



First Presbyterian Church OF OKLAHOMA CITY

Maundy Thursday — March 28, 2024
7:00 p.m.

A special welcome to those visiting with us today!

We are grateful for your presence with us and hope you find this time of worship to be meaningful.

We Gather to Worship

PRELUDE

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart (Hymn 523)

arr. Philip Gehring

WORDS OF WELCOME

(The water is poured.)

All: We thank you, O God, for the water of baptism. Through it we are reborn by the power of the Holy Spirit. “There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.”

Leader: And you are welcome here.

THANSGIVING FOR LIGHT

(The candles are lit.)

Leader: Jesus Christ is the light of the world,

All: the light no darkness can overcome.

Leader: Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,

All: and the day is almost over.

Leader: Let your light scatter the darkness

All: and illumine your church.

EVENING PRAYER

(The incense is lit.)

All: Holy God, let the incense of our prayer ascend before you,
and let your loving-kindness descend upon us,
that with devoted hearts we may sing your praises
with the church on earth and the whole heavenly host,
and glorify you forever and ever. Amen.

*TOLLING

*HYMN 475

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON

*PASSING OF THE PEACE Not an easy peace, not an insignificant peace,
not a half-hearted peace,
but the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ is with us now.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Remember Your Baptism

FIRST READING

Water by Sarah Are

Erica Taylor

When I was seven years old, my mom taught me to float.
She said, “Close your eyes, take a breath, I promise you won’t choke.”
She said, “The water knows you and water won’t let go.
It will hold you up, for water is like hope.”
I should have known that the final night,
when Jesus had his disciples by his side,
would start with water, because that’s where it began.
The river runs through—we’re just wading in.

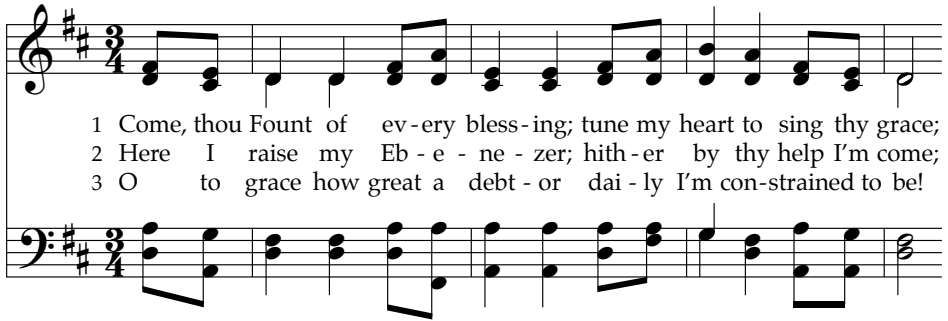
When I hear the words, “He poured water into a basin,”
I imagine the dimly-lit space he was in.
But I also see the woman at the well,
and the water we need to drink for our health.
And my mom wading—wading into the deep,
holding onto me—helping me breathe.

For it all started with water, way back in the beginning;
the deepest and darkest water—life-giving.
Water of the womb, water of the deep;
either way it broke, and life was set free.

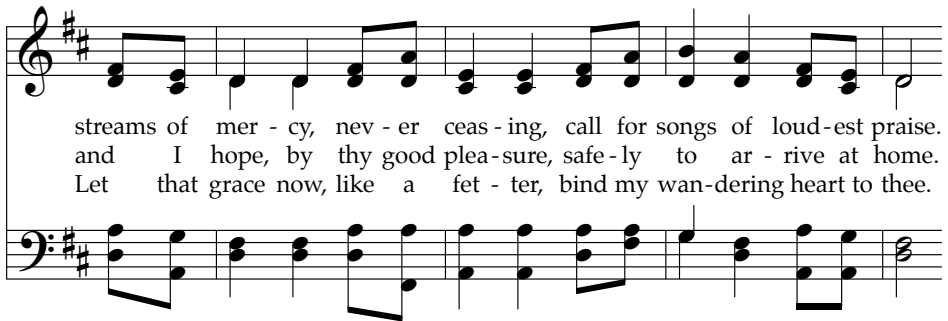
The Israelites grew up and so did I,
and we walked through water, though of a different kind.
For mine was in play—theirs in escape—
but the molecules will still remember both days.

And then there was Jesus, baptized by John
with cold river water and the midday sun.
And the wedding at Cana, where water turned to wine,
and a wild storm calmed from steps in a line.

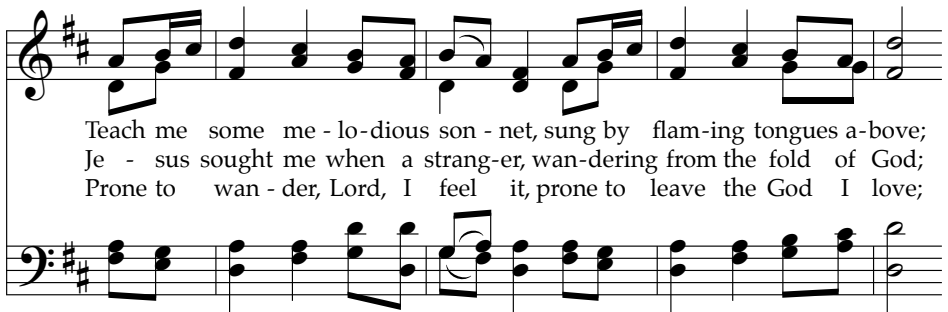
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 475



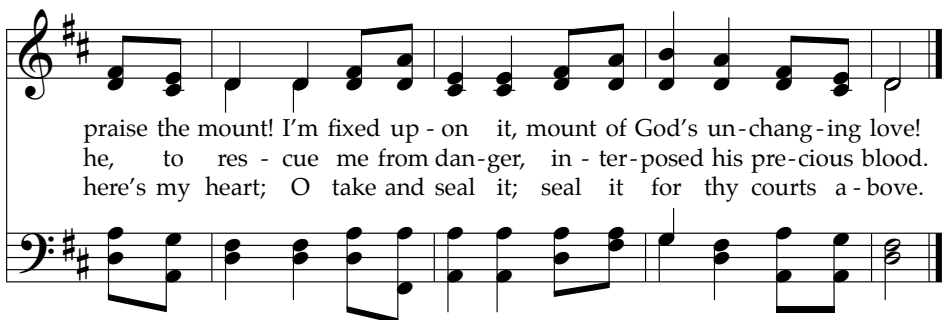
1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith-er by thy help I'm come;
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove;
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un-chang-ing love!
 he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter-posed his pre-cious blood.
 here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Written for Pentecost by a British Baptist pastor, this text is full of biblical terms like "Ebenezer" (1 Samuel 7:12), Hebrew for "a stone of help" set up to give thanks for God's assistance. The tune name honors hymnal compiler Asahel Nettleton, who probably did not compose it.

And there was my mother who danced in the rain,
and the spring a thunderstorm took everything.
The first time I sank, the first time I cried,
and babies baptized in hospitals each night.

So as water slowly filled the basin,
I wonder, did Jesus remember those spaces—
those spaces where water had breathed new life,
and the spaces where water took with might?

I wonder if he thought of my baptism day,
and of the water in Flint, and of hurricanes.
I wonder if he could see the joy of summer rains,
and how winter snow heals our busiest days.

I wonder if he thought of it in cosmic proportions—
water, this source of life and force;
water, the source that holds new birth;
water, the deep, the dark, the first.

Maybe he did, or maybe he didn't.
He saw a chance to love,
so love, he gave it,
lifting us up as if we were equals—
us a bunch of broken and hurting people.

But in using water, the simplest of things,
he wove together a memory chain—
of creation, and freedom, and baptism days—
for our minds to walk through, to dance in, to know;
for our souls to swim through, to cherish, to float.

I should have known he would call them by name.
I should have known I would never be the same.
I should have known that the final night,
when Jesus had his disciples by his side,
would start with water, because that's where it began.
The river runs through—I want to wade in.

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

WELCOME

As Christians, we come from different traditions to follow the journey of Jesus Christ.
We come as different people to serve one God, who calls us to unity as the family of God.

PRAYER OF ADORATION (Unison)

**Living God, our loving parent; you cherish your creation and we praise you.
With earth, air, water, fire, in our element as your children, we praise you.
With our lips, with our lives, in all our diversity, each one made in your image, we praise you.
Because, in Jesus, you came to share our human lives, our sorrow and joy, we praise you.
Because your Spirit is at work today—encouraging, enabling, surprising us—we praise you.
Poor as we are, you give us hope. Salt of the earth, you give us meaning and purpose and we
praise you. Amen.**

CALL TO THE FEAST

Leader: Out of darkness came light;
People: **And the power of God was revealed**
Leader: in the running waves and the flowing air,
People: **in the quiet earth and the shining stars.**
Leader: Out of the dust came life;
People: **and the image of God was revealed**
Leader: in the human face and the gentle heart,
People: **in the warmth of flesh and the depth of soul.**
Leader: Out of justice came freedom;
People: **and the wisdom of God was revealed**
Leader: in the need to grow and the will to love,
People: **in the chance to know and the power to choose.**
Leader: And God looked at the creation,
All: **and behold, it was very good.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

People: **Loving God, you pour out grace upon us exactly as we are,
but we confess we are suspicious and react from fear of scarcity.
You invite us to take our shoes off
and receive the care our bodies need, but we sit on our heels.
We sort bodies into worthy and unworthy ones to mask our insecurities.
We reject and punish fat bodies, disabled bodies,
transgender bodies, and racialized bodies—
even when these bodies are our very own.
God, remind us that we are made in your image.
Help us learn to receive from your abundance so we can share all that we have
with others. Let us see that the cups we longingly hold out are already full.
May they overflow so that all will have enough!**

Leader: As he does with Peter in the footwashing, Jesus transforms our confusion and rejection into joy and connection. With God's help and mercy, we can reciprocate abundance with one another and with Creation. In Jesus Christ we are loved and befriended by God.

All: Thanks be to God.

READING

It Was on the Thursday

Iona Community

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: Why do we give thanks and praise before this table?

People: We give thanks for God's work of creation and salvation.

Leader: It is our greatest joy, creator God, to give you thanks in every time and place. You made the heavens and the earth and all that is in them—sun, moon and stars, mountains, rivers and trees, animals and people. You even made us in your own image to love and serve you, and you show us your mercy every day. Therefore, with all people and all creation we shout your praise:

People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven 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.

Leader: All glory and blessings are yours, Saving God, for in your mercy you gave your only Son, Jesus Christ. Born a child like us, he grew up to be your servant. Jesus taught your truth. He welcomed, healed, forgave and loved people. In the end, he suffered and died to save us from our sin. And God raised him up, to give us a new life. We praise you that before he died, our Savior gave us this holy meal to eat together until he comes again. Why do we eat bread at this table?

People: On the night before he died, Jesus took bread. After giving thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Leader: Why do we drink from the cup at this table?

People: The same night, Jesus took the cup, saying: "This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."

Leader: What do we remember at this table?

People: We remember God's gracious love for us, Christ's death and resurrection for us, and the Spirit's tender care for us. And remembering, we offer ourselves as gifts for the world.

Leader: According to our Lord's commandment:

People: We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory.

Leader: What do we ask at this table?

People: Merciful God, pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine, that in eating and drinking together we may be made one with Christ and with one another. At this table we ask for unity in Christ our Lord, and we ask for strength to serve the world in his name until the day you make all things new.

Leader: Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, Almighty God, with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

COMMUNION VOLUNTARY *Wherefore, O Father, We Thy Humble Servants* David N. Johnson

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

As we have shared in this sacred meal, we thank you, God, for the food which delights and nourishes us and for the companionship that sustains us as Christians. We thank you for drink to quench our thirst and for the Living Water with which you enrich and transform our lives. We thank you for this feast at which all Christians can share a foretaste of the Holy Realm. Amen.

We Proclaim God's Word

SCRIPTURE READINGS John 13:1-20 (pg. 107)

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION Streams of Mercy Rev. John C.. McKinnon

SOLO *Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters* (hymn 490) BEACH SPRING
Puffer Jones, baritone; John L. Edwards, whistle

Wash, O God, your sons and daughters, newborn creatures of your womb. Number them among your people, raised like Christ from death and tomb. Weave them garments bright and sparkling; compass them with love and light. Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight. Every day we need your nurture; by your milk may we be fed. Let us join your feast, partaking cup of blessing, living bread. God, renew us; guide our footsteps, free from sin and all its snares, one with Christ in living, dying, by your Spirit, children, heirs. O how deep your holy wisdom! Unimagined, all your ways! To your name be glory, honor! With our lives we worship, praise! We your people stand before you, water-washed and Spirit-born. By your grace, our lives we offer. Re-create us; God, transform!

We Respond to God's Word

EVENING PRAYER

Lord, as we prepare to enter the mystery of these three most holy days, we ask you to illumine our minds and hearts with the hope and promise of Christ's passion, death and resurrection. Give us eyes to see Him in the breaking of the bread and hearts that reach out to Him in service to one another. Creator God, we thank You for the gift of Your Son. May our entry into the mysteries of His life, death and resurrection give us the confidence to live with unshakeable faith in Your faithful and abiding love. We make this prayer to You in His name. Amen.

*HYMN 727

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

THE SERVANT SONG

*LITANY OF RESPONSE

Leader: Little children, I am with you only a little longer.

People: We will look for you. But you have told us where you are going we cannot come.

Leader: I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.

People: Just as you have loved us, we also should love one another.

Leader: If you have love for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples.

All: Love for one another, by this everyone will know that we are your disciples.

We Go in God's Name

CLOSING

Sit Here While I Pray

Iona Community

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant 727

The Servant Song



1, 6 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me
 2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney; we're to -
 3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the
 4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you
 5 When we sing to God in heav - en, we shall



be as Christ to you? Pray that I may have the
 geth - er on the road. We are here to help each
 night - time of your fear. I will hold my hand out
 laugh I'll laugh with you. I will share your joy and
 find such har - mo - ny, born of all we've known to -



grace to let you be my ser - vant too.
 oth - er walk the mile and bear the load.
 to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
 sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.
 geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.

(repeat stanza 1)

The opening and closing stanza expresses the essence of this folk-style song about the mutuality of servant ministry: those who serve must also be willing to be served. This is what Christ intended when he commanded the disciples to "wash one another's feet" (John 13:14).

Holy Week & Easter at FPC-OKC

A Sacred Walk (Labyrinth) — March 28-29 | 8:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

You are invited and encouraged to engage in the ancient practice of a labyrinth walk. The labyrinth will be prepared in Watchorn Hall and available for use from 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Maundy Thursday and 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Good Friday. Resources will be available for a self-guided experience, or Pastor John is happy to meet you for an orientation to the labyrinth or a directed walk.

Good Friday Tenebrae Service — March 29 | 7:00 p.m. | Chapel

On Good Friday, we stand at the foot of the cross pondering the wondrous love of God in the death of Jesus. During this service, we will remember the events of the week that the world fell into darkness through the reading of selections from the Gospel of John and the extinguishing of candles.

Easter Vigil — Friday, March 29-Sunday, March 31

Following the Good Friday service, members will take turns maintaining a vigil of devotion and prayer as we await the sunrise that celebrates the empty tomb on Easter morning. *All of the Easter Vigil time slots are now taken. Thank you to everyone who volunteered!*

Easter Breakfast — Sunday, March 31 | 9:30 a.m.

The Deacons will host an Easter Breakfast on Sunday, March 31, in Watchorn Hall. Please plan to attend and bring your family to fellowship with the whole church family! *(If you have any dietary restrictions, please directly contact Jen at 405-408-3608 to let her know. She will be more than happy to accommodate your needs.)*

Menu: Green Chili Casserole, Hashbrown Casserole, Yogurt Parfait Bar (with Yogurt, Fruit, and Granola), and Assorted Pastries.

Easter Sunday Worship — Sunday, March 31 | 11:00 a.m.

Easter Sunday is the brightest jewel of Christian worship. It proclaims the universal significance of God's saving acts in history. Join us for this very special service as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord!

Easter Egg Hunt — Sunday, March 31 | 12:00 p.m.

In celebration of the Resurrection, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt after worship service on Easter Sunday! Kids are encouraged to bring their own basket to collect eggs.