



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP *with UCC Westerly*

September 20, 2020 @ 9:45am*
Broadcast live from our sanctuary
as we return to in-person worship!

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Lighting of the candles

Gathering Music – “Every Drop of Rain”

[WORDS & MUSIC: Doug Brummund, ©2020 B.R. Music. All rights reserved. Used with permission.]

Pastor’s Welcome

Prelude – “Be Thou My Vision”

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Deacon’s Greeting

CALL TO WORSHIP [adapted from *An Iona Prayer Book*, Millar, p. 69]

Lord, kindle within our hearts a flame of love for our neighbors, to our foes, to our friends, to our loved ones all. From the lowliest thing that lives to the name that is highest of all.

Opening Song – “Be Thou My Vision” (#451, *United Methodist Hymnal* aka “pew” hymnal)

[WORDS: versed Eleanor H. Hull & MUSIC: arr., Jack Schrader, ©1989 Hope Publishing Co., All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE#A-734569]

1. *Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me save that thou art.
Thou my best thought by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*
2. *Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.*
3. *Great God of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heaven’s Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*

UNISON PRAYER OF REFLECTION [adapted from *An Iona Prayer Book*, Millar, p. 69-70]

Explorer God, you have put within us a spirit of adventure to move us beyond the immediate, and to see in the ordinary things your extraordinary presence of love. Propelled by your Spirit may each day become an

adventure of people, tasks, places and responsibilities. And when we feel gray and lifeless may you remind us that each day holds its own gifts: new truths, restored vision, inner healing, and the possibility to forgive even our enemies. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Morning Message

Be Thou My Vision

Isaiah 43:1-7; 18-19

Rev. Ruth

Musical Meditation – *“More Love O Christ to Thee”*

[WORDS & MUSIC in the public domain]

A TIME OF PRAYER

Pastoral Prayers

Silent Prayers

The Lord’s Prayer in whatever words are most comfortable for you

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

Acknowledgement of Gifts & Offerings*

*Doxology *“Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below; Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter; One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.”*

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CLOSING SONG – *“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”* (#76 New Century Hymnal)

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1. *Sent forth by God’s blessing, our true faith confessing,
The people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The service is ended, O now be extended the fruits
of our worship in all who believe.
The seed of the teaching, receptive hearts reaching, shall blossom in action
For God and for all.
God’s grace did invite us and love shall unite us
To work for God’s realm and to answer the call.*
2. *With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
The tasks of our everyday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
Embracing God’s children of each tribe and race.
With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us,
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
Give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A PRAYER OF BENEDICTION

[The New Century Hymnal, #875]

Do not pray for easy lives; pray to be stronger women and men. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers, but for power equal to your tasks. Then, the doing of your work

will be no miracle for you will be the miracle. Every day you will wonder at yourself and the richness of life which has come to you by the grace of God. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Postlude – “Andante”

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Points for Reflection

Welcome to my Fall Sermon Series on hymns and how they inform and deepen our faith. Each week, you are invited to read through the week's focus scripture and reflect on some questions intended to guide your thoughts on that text. Then, you will be invited to consider how the biblical text connects with the hymn's verses.

This week's text: Isaiah 43:1-7; 18-19 (see page 4 of Resource)

- ☐ Who is this text about? What is their relationship to God?
- ☐ From what you can read in the text, what do you imagine the situation to be that has prompted God to talk, via the prophet Isaiah, with the people in the way reflected in these verses.
- ☐ How are these words intended to offer comfort and reassurance to the people? What are some examples?
- ☐ The word “vision” does not appear in this text, but it's meaning is captured in “I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” What do these words mean to you in the context of our reality these days?
- ☐ Which line of the hymn do you think captures the essence of this biblical text?

If you would like a copy of my sermon for this week, kindly contact me or Carol in the office and we will send you a copy with next week's Weekly Update.

Isaiah 43:1-7; 18-19

But now thus says the LORD,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
Because you are precious in my sight,
and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
I will say to the north, 'Give them up',
and to the south, 'Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—
everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.'

Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.