc. (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.); All rights reserved; Used by permission. *Music:* *Richard Smallwood; arr. Stephen F. Key; T. Autumn Music (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.);* All rights reserved; Used by permission. *Reprinted and Streamed with permission under CCLI, License # 11098609. All rights reserved.)*

**Children’s Message: *(Pastor Laura)***

**Gospel Acclamation: Lenten Acclamation from Setting 4 *(ELW page # 151)***

Return to the Lord, your God,

for he is gracious and merciful,

slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.\*

**The Holy Gospel according to John 3:1-17**

***C: Glory to you, O Lord.***

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a Jewish leader. He came to Jesus at night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one could do these miraculous signs that you do unless God is with him.”

Jesus answered, “I assure you, unless someone is born anew, it’s not possible to see God’s kingdom.”

Nicodemus asked, “How is it possible for an adult to be born? It’s impossible to enter the mother’s womb for a second time and be born, isn’t it?”

Jesus answered, “I assure you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, it’s not possible to enter God’s kingdom. Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. Don’t be surprised that I said to you, ‘You must be born anew.’ God’s Spirit blows wherever it wishes. You hear its sound, but you don’t know where it comes from or where it is going. It’s the same with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Nicodemus said, “How are these things possible?”

“Jesus answered, “You are a teacher of Israel and you don’t know these things? I assure you that we speak about what we know and testify about what we have seen, but you don’t receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you don’t believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has gone up to heaven except the one who came down from heaven, the Human One. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so must the Human One be lifted up so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won’t perish but will have eternal life. God didn’t send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him.  *(CEB)*

The Gospel of the Lord.***C: Praise to you, O Christ***

**Sermon**

**John 3:1-17 – Blessed Are The Curious**

When I was in high school, I spent two summers working on staff at a fairly conservative, evangelical church camp. I’d been a camper there for many years and it was a place dear my heart. The big draw was that this camp had horseback riding, but the friendships and faith focus are what became most important.

I can still remember my struggles though, often not feeling “Christian” enough as a Lutheran among my evangelical friends. They all prayed so eloquently and fervently, they seemed to know their Bibles inside and out, and they always seemed to know exactly what it was they believed. I wanted to be as certain about my faith as they seemed to be, but I just wasn’t. I had a lot of questions and a lot of doubts. And the answers I got from this community didn’t always satisfy.

Fast forward a few years and I was in my early 20s, doing an undergraduate degree in Religious Studies, and having worked a few summers at a different camp. Kinasao Lutheran Bible Camp in Northern Saskatchewan, where I’d discovered a wonderful community of fellow Lutherans who were also passionate about their faith. But still I wrestled with the fact that I had so many questions and doubts about God and faith.

During the school year I worked at the Regina YMCA as a lifeguard, and one shift I was working with a guard named Chris. Chris was a few years older than me, and studying to become a pastor in the Alliance church. On a break we got talking about faith, and I worked up the courage to confess my struggles.

I remember being nervous, even ashamed, to admit that I was having doubts about God and faith, so I very cautiously said something like, “it’s not that I doubt God…” when Chris jumped in and said, “why not? I doubt God all the time!”

I’m sure he doesn’t remember this conversation, but for me, his affirmation was everything. If someone like him; someone who took their faith seriously – someone who was studying to be a pastor – also had doubts and questions, then maybe I was going to be ok.

Having now studied something about faith development and the stages of faith, I know how normal this is. We all crave answers – they offer a sense of comfort and security. And as we get older and learn more about the world, the answers that made sense to us when we were kids are challenged.

So how do we handle this? There some strands of Christianity that double down on the answers. They claim to have it all figured out, and so if you have questions or doubts about their teachings, *you* are the problem. Having questions or doubts means that *you* just don’t have enough faith.

The other response, and the one where I find myself these days, is that faith – like the world – is not simple. There aren’t answers to every question on this side of life; and as seekers, our task is to make peace with mystery. And to keep asking questions, even when the answers seem elusive.

Nicodemus comes to Jesus by night, seeking answers to his questions. A religious leader and teacher, Nicodemus is curious about this Jesus. He’s seen Jesus around Jerusalem, drawing crowds and performing signs. He thinks there might be something special and different about Jesus, so he seeks out a private audience with him.

Nicodemus is often portrayed as ignorant or stupid. Because he’s a rabbi – a teacher of Israel – he’s one who *should* understand exactly what Jesus is about. He should get it! But in the conversation that unfolds, he just can’t seem to follow Jesus’ line of thinking. Poor Nicodemus seems to ask all the wrong questions.

And so we judge Nicodemus. But I wonder, would any of us have fared any better in this situation? Would we have known the right questions to ask?

Reading the words on the page, it’s hard to discern the tone of Jesus’ responses to Nicodemus.

Perhaps Jesus *is* admonishing him. I think that’s often how we read Jesus in this story. “Come on Nicodemus you really should know this stuff!”

Or maybe Jesus is simply surprised? “Nicodemus, do you *really* not know how this works?”

Or could it be possible that Jesus is challenging Nicodemus to go deeper. Perhaps he sees that spiritual seeker within, and his cryptic responses are in fact meant to push Nicodemus to keep on asking questions, to keep searching, to keep on wondering.

Nicodemus seems to ask the wrong questions; But perhaps they were exactly the right questions. Because this dialogue – this back and forth – is what opens space for Jesus to offer the most important teaching.

For God so loved the world that God gave God’s only Son.

Unending, undying, unconditional love.

For the sake of the world.

This message is repeated again and again in John’s gospel. This is the heart of Christian faith. God’s love – God’s abundant and overflowing love – grace upon grace. For all.

I don’t know if Nicodemus knew what exactly he was looking for that night, but I feel like this word about God’s love for the whole world stuck with him.

Because this is not the last appearance Nicodemus makes in John’s gospel. He shows up a little while later and defends Jesus to some of his fellow Pharisees. And at the end, he accompanies Joseph of Arimathea to prepare Jesus’ body for burial after the crucifixion.

These two small glimpses show us that Nicodemus may indeed have found what he was looking for that night. He could have easily been turned off for the way Jesus spoke to him. But instead, Nicodemus seems to have heard Jesus’ invitation to continue on this exploration of faith; realizing that indeed Jesus was not just another teacher but was in fact the savior he had been searching for his whole life.

Nicodemus’ example shows us that doubts and curiosity are signs of a true and living faith. And we can be certain that when our searching and our wondering and our questions lead us to love and understanding and compassion and grace, then we are on the right track.

So bring your questions and doubts to Jesus.

Know that God is big enough to hold them.

Know that they are gifts that can lead you to a deeper kind of faith and understanding.

And know that in your seeking, in your curiosity, you are blessed. AMEN

**Hymn of the Day: ACS # 1005 ‘Ask the Complicated Questions’**

1 Ask the complicated questions.

 Do not fear to be found out;

 for our God makes strong our weakness,

 forging faith in fires of doubt.

2 Seek the disconcerting answers,

 follow where the Spirit blows;

 test competing truths for wisdom,

 for in tension new life grows.

3 Knock on doors of new ideas,

 test assumptions long grown stale,

 for Christ calls from shores of wonder,

 daring us to try and fail.

4 For in struggle we discover

 truth both simple and profound;

 in the knocking, asking, seeking,

 we are opened, answered, found.

 *(Title: Ask the Complicated Questions; Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984; Text © 2018 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Music: W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835; arr. Hymnal version; Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress; All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Prayers of Intercession:**

A: Sustained by God’s abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

O God, you so love your church. Raise up leaders who care for your people. Bless us with the gift of curiosity that we might be ready to learn and experience the new things you are doing among us and in our world. Merciful God, ***C: receive our prayer*.**

O God, you so love your creation. Breathe new life into our planetary home. Guide the work of researchers, scientists, and activists who love your earth and who inspire us to care for the natural world. Merciful God, ***C: receive our prayer*.**

O God, you so love the world. Uphold leaders who resist tyranny and oppression. Strengthen organizations that promote peace and harmony. Direct their work to alleviate human suffering and to address its root causes. Merciful God, ***C: receive our prayer*.**

O God, you so love your people. Draw near to all who live with mental illness, depression, or addiction, and accompany them in healing and recovery. Hear the cries of those who look to you in their distress. Especially we pray for Bill, Don, Tammy, Alice, Don, Lynn, Bryan, Nansea, Helen, Sharon, Donald, Katherina, Creena, Shirley, Maya, Karen, Clara, Carol, Jeff, Aaron, Mackenzie, Rhett, Linda, Pat, Jan, Ken, Lena, Brian, John, and those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts….. Merciful God, ***C: receive our prayer*.**

O God, you so love your children. Bless the young in our midst, and delight us with their joy, wonder, and curiosity. Revive our ministries of learning and equip us all for faithful discipleship. Merciful God, ***C: receive our prayer*.**

O God, you so love your saints. This day we give thanks for the life and witness of Bishop Bill Huras who now rests with you. As he and all our ancestors in the faith have been a blessing to us, so inspire us by their example of holy living to be a blessing to those who come after us. Merciful God, ***C: receive our prayer*.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.\***

**Share the peace of Christ:**

The Peace of Christ be with you always.

***C: And also with you.*\***

Our worship continues with the offering of our gifts.

**Offering**

**Offertory Music: ELW # 481 ‘Come to the Table’**

Come to the table of mercy,

prepared with the wine and the bread.

All who are hungry and thirsty,

come, and your souls will be fed.

Come at the Lord's invitation;

receive from his nail-scarred hand.

Eat of the bread of salvation;

drink of the blood of the Lamb.

*(Title: Come to the Table; Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942; Text © 1991 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP) c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695; Juniper Landing Music (admin. Word Music); and Word Music (ASCAP). All rights reserved. Used by permission.*

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**Offering Prayer:**

A: God of good gifts,

receive these and all our offerings

as we present them in faithful service

for the sake of your gospel.

Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal

as you pour out your very presence

through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.

**Amen.\***

**You are invited to prepare your table with bread and wine, or crackers and juice, whatever is available to you, so that you may participate in the meal.**

**Meal: Click here for the communion liturgy from worship on YouTube:**

[**https://youtu.be/HsiaRdyFr50**](https://youtu.be/HsiaRdyFr50)

**ELW Setting 4: ‘Dialogue…’ (page 152)**

The Lord be with you. ***C: And also with you. (Sung)***

Lift up your hearts. ***C: We lift them to the Lord.***

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. ***C: It is right to give our thanks and praise***

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,

through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts

and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,

that, renewed in the gift of baptism,

we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,

with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**ELW Setting 4: ‘Holy, Holy, Holy…’ *(page 153)***

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

Lord God of pow’r and might:

Heav’n and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

On the night before he died,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**The Lord’s Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those

who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and forever.

Amen.

**Communion:**

This is Christ’s table. No matter where you are on the journey, you are welcome here to receive God’s good gifts of love, mercy, grace, and forgiveness.

I invite those at home, and those in the building communing by fellowship cup, to take your bread or cracker as we say together, “The body of Christ, given for us.”

And, as we take our cup we say, “The blood of Christ, shed for us.”

**Communion Music: ELW # 592 ‘Just As I Am, without One Plea’**

1 Just as I am, without one plea,

 but that thy blood was shed for me,

 and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,

 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

2 Just as I am, though tossed about

 with many a conflict, many a doubt,

 fightings and fears within, without,

 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

3 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,

 wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;

 because thy promise I believe,

 O Lamb of God, I come, I come,

4 Just as I am; thy love unknown

 has broken ev'ry barrier down;

 now to be thine, yea, thine alone,

 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

*(Title: Just As I Am, without One Plea; Text: Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871; Public Domain; Music:* *William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868; Public Domain; Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

L: May the body and blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ strengthen you, and keep you, in his grace.

***C: Amen.***

**ELW Setting 1: ‘Now Lord you let your servant…’ *(page 113)***

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:

your word has been fulfilled.

My own eyes have seen the salvation

which you have prepared

in the sight of ev’ry people:

a light to reveal you to the nations

and the glory of your people Israel.

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace.\*

**Prayer after Communion:**

A: Embodied God,

at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.

With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,

empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors

and touch the world with your love. **Amen.\***

**Blessing:**

Blessed are we in the tender place

between curiosity and dread,

We who wonder how to be whole,

when dreams have disappeared and

part of us with them,

where mastery, control, determination,

bootstrapping, and grit,

are consigned to the realm of before

(where most of the world lives),

in the fever dream that promises infinite

choices, unlimited progress, best life now.

Blessed are we in the after,

forced into stories we never

would have written.

Far outside of answers to questions

we even know to ask.

God, show us a glimmer of possibility

in this new constraint,

that small truths will be given back to us.

We are held.

We are safe.

We are loved.

We are loved.

We are loved.

Amen.\*\*

**Sending Hymn: ELW # 796 ‘How Firm a Foundation’**

1 How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,

 is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word!

 What more can he say than to you he has said

 who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?

2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,

 for I am your God and will still give you aid;

 I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,

 upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."

3 "When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,

 my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply.

 The flames shall not hurt you; I only design

 your dross to consume and your gold to refine."

4 "Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove

 my sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;

 and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn,

 like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne."

*(Title: How Firm a Foundation; Text: J. Rippon, A Selection of Hymns, 1787, alt.; Public Domain; Music: Early American; Public Domain*

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**Dismissal:**

A: Go in peace. Serve in Love.

**C: Thanks be to God.\***

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