


**Westminster Presbyterian
Church**

Midweek Eastertide Prayer Service

**Wednesday, May 5, 2021
Sanctuary · 11:45 a.m.**

PRELUDE

Andante sostenuto

Felix Mendelssohn

***OPENING SENTENCES**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!
The Lord's name be praised.**

Lord, open unto me

Open unto me – light for my darkness.

Open unto me – courage for my fear.

Open unto me – hope for my despair.

Open unto me – peace for my turmoil.

Open unto me – joy for my sorrow.

Open unto me – strength for my weakness.

Open unto me – wisdom for my confusion.

Open unto me – forgiveness for my sins.

Open unto me – love for my hates.

Open unto me – thy Self for my self.

Lord, Lord, open unto me! **Amen.** *(Howard Thurman, 1900 – 1981)*

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

1 Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all
 2 What God's al-might - y power has made God's gra - cious mer -
 3 The Lord is nev - er far a - way, but, through all grief
 4 Thus all my toil-some way a - long I sing a - loud

cre - a - tion, the God of power, the God of love,
 cy keep - eth; by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade
 dis - tress - ing, an ev - er - pres - ent help and stay,
 thy prais - es, that all may hear the grate - ful song

the God of our sal - va - tion. With
 God's watch - ful eye ne'er sleep - eth. With -
 our peace and joy and bless - ing, as
 my voice un - wea - ried rais - es. Be

heal - ing balm my soul is filled, and ev - ery faith - less
 in the king - dom of God's might, lo! all is just and
 with a moth - er's ten - der hand God gent - ly leads the
 joy - ful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and bod - y,

mur-mur stilled:
all is right:
cho-sen band:
take your part:
to God all praise and glo-ry!

PSALM 99 (*Dominus regnavit*)

- 1 The Lord is Sovereign; let the people tremble;
the Lord is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth shake.
- 2 **The Lord is great in Zion and is high above all peoples.**
- 3 Let them confess the name of the Lord, which is great and awesome;
the Lord is the Holy One.
- 4 **"O mighty Sovereign, lover of justice, you have established equity;
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob."**
- 5 Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God,
and fall down before the footstool of the Holy One.
- 6 **Moses and Aaron among your priests, and Samuel among those who
call upon your name, they called upon you, O Lord,
and you answered them.**
- 7 You spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud;
they kept your testimonies and the decree that you gave them.
- 8 **O Lord our God, you answered them indeed; you were a God who
forgave them,
yet punished them for their evil deeds.**

[Unison]

- 9 **Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God and worship upon
God's holy hill;
for the Lord our God is the Holy One.**

PSALM PRAYER

Holy God,
you are exalted over all the nations,
and just in all your ways.
Strengthen us to worship you with our deeds
and to proclaim your greatness with our lips,
for the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

¹⁶ “No one after lighting a lamp hides it under a jar, or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a lampstand, so that those who enter may see the light. ¹⁷ For nothing is hidden that will not be disclosed, nor is anything secret that will not become known and come to light. ¹⁸ Then pay attention to how you listen; for to those who have, more will be given; and from those who do not have, even what they seem to have will be taken away.”

¹⁹ Then his mother and his brothers came to him, but they could not reach him because of the crowd. ²⁰ And he was told, “Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you.” ²¹ But he said to them, “My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it.”

²² One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side of the lake.” So they put out, ²³ and while they were sailing he fell asleep. A windstorm swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. ²⁴ They went to him and woke him up, shouting, “Master, Master, we are perishing!” And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm. ²⁵ He said to them, “Where is your faith?” They were afraid and amazed, and said to one another, “Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him?”

²⁶ Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. ²⁷ As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me”— ²⁹ for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) ³⁰ Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” He said, “Legion”; for many demons had entered him. ³¹ They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

³² Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. ³³ Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

³⁴ When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. ³⁵ Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were

afraid. ³⁶ Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. ³⁷ Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. ³⁸ The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹ “Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

Satisfy us with your love in the morning,
and we will live this day in joy and praise.

Mighty God of mercy,
we thank you for the resurrection dawn
bringing the glory of our risen Lord
who makes every day new.

Especially we thank you for
the beauty of your creation . . .
the new creation in Christ and all gifts of healing and forgiveness . . .
the sustaining love of family and friends . . .
the fellowship of faith in your church. . . .

Merciful God of might,
renew this weary world,
heal the hurts of all your children,
and bring about your peace for all
in Christ Jesus, the living Lord.

Especially we pray for
those who govern nations of the world . . .
the people in countries ravaged by strife or warfare . . .
those who are suffering because of COVID-19 and those frontline
workers caring for them...
those distributing and administering the vaccine to combat the
pandemic...
those who are under severe economic stress...
all who work for peace and international harmony . . .
all who strive to save the earth from destruction . . .
the church of Jesus Christ in every land.

We invite you to share and name aloud your prayer concerns.

Eternal God,
your touch makes this world holy.
Open our eyes to see your hand at work
in the splendor of creation,
and in the beauty of human life.
Help us to cherish the gifts that surround us,
to share your blessings with our sisters and brothers,
and to experience the joy of life in your presence.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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 159**

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

KINGSFOLD

***DISMISSAL**

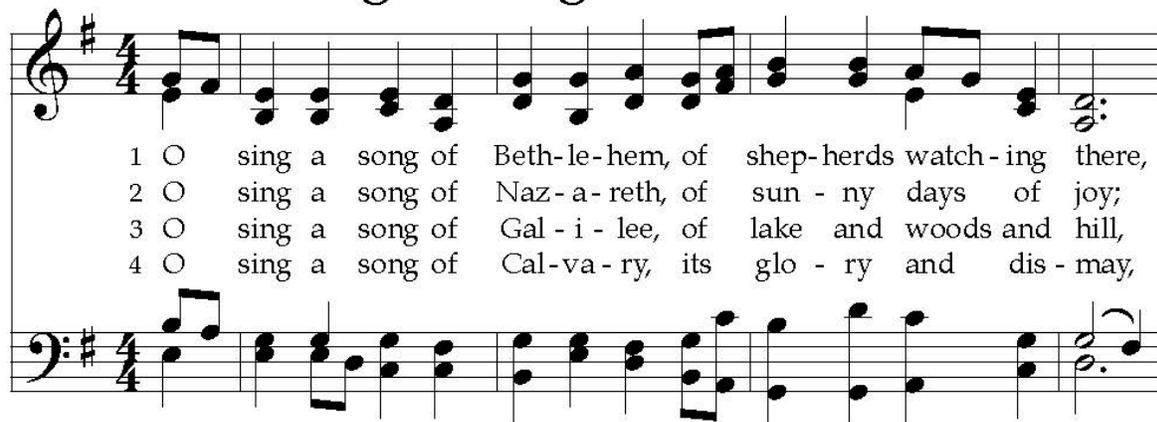
The God of peace be with us. **Amen.**
Bless the Lord. **The Lord's name be praised. Amen.**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

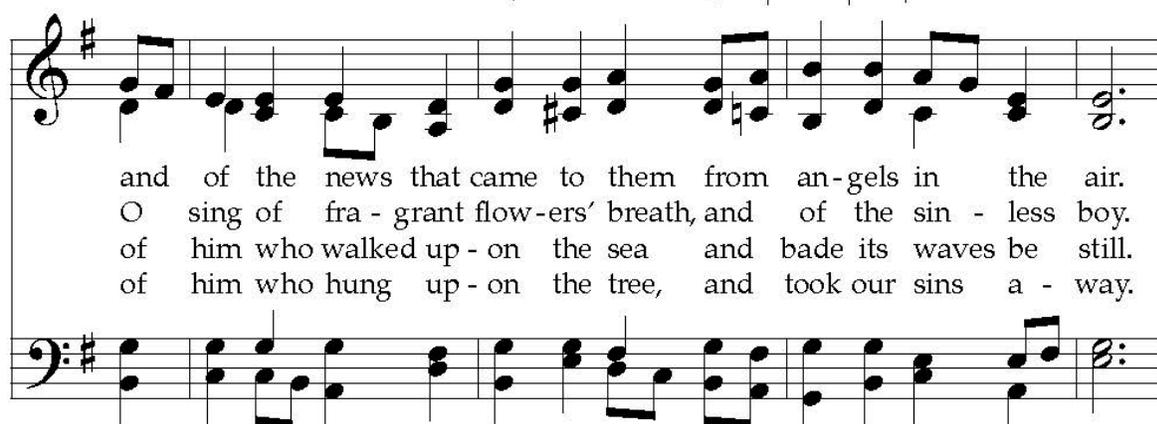
The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

**(Those who are able may stand.)*

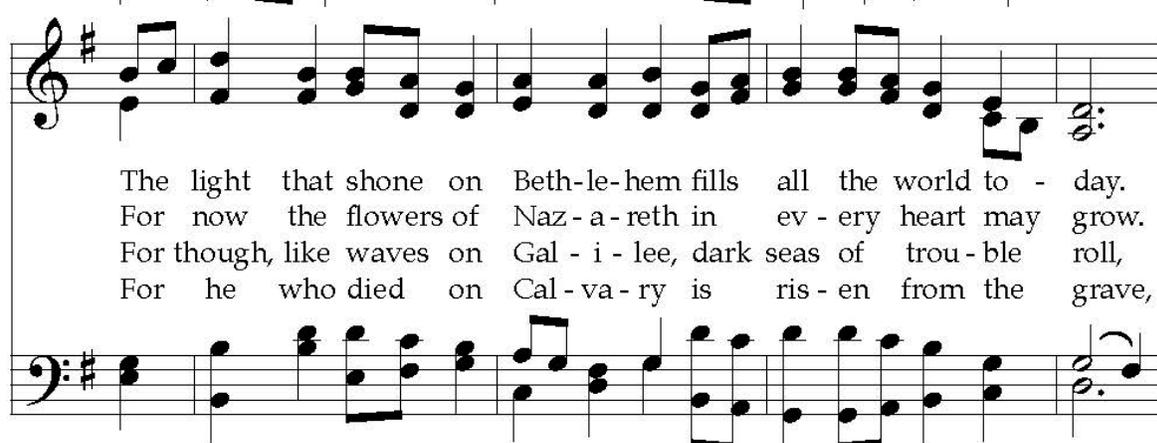
159 O Sing a Song of Bethlehem



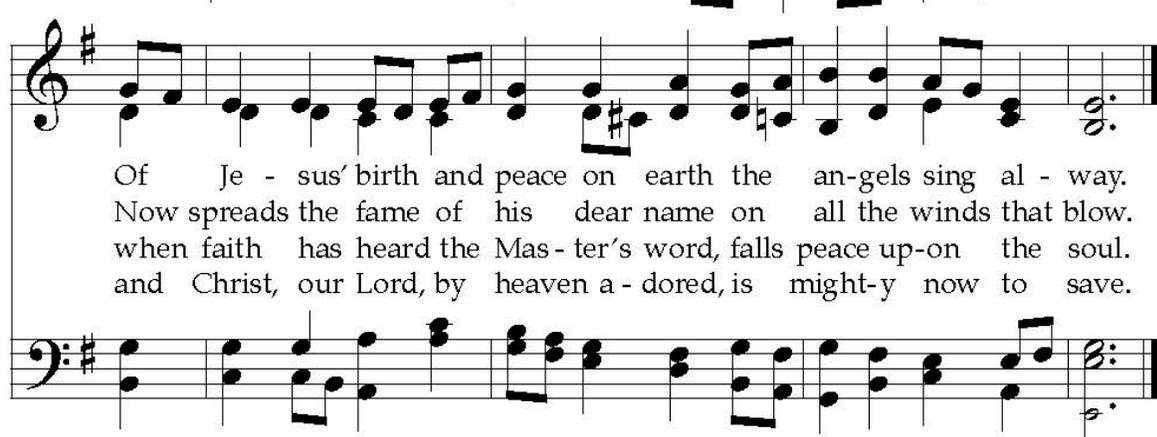
1 O sing a song of Beth-le-hem, of shep-herds watch-ing there,
2 O sing a song of Naz-a-reth, of sun-ny days of joy;
3 O sing a song of Gal-i-lee, of lake and woods and hill,
4 O sing a song of Cal-va-ry, its glo-ry and dis-may,



and of the news that came to them from an-gels in the air.
O sing of fra-grant flow-ers' breath, and of the sin-less boy.
of him who walked up-on the sea and bade its waves be still.
of him who hung up-on the tree, and took our sins a-way.



The light that shone on Beth-le-hem fills all the world to-day.
For now the flowers of Naz-a-reth in ev-ery heart may grow.
For though, like waves on Gal-i-lee, dark seas of trou-ble roll,
For he who died on Cal-va-ry is ris-en from the grave,



Of Je-sus' birth and peace on earth the an-gels sing al-way.
Now spreads the fame of his dear name on all the winds that blow.
when faith has heard the Mas-ter's word, falls peace up-on the soul.
and Christ, our Lord, by heaven a-dored, is might-y now to save.

SERVICE NOTES

Liturgist: Guy D. Griffith, Associate Pastor for Adult Education and Spiritual Nurture
Pianist: John Semingson, Director of Music Ministries
Soloist: Alec Koukol

COPYRIGHT INFORMATION: The music used in the service this morning is copyrighted under Christian Copyright Licensing International, Inc., No. 11221525.

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Purpose Statement

*Ordinary people testifying to the extraordinary light
found in our Lord Jesus Christ.*

“For it is the God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.” (2 Corinthians 4:6-7)

3900 West End Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37205-1899
615.292.5526
www.nashvillewpc.org