

Order of Service

March 29, 2020

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Call to worship (based on Psalm 130)

Lord, we come crying to you from the depths. We come bearing our souls and awaiting your response. We wait in hope, knowing that you promise to hear and provide.

Song of Praise *God Is So Good*

God Is So Good 658

The musical score for 'God Is So Good' is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The lyrics are as follows:

1 God is so good; God is so good;
2 God cares for me; God cares for me;
3 God loves me so; God loves me so;
4 God is so good; God is so good;

God is so good; God's so good to me.
God cares for me; God's so good to me.
God loves me so; God's so good to me.
God is so good; God's so good to me.

The exact origins of this chorus celebrating God's providential care are not clear, but it seems to have arisen during the 1970s. Because the text changes so little, the slowly rising four-note pattern of the tune provides the primary source of energy within its five-note range.

TEXT and MUSIC: Anon.

GOD IS SO GOOD

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Friends, today is a Sunday for refreshment, a time of Sabbath relief in the midst of this challenging Lent. Believing God's promise of forgiveness, let us rejoice in the gift of confession. Let us pray together:

God of all that is, seen and unseen, when you ask us if dry bones can live, we are skeptical, wary of looking foolish preaching to the long dead and unsure that your Spirit is really enough to bring sinew and breath to places of loss and desolation. Forgive our lack of trust and help us to proclaim your life-giving power with courage, no matter the circumstances. Silence in us any voice but yours until that time when Christ returns and death and crying and mourning are no more. (Silent prayer) Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (Psalm 130:7-8)

O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem. It is the Lord who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities. Friends, believe the Good News, through Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God! Amen!

Song of Praise *I Am A Child of God*

I Am a Child of God

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Unison 1
♩ = 152 C

1 I am a child of God, I am a glimpse of God's

new cre - a - tion. I am a child of

God, I am a child of God.

2 C B \flat 6 F C C B \flat 6

3 F C C B \flat 6 F

4 C C B \flat 6 F C

(used by permission)

Prayer for Illumination

God you tell us to prophesy, to preach, to proclaim the gospel to the ends of the earth. Open our ears to hear your Word and then write it on our hearts so that it will be evident in all we do. In Christ's name we pray, **AMEN.**

Scripture *John 11:1-45*

Sermon

Call for the Offering

The earth is the Lord's and all that is within it. While we worship in a multitude of places, we gather together our respective offerings, knowing that God will take them, bless them and use them for the building up of the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth.

Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, it is a privilege to partner with you in sharing the good news of the gospel in Word and deed. We ask your blessings on these gifts offered in faith and given with joy. May they be an outward sign of your mercy and grace and a witness to your overflowing goodness toward all of creation.

Song of Thanksgiving *In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful*

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful 654

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts, with the Tenor and Bass parts providing harmonic support. The lyrics are: "In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful; in the Lord I will re -
joice! Look to God; do not be a - fraid. Lift up your
voic - es; the Lord is near. Lift up your voic - es; the Lord is near."

The score consists of three systems of staves. The first system has two staves (Soprano and Alto). The second system has two staves (Tenor and Bass). The third system has two staves (Soprano and Alto). The lyrics are placed below the corresponding staves. There are triplets marked with a '3' in the second and third systems.

Prayers of the People

Lord, let our minds be set on the Spirit so that we might know peace. Set our minds on the Spirit so that we might be fully present to the enfleshed needs within and around us. Set our minds on the Spirit so that we might remember all that Jesus taught us. Set our minds on the Spirit so that we might be given the right words to say in this trying time on earth.

Lord, hear us when we send word to you that our brothers and our sisters are ill. Come quickly to bring comfort and healing and, yes Lord resurrection.

Lord, do not delay because we know if you are here we can endure. We believe you are the Messiah, the one who brings life abundant and grants life eternal. Do not delay, but hurry and bring your glory, full of grace and truth.

Lord, we are bold to call out to you for the sake of God's beloved world. We lift up to you and ask mercy for those who do not think they can endure another moment of grief or loss or pain. We cry out for divine discernment for our leaders seeking to stem the scourge of this pandemic. We run to you, Lord, and fall at your feet on behalf of those too sick or too weak or too afraid to cry out for themselves.

Lord, we hear you weeping with us. We know you, too, love those we love. We thank you for hearing our pleas for help and coming to our aid. We are grateful for your compassion and your care, for the gift of family and community, for the beauty of nature and the glimpses of Easter even deep in the season of Lent. Call us forth from the tombs in which we've too long been trapped, unbind us and set us free so that others will see and come to believe. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the one who taught us to say when we pray, **Our Father...**

Song of Blessing – *There is a Balm in Gilead*

There Is a Balm in Gilead 792

Refrain

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

Fine

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some-times I feel dis-cour-aged, and think my work's in vain, but
2 Don't ev - er feel dis-cour-aged, for Je-sus is your friend, and
3 If you can-not preach like Pe - ter, if you can-not pray like Paul, you can

to Refrain

then the Ho-ly Spir - it re-vives my soul a - gain. There is a
if you lack for knowl-edge, he'll not re-fuse to lend. There is a
tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all." There is a

This African American spiritual offers a long-delayed answer to the prophet Jeremiah's question, "Is there no balm in Gilead?" (Jeremiah 8:22). No earthly remedy can compare with the healing that comes from a sense of God's presence; nothing else can heal "the sin-sick soul."

TEXT: African American spiritual

MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. Melva Wilson Costen, 1989, alt.
Music Arr. © 1990 Melva Wilson Costen

BALM IN GILEAD
7.6.7.6 with refrain

Charge and benediction

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. May the Lord bless and keep you. The Lord be kind and gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. Amen.

Postlude

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