**November 12th, 2023 Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost – Email/At Home Missal**

**The ZOOM link for today’s service, which opens at 9.30 am on November 12th, 2023, can be found here:**

**Sunday Worship November 12th, 2023 09:30 am ZOOM room opens; service begins at 10:00 am.**

**Join Zoom Meeting click here:**[**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83858523329?pwd=UUpVdCtkTDB0MWhTVkhjSmxvWjFnUT09**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83858523329?pwd=UUpVdCtkTDB0MWhTVkhjSmxvWjFnUT09)

**Meeting ID: 838 5852 3329 Passcode: 629887**

**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:**

**+12042727920,,83858523329#,,,,\*629887# Canada**

**+14388097799,,83858523329#,,,,\*629887# Canada**

**Dial by your location:**

**+1 778 907 2071 Canada**

**+1 780 666 0144 Canada**

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+1 438 809 7799 Canada**

**+1 587 328 1099 Canada**

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+1 647 558 0588 Canada**

**Meeting ID: 838 5852 3329 Passcode: 629887**

**Find your local number:** [**https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kz0pHIt5i**](https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kz0pHIt5i)

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**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 12TH-NOVEMBER 19TH 2023:**

**Here is the YouTube link for the service from last Sunday, November 5th, 2023:** [**https://youtu.be/zI9whVh84VQ**](https://youtu.be/zI9whVh84VQ)

1. **……………………………….**
2. **Coming Events** *(save these dates)* ***bold print - events being held here at St. Peter’s***
3. Nov. 12 Bless this Night – Vespers 23’ at 5:30 pm (*Martin Luther University College)*
4. Nov. 12 Baroque and Beyond; A Musicians Fundraiser *(St. Jacobs Mennonite Church)*
5. **Nov. 15** **Bible Study at 10:30 am**
6. Nov. 16 Theatre of the Beat – I Love You and It Hurts *(Fairview Menn.Home 2 & 7 pm)*
7. Nov. 18 Christmas Bazaar (Too Good to be Through) (9 am – 2 pm)
8. Dec. 8 Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol at 7:30 pm
9. Dec. 10 Menno Singers, Mennonite Mass Choir Handel’s Messiah *(Centre in the Square)*
10. **Dec. 17 Pulled Pork Lunch & Silent Auction following Worship**

## The Life of St. Peter’s for the week of November 12 - November 18, 2023

1. Monday 6:00 pm TOPS - R.F.F. *(Art Room)*
2. **7:00 pm Min. of Learning & Worship & Rad. Hospitality Mtg.***(Parlour)*
3. Tuesday 7:00 pm Scouts - R.F.F. *(Scout Room, Art Room, Fellowship Hall)*
4. Wednesday **10:30 am Bible Study** *(Art Room)*
5. Thursday
6. Friday
7. Saturday **09:00 am Christmas Bazaar** *(Fellowship Hall)*
8. 09:00 am Windjammers Practice *(Sanctuary)*
9. **1:30 pm Choir Practice** *(Sanctuary)*
10. Sunday **10:00 pm Worship Service** – A passage from **Isaiah 5:1-7; 11:1-5** *(Israel is pictured as a vineyard. God looks for the fruit of righteousness but finds only injustice. God promises a faithful king who will judge with righteousness.)*
11. **……………………………….**
12. **Pastoral Visit:** Pastor Laura is available for visits by appointment by calling the church office, 519-653-4721. Whether you have a particular pastoral concern or would just like some one-to-one time to get to know Pastor Laura, she would love to meet with you.
13. **……………………………….**
14. **Prayer List:** Bill, Don, Alice, Don, Lynn, Helen, Sharon, Donald, Shirley, Clara, Carol, Jeff, Aaron, Mackenzie, Rhett, Jan, Ken, Lee, Maria, Deborah, Fred, Anne.
15. **……………………………….**

## We need you to help feed our neighbourhood! The freedom Centre has joined with Cambridge Community Table to offer a meal to our community twice a month on Tuesday night. We need volunteers: Food Preparation, set up, take down, meet and Greet. Every hour you can give once or twice a month. Call for information 519-591-6518 or email [rosemary@freedomcentre.ca](mailto:rosemary@freedomcentre.ca).

1. **……………………………….**
2. **Gaza Humanitarian Emergency** – CLWR and the Humanitarian Coalition are responding to the humanitarian emergency unfolding in Gaza. Please join us in prayer and consider making a gift to provide critical life-saving aid to those affected. To find out more or to donate, please visit clwr.org/gaza or call 1-800-661-2597 (Mon-Fri 8:30am -
3. 4pm CST).
4. **……………………………….**
5. **Weekly Bible Study**: This will take place on Wednesdays at 10:30 am in the Art Room. Everyone is welcome!
6. **……………………………….**
7. **Bless this Night – Vespers ’23:** Evening Prayer Honouring God's Holy Darkness with interfaith & cross-cultural Storytellers for adults & children. Sundays at 5:30 pm at Martin Luther University College. **Nov. 12**: 2:00 pm Racial Justice Dialogue, 4:00 pm potluck, 5:30 Vespers; **Nov. 19**: 2:00 pm Print Making Workshop, 4:00 pm potluck, 5:30 pm Vespers. Kids are invited to wear pajamas.
8. **…………………………..**
9. **Sunday, November 12, 2023, 7:00pm** – St Jacobs Mennonite Church (1310 King St. N, St Jacobs) is hosting **Musicians of the KW Symphony in a Fundraising Concert entitled ‘Baroque and Beyond... A Musicians’ Fundraiser.’** This concert of Baroque music will be conducted by Andre Feher and feature Ian Whitman on solo bass and guest soprano Bethany Horst.
10. **…………………………..**
11. **Thursday, November 16, 2023** – Theatre of the Beat – I Love You And It Hurts – Fairview Mennonite Home 791 Concession Rd, Cambridge, at 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm. Admission by Donation. Women’s Crisis Services.
12. **…………………………..**
13. **Sunday, December 10, 2023, 3:00pm. Menno Singers and Mennonite Mass Choir present Handel’s Messiah**  with artistic director Brandon Leis, a 230 voice choir, soloists Bethany Hörst (soprano), Jennifer Enns Modolo (mezzo soprano), Owen McCausland (tenor) and Nathan Keoughan (baritone) along with orchestra members of the former KW Symphony. Tickets are on sale now at the Centre in the Square Box Office. [www.centreinthesquare.com](http://www.centreinthesquare.com)

**…………………………..**

1. **Presiding Pastor: Rev. Laura Sauder**
2. **Organist I Director of Music: Bradley Moggach**
3. **Assisting Minister: Helga Morrison**
4. **Reader: Helga Morrison**

**Land Acknowledgement:**

A: With good and grateful hearts we acknowledge that the land upon which we live, work, play, and worship, is the same land upon which the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, and the Attawandaron (or Neutral) peoples first lived, worked, played, and prayed to Creator. Calling the earth upon which they stood, Mother Earth, they cared for the earth as they would care for their mother. Let us take an example from our Indigenous forbears and neighbours, and show gratitude to our Mother Earth. May we be ever mindful of what she has provided for us, even to the next seven generations.

**Welcome remarks**

**Gathering Rite for Advent:**

P: Each week as we approach the Advent

of our Saviour Jesus Christ,

we acknowledge what God’s people

have always known:

**C: Even when God is active in this world,**

**hope is a work in progress.**

P: There are so many people and places and times

still awaiting God’s goodness.

And yet we trust, O God, that through your love,

**C: a familiar light can banish the fear of the other;**

P: Through your love,

**C: the warmth of good cheer**

**can extinguish cold-hearted injustice.**

P: Through your love,

**C: the song of faith**

**can rekindle hope for the hopeless.**

**Candle is lit as we sing chorus of ELW # 723 ‘Canticle of the Turning’**

**Chorus**

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring.**

**Let the fires of your justice burn.**

**Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,**

**and the world is about to turn.**

*(Title: Canticle of the Turning; Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat; Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Music: Irish Traditional; arr. © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.*

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P: May this candle be a sign

that God’s goodness still burns brightly

even when it seems fragile, temporary,

easily extinguished.

When we yet wonder:

How long must this world wait

to see God’s glory?

Know this truth:

You are God’s people,

Called to serve this world

and to let your light shine.

Let the fire of justice burn in your heart,

for the dead still cry

for the flicker of new life we carry.

*(Source: Adapted from “My Heart Shall Sing” Advent Candle-lighting by Barn Geese Worship, licensed under CC BY-NC 4.0. )*

**Gathering Hymn: ACS # 1040 ‘Love Has Brought Us Here Together’**

1 Love has brought us here together;

love of fam'ly, love of friends;

love, our vow till death should part us;

love, God's gift, that never ends.

From our birth, throughout our lifetime,

love's insistence calls our name.

Floods of waters cannot drown it

or put out its dancing flame.

2 Love is gentle, love is patient,

soft in words and kind in deeds.

Love is strong and never pompous;

love puts first the other's needs.

Not quick-tempered or resentful,

prone to take offense or brood,

love excels in grace and mercy,

never jealous, never rude.

3 Love does not rejoice at evil;

love rejoices in the right.

Keen in giving and forgiving,

spreading love is love's delight.

When two people pledge their union,

all who witness are renewed,

feasting at love's earthly banquet,

tasting heav'n's beatitude.

*(Title: Love Has Brought Us Here Together; Text:**Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953; Text © 2010 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Music: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887; Public Domain; Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Greeting**:

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

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

**Theme Time**

**Prayer of the Day**:

Faithful God, you have continued to love your people despite our faithlessness to you. Receive our thanks for never giving up on us. **Amen.**

*(by Kimberly Leetch - source: http://www. narrativelectionary.org)*

**Acclamation: ‘Listen’**

Listen, Listen

          Be open, O my heart.

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**Reader**:

A passage **Hosea 11:1-9.** May we be equipped by these words to walk in love for God, ourselves, our neighbours, all people, and all God’s creation. **(Brief pause)**

When Israel was a child, I loved him,  
        and out of Egypt I called my son.  
The more I called them,  
        the further they went from me;  
    they kept sacrificing to the Baals,  
        and they burned incense to idols.  
Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk;  
        I took them up in my arms,  
        but they did not know that I healed them.  
I led them  
        with bands of human kindness,  
        with cords of love.  
    I treated them like those  
        who lift infants to their cheeks;  
        I bent down to them and fed them.

They will return to the land of Egypt,  
        and Assyria will be their king,  
        because they have refused to return to me.  
The sword will strike wildly in their cities;  
        it will consume the bars of their gates  
        and will take everything because of their schemes.  
My people are bent on turning away from me;  
        and though they cry out to the Most High,  
        he will not raise them up.

How can I give you up, Ephraim?  
        How can I hand you over, Israel?  
    How can I make you like Admah?  
        How can I treat you like Zeboiim?  
    My heart winces within me;  
        my compassion grows warm and tender.

I won’t act on the heat of my anger;  
        I won’t return to destroy Ephraim;  
    for I am God and not a human being,  
        the holy one in your midst;  
    I won’t come in harsh judgment. (CEB)

The Living God is with us. **C: And with all creation! Thanks be to God.**

**Engaging with the Story**

**Hosea 11:1-9**

Although Hosea comes onto the scene a whole century after Elijah, some things haven’t changed much. Even after Elijah’s impressive showdown with the prophets of Baal (which we heard about last week), the people have gone back to worshiping foreign gods.

Like Elijah before him, Hosea calls the people to remember their story – to remember who they are – and to turn from their idolatrous and unfaithful ways. But nothing he can say seems to be enough to change the people’s ways.

Something that quickly becomes apparent reading Hosea’s words is how deeply this unfaithfulness pains God. Throughout the entire book there is the same tension we see in the verses that were read in worship today. This tension between God’s anger and God’s love for the people.

No matter how recalcitrant the people are.

No matter how rebellious they are.

No matter how hurt and angry this makes God.

God just can’t give them up.

Hosea uses the metaphor of a parent and a child to speak about the relationship between the people of Israel and God. Those who have raised or cared for or loved a child, can likely appreciate the complexity of emotion God is expressing in this moment.

Raising up children is both incredibly beautiful and painful; joyful and challenging.

One of the things I love about Hosea’s use of this metaphor is that he captures the fullness of that experience. This is a parent God who feels all of the feelings toward their children, including anger.

Anger is an aspect of God’s character that can be more difficult for us to consider. I much prefer talking about God’s mercy than God’s wrath. And yet, sometimes there are things worth being angry about. Injustice and unfaithfulness are worth being angry about. What is most critical, is that in the end, God sets aside anger and chooses compassion.

At the end of the day, God’s compassion overwhelms God’s anger.

Hosea offers us a beautiful vision of God’s compassion for God’s people. A compassion that we experience as Christians, most fully in the incarnation. In God’s choice to take on human flesh and to experience the fullness of human life, even unto and including a self-sacrificial death on the cross.

There can be a tendency among Christians to talk about God of the Old Testament and God of the New Testament as this shift from a God of wrath or judgment to a God of love and mercy. Hopefully in our journey through the stories of the Hebrew Scriptures this fall you’ve seen enough examples of God’s love and mercy to understand that this just isn’t true. And Hosea’s prophetic words most certainly challenge this idea.

God’s suffering and compassion in Jesus and on the cross isn’t a new development in the story, but simply a continuation of this existing trajectory. God has always had love and compassion for God’s people. And that hasn’t changed.

The world can feel like a pretty hard place to be a lot of days. Stresses and challenges in our personal lives. Often overwhelming pain and suffering in the world around us. One of the hard truths of life is that God’s love can’t save us from anything.

God’s love, in the end, couldn’t save the kingdom of Israel from invasion and destruction by the Assyrians just a few years after Hosea issued these warnings.

And God’s love can’t save us from every harm. But God’s love can sustain us through any and every thing that threatens to overwhelm us. This is an Advent promise worth hanging on to.

One of the questions we ponder in the season of Advent is how do we prepare the way of the Lord? How do we, in the face of very real pain and suffering, witness to the hope and the promise that it won’t always be this way?

For me, this week, it feels like looking to God’s example is a good place to start. Yes, feel all of the feelings – feel the anger, the grief, the sadness, the pain – and, when you can, as much as you can, choose compassion.

What is compassion? It’s “the daily practice of recognizing and accepting our shared humanity so that we treat ourselves and others with loving-kindness.”[[1]](#footnote-1)

It’s recognising that each one of us has a story of pain and suffering. My pain may not the same as your pain, but compassion begins when we understand and accept that we’re all made of strength and struggle. Compassion begins when we understand and accept that no one is immune to pain or suffering.[[2]](#footnote-2)

Compassion isn’t for the faint of heart.

It can be risky in a world that wants easy answers; or that wants things to be black and white – the “either you’re with us or you’re against us” kind of thing.

Compassion can be risky in a world that often views compassion as weakness. It’s a vulnerable thing to practice compassion when so many simply want revenge or retribution.

And yet, if we want to prepare the way of the Lord, compassion is our calling.

To be curious about those who are different from us.

To recognize and seek the humanity in our enemies.

To pay attention and respond to the suffering around us.

My Advent prayer for us this morning is that our parent God, who is ever compassionate towards us, will help us each day to choose compassion over anger. As we long for more compassion and kindness in our world, may God help us to be vessels of compassion in this hurting world. AMEN.

Brown, Brene. *Atlas of the Heart*. Random House, 2021: page 118.

2 Ibid.

**Hymn of the Day: ACS # 1047 ‘What Is the World Like’**

1 What is the world like when God's will is done?

Mustard seeds grow more than we can conceive:

roots thread the soil; branches reach for the sun.

This is how God moves us each to believe.

2 What is the world like when God's will is done?

Witness the wandering child coming home;

watch as the parent breaks into a run.

This is how God longs for us when we roam.

3 What is the world like when God's will is done?

No more is neighbor just ally or friend;

peace thrives in places where once there was none.

This is how God works when rivalries end.

4 What is the world like when God's will is done?

Ready for feasting, we watch through the night,

tending our lamps till the new day's begun.

This is how God readies us for the light.

5 These are the stories that Jesus imparts,

filled with the Spirit who joins us as one.

Born through our voices, our hands, and our hearts,

this is a new world where God's will is done.

*(Title:**What Is the World Like; Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979; Text © 2009 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Music: Sally Ann Morris, b. 1952; Music © 2009 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Prayers of Intercession:**

A:Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

O God for whom we wait, lead us again with bands of kindness and cords of love. Deepen our faith through meaningful worship and send us out with your justice and truth. Hear us, O God. **C:** **Your mercy is great.**

O God for whom we watch, we glimpse your power in rushing water and your beauty in the darkening night. Restore this creation, and provide clean water to all people and animals. Save us from foolish, wasteful living. Hear us, O God. **C:** **Your mercy is great.**

O God for whom we long, let justice roll down like waters on all nations. Bless citizens with wise leaders; save your children from war. We pray for your peace to reign in the Holy Land, and every place of war. Hear us, O God. **C:** **Your mercy is great.**

O God, in whom we hope, we pray for all who are in need. Provide for those who experience homelessness or hunger, support the under- or unemployed, and comfort any who are suffering this day (especially we pray for Maria, Linda, Tammy, all your beloved children on our prayer list, and all those we name before you now aloud or in the silence of our hearts… ). Hear us, O God. **C:** **Your mercy is great.**

O God for whom we listen, inspire the music ministry of our congregation. Fill our worship with songs to proclaim your greatness. Help us to sing and dance with joy and tell boldly of your salvation. We give thanks for our music director Brad and ask that you bless him and keep him in your care. Hear us, O God. **C:** **Your mercy is great.**

O God who binds us together into one great family, we pray for our siblings in Christ: for the people of Cross Roads Church and their pastor Melissa Richer; for Bishop Susan and all the staff of our national church. May each one of our communities witness to your love and goodness. Hear us, O God. **C:** **Your mercy is great.**

We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.**Amen.\***

**Share the peace of Christ:**

Angels said it to startled shepherds,

Jesus said it to frightened followers,

And now these words which come from heaven

are shared to make us whole and make us one.

Peace be with you.

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

*(A Wee Worship Book – Liturgy for Holy Communion A #30810; Type: Words; First Line: Call to worship – Gather us in; Language: English (pages 80-92); Contributors: Iona community; Text: © 1999, WGRG, Iona community, GIA Publications, Inc; exclusive North American agent. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Offering**

**Offering Hymn: ELW # 870 ‘We Praise You, O God’ (verses 1 & 3)**

1 We praise you, O God, our redeemer, creator;

in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.

We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;

we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

3 With voices united our praises we offer

and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.

With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us.

To you, our great redeemer, forever be praise!

*(Title: We Praise You, O God; Text: Julia C. Cory, 1882-1963; Public Domain; Music: A. Valerius, Nederlandtsch Gedenckclanck, 1626; Public Domain; Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Offering Prayer:**

A: God of all goodness,

generations have turned to you,

gathered around your table,

and shared your abundant blessings.

Number us among them

that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance,

and give thanks for your rich blessings,

we may feast upon your very self

and care for all that you have made,

through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

**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/ViXmTzRsfU4**](https://youtu.be/ViXmTzRsfU4)

**Great Thanksgiving: ACS Setting 12: ‘Dialogue…’ (page 36) (spoken)**

The Lord be with you. ***C: And also with you.***

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***

**ELW Setting 8: ‘Preface…’ *(Advent)***

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 comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,

through whom you will also make all things new

in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

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 8: ‘Holy, Holy, Holy…’ *(page 190 )***

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of pow’r and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

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

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**\*

**Thanksgiving at the Table:**

On the night before he showed us the full extent of his love,

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.

**Invitation to Communion:**

This is Christ’s table. All are welcome here to receive God’s abundant 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 Setting 8 - Lamb of God *(page 187)***

**ELW # 638 ‘Blessed Assurance’**

**ELW Setting 8 - Lamb of God *(page 187)***

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;**

**have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;**

**have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;**

**grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.\***

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**ELW # 638 ‘Blessed Assurance’**

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!

Oh, 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***

*(Title: Blessed Assurance; Text: Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915; Public Domain; Music:* *Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830-1908; Public Domain*

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

***C: Amen.***

**Prayer after Communion:**

A: Lord Jesus,

in this simple meal you have set a banquet.

Sustain us on the journey,

strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children,

and give us glad and generous hearts

as we meet you on the way.

Amen.\*

**Blessing:**

As we watch and wait for God’s truth and justice to break into our world,

our hearts shall sing of God’s goodness,

and of the promise of hope and peace to come.

The God of peace bless you,

the love of Christ sustain you in hope,

and the anointing of the Spirit ☩ remain upon you,

in every ending and every new beginning.

Amen.

**Sending Hymn: ELW # 242 ‘Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn’**

1 Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,

for angels herald its dawning.

Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,

behold! the Child of our longing.

Come as a baby weak and poor,

to bring all hearts together,

he opens wide the heav'nly door

and lives now inside us forever.

2 To us, to all in sorrow and fear,

Emmanuel comes a-singing,

his humble song is quiet and near,

yet fills the earth with its ringing;

music to heal the broken soul

and hymns of lovingkindness,

the thunder of his anthems roll

to shatter all hatred and blindness.

3 In darkest night his coming shall be,

when all the world is despairing,

as morning light so quiet and free,

so warm and gentle and caring.

Then shall the mute break forth in song,

the lame shall leap in wonder,

the weak be raised above the strong,

and weapons be broken asunder.

4 Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,

though dark the winter and cheerless,

the rising sun shall crown you with light,

be strong and loving and fearless.

Love be our song and love our prayer

and love our endless story;

may God fill ev'ry day we share

and bring us at last into glory.

*(Title: Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn; Text & Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950; Text and music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Dismissal:**

A: Beloved of God,

go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

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1. Brown, Brene. *Atlas of the Heart*. Random House, 2021: page 118. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)