



# THE WORSHIP OF GOD

4th Sunday in Lent | March 14, 2021

## PRELUDE

*When We Are Living*

Arranged by Hal H. Hopson

Molly Frederick, Susan Pearce, Wayne Tillman, Ken Curry, quartet singers

When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus, and when we're dying, it is in the Lord.

Both in our living and in our dying, we belong to God; we belong to God.

Through all our living, we our fruits must give. Good works of service are for offering.

When we are giving, or when receiving, we belong to God; we belong to God.

'Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain, when sensing beauty or in love's embrace,  
whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing, we belong to God; we belong to God.

Across this wide world, we shall always find those who are crying with no peace of mind,  
but when we help them, or when we feed them, we belong to God; we belong to God.

TEXT: Stanza 1, anon; English trans. Elise S. Eslinger, 1983; stanzas 2-4, Roberto Escamilla, 1983; English trans. George Lockwood, 1987 TUNE: Spanish melody English Trans. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House (admin. The Copyright Company) © 1983 Abingdon Press Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-732613

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Wray & Janie King, liturgists

*(All speak words in **boldface**.)*

As the time drew near, Jesus made up his mind to go to Jerusalem.

**What will it take to walk that road together?**

Let us pick up our crosses and follow Christ,

**forward-focused, on a path lined with wisdom and love.**

*(based on Luke 9:51-62)*

## WE COME IN NEED OF GOD AND GOD'S PEACE.

*I Need Thee Every Hour*

NEED

***I need thee every hour, most gracious Lord;  
no tender voice like thine can peace afford.***

***Refrain:***

***I need thee, O I need thee, every hour I need thee!  
O bless me now, my Savior—I come to thee!***

## PRAYER OF PRAISE *(based on Psalm 25 & Luke 10:27)*

God of our lenten journey, extending wisdom and love to all,  
**we praise you.**

You are honest and merciful, patient and kind.  
Your paths are loving and faithful:

**to love you with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength;  
and love our neighbor as ourself.**

We thank you for your saving grace

**offering the humble: mercy, forgiveness, and freedom;**

your wise instruction

**showing people of the covenant your paths  
and how to stay the course;**

your fair-minded decrees

**breaking old ways of caste and station, shame and hate.**

We thank you for the cross and tomb and heaven **that are the way of love.**

**Amen.**

WE ARE BETTER WHEN GOD IS NEAR.

*I Need Thee Every Hour*

NEED

***I need thee every hour; stay thou near by;  
temptations lose their power when thou art nigh.***

***Refrain:***

***I need thee, O I need thee, every hour I need thee!  
O bless me now, my Savior—I come to thee!***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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Let us pray,

**Light of the World, show us the way of love.**

**Forgive us for our fear. Free us from our fear.**

**Turn us—heart, mind, soul, and strength—back to you;**

**that we may love our neighbor as we love ourselves;**

**through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

(adapted from Rev-o-lution Resources by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell <http://rev-o-lution.org>, © 2020. Used by permission.)

## ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

God is not a stony judge, but the finder of sheep and the lover of all who are lost.  
In Christ's name, we are forgiven and encouraged to begin again.

**Thanks be to God. Let it be. Amen.**

## WE SEEK TO CARRY OUT GOD'S WILL IN OUR LIVES.

*I Need Thee Every Hour*

NEED

***I need thee every hour; teach me thy will, and thy rich promises in me fulfill.***

***Refrain:***

***I need thee, O I need thee, every hour I need thee!***

***O bless me now, my Savior—I come to thee!***

TEXT: Annie S. Hawks, 1872; ref., Robert Lowry, 1872 PD TUNE: Robert Lowry, 1872. P.D.

## SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 16:19-31

The word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

“Of Walls and Chasms”

Rev. Laura Viau

## PRACTICES OF LOVE: PROCLAIM JOYFULLY

**We believe in the steadfast love of God,  
whose willingness to listen is greater than our despair;  
whose power to forgive is greater than our sin;  
we trust in this God to save us.**

**We believe in Jesus,  
who came to share our humanness  
and walked the journey of life ahead of us;  
who was tested to the limits  
and tried to the edge of endurance;  
who accepted the comfort and support  
of others in life's extremity  
and always showed God's love.**

**We believe in the Spirit of God,  
who breathes new life into old ways;  
who dwells in us and brings us hope;  
who forms us into the people of God  
and stays with us on the pathways of life and death.**

**This is the God we proclaim and worship  
and seek to serve in our lives.**

*(Adapted from Seasons of the Spirit, Lent-Easter)*

## PRAYERS FOR THE COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD

**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.**

## HYMN

*God Who Sets Us on a Journey*

BRADBURY

***God who sets us on a journey to discover, dream and grow,  
lead us as you led your people in the desert long ago;  
journey inward, journey outward, stir the spirit, stretch the mind,  
love for God and self and neighbor marks the way that Christ defined.***

***When we set up camp and settle to avoid love's risk and pain,  
you disturb complacent comfort, pull the tent pegs up again;  
keep us traveling in the knowledge you are always at our side;  
give us courage for the journey, Christ our goal and Christ our guide.***

TEXT: Joy Dine (1937-2001). TUNE: William Batchelder Bradbury, 1859, alt. P.D. © Revd Mervyn Dine. Reproduced with permission.

## BENEDICTION AND CHARGE

## CLOSING RESPONSE

*I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

arr. by Cathy Moglebust

SPC Handbell Ringers

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**Rev. Laura Viau, Interim Pastor ([laurabviau@gmail.com](mailto:laurabviau@gmail.com))**

**Randy Warner**, Liturgy and Music Associate and Accompanist;

**Kathy Sasso**, Church Secretary; **Linda Rowell**, Church Treasurer;

**Joyce Winkler**, Qualified Ruling Elder; **Crystal Braxton**, Nursery;

**Hery Ramambasoa**, Regional Liaison for Southeast Asia and the Pacific



## Shallotte Presbyterian Church

5070 M.H. Rourk Drive, P.O. PO Box 3256 Shallotte, NC 28459 | (910) 754-6929

[church@atmc.net](mailto:church@atmc.net), [www.shallottechurch.org](http://www.shallottechurch.org)

PLEASE REMEMBER THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL. ☺