

March 18, 2018  
Fifth Sunday of Lent

## GOD CALLS AND CLEANSSES US

### Gathering Song

*How Great Thou Art*

Hine (1949)

Oh Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
consider all the worlds Thy hands have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed.

**REFRAIN:** *Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee :  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee:  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!  
How great Thou art!*

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing  
sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in.  
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
He bled and died to take away my sin.

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,  
and there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art.

### Welcome, Greeting and Announcements

### Prayer of Invocation

### Responsive Reading

selected Scripture

(Revelation 4, Isaiah 1, Psalms 11, 32, 51, 96, 103, 145, Matthew 12, Romans 5)

### Call to Worship

**LEADER:** “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!”  
The Lord is in His holy temple; the Lord’s throne is in heaven;  
His eyes see, His eyelids test the children of man.

## Call to Confession

**ALL:** Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause. Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

**LEADER:** Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

**ALL:** For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

**LEADER:** Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to Him at a time when He may be found.

## Confession of Sin

**ALL:** Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.

**LEADER:** Lord, Hear us as we confess silently to You.  
[silent confession]

## Assurance of Pardon

**LEADER:** Amen. The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The Lord is good to all, and His mercy is over all that He has made.

**ALL:** While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**LEADER:** “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty!”  
Sing to the Lord a new song. Sing to the Lord all the earth!

## Worship Singing

## Hear My Cry

Kirk Ward (2013)

Hear my cry, O Lord, at the gates of death;  
My body is weak and I've lost all my breath.  
For You, O Lord, are the Righteous Judge.  
Be my Stronghold, my Refuge, my Solid Rock, Hear my cry!

Hear my cry, O Lord, when I'm lost in sin,  
search deep in my heart and restore me within,  
For You, O Lord, are the Worthy Lamb.  
Be my Savior, Redeemer, my Living Word, Hear my cry!

**REFRAIN:** *Oh, I love You Lord for You have heard my voice  
When in my deepest need, You turn to me and hear my cry.*

Hear my cry, O Lord, make Your church a light,  
a city that stands to defend what is right,  
For You, O Lord, are the Glorious King.  
Be my Shepherd, my Master, my Morning Star, Hear my cry! **REFRAIN**

Hear my cry, O Lord, when we face discord,  
send patience until fellowship is restored,  
For You, O Lord, are the Faithful Friend.  
Be my Comfort, my Healer, my Prince of Peace, Hear my cry! **REFRAIN**

## *All Creatures of Our God and King*

St. Francis of Assisi (v. 1-2), trans. by Draper

J. Baird and R. Baird (v. 3-4)

16th Century German tune, adapted

All creatures of our God and King  
Lift up your voice and with us sing  
O praise Him! Alleluia!  
Thou, burning sun with golden beam  
Thou, silver moon with softer gleam  
O praise Him! O praise Him!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless  
And worship Him in humbleness  
O praise Him! Alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son  
And praise the Spirit, Three in One!  
O praise Him! O praise Him!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All the redeemed washed by His blood  
Come and rejoice in His great love  
O praise Him! Alleluia!  
Christ has defeated every sin  
Cast all your burdens now on Him  
O praise Him! O praise Him!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

He shall return in pow'r to reign  
Heaven and earth will join to say  
O praise Him! Alleluia!  
Then who shall fall on bended knee?  
All creatures of our God and King  
O praise Him! O praise Him!  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
O praise Him! O praise Him!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

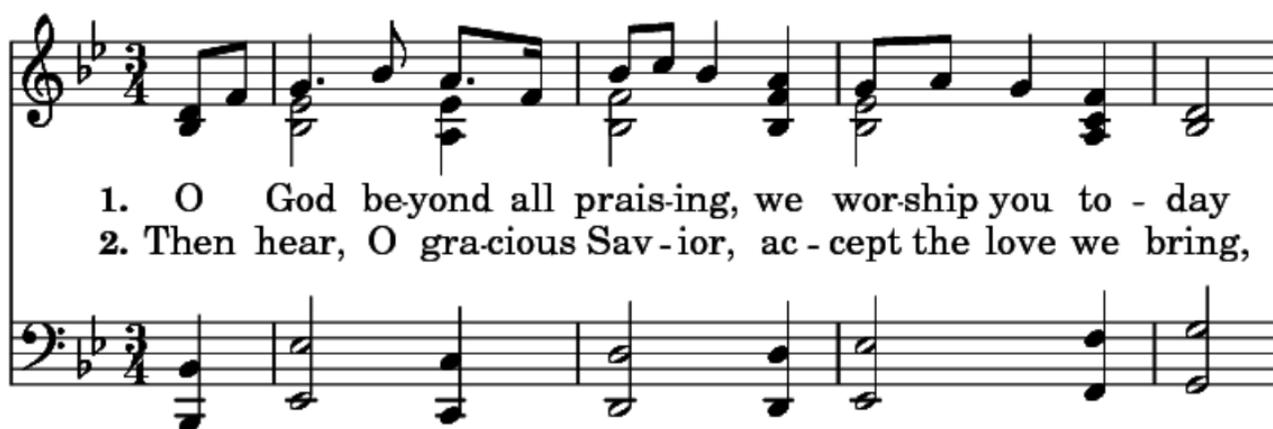
## **Prayer for the Church and the World**

### **Worship through Giving**

**(8:30) Worship Singing**

*O God beyond All Praising*

## O God beyond All Praising



1. O God beyond all praising, we worship you to - day  
2. Then hear, O gra-cious Sav-ior, ac - cept the love we bring,



and sing the love a-maz-ing that songs cannot re - pay;  
that we who know your fa - vor may serve you as our King;



for we can on-ly won-der at ev - ery gift you send,  
and wheth-er our to-mor-rows be filled with good or ill,

at bless-ings with - out num-ber and merc-ies with-out  
we'll tri-umph through our sor-rows and rise to bless you

16

end: we lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up-on your  
still: to mar-vel at your beau-ty and glo-ry in your

20

word, we hon-or and a-dore you, our great and mighty Lord.  
ways, and make a joyful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

**(11:00) Musical Offering: Adult Choir**

*How Beautiful*

Twila Paris | arr. by Courtney (2002)

*How beautiful the hands that served  
the wine and the bread and the sons of the earth.*

*How beautiful the feet that walked  
the long dusty roads and the hill to the cross.*

*How beautiful, how beautiful, how beautiful is the body of Christ.*

*How beautiful the heart that bled,  
that took all my sin and bore it instead.*

*How beautiful the tender eyes  
that choose to forgive and never despise.*

*How beautiful, how beautiful, how beautiful is the body of Christ.*

*And as He laid down His life we offer this sacrifice  
that we will live just as He died:*

*Willing to pay the price, willing to pay the price.*

*How beautiful the radiant bride  
who waits for her Groom with His light in her eyes.*

*How beautiful when humble hearts give  
the fruit of pure lives so that others may live.*

*How beautiful, how beautiful, how beautiful is the Body of Christ.*

*How beautiful the feet that bring  
the sound of good news and the love of the King.*

*How beautiful the hands that serve  
the wine and the bread and the sons of the earth.*

*How beautiful, how beautiful,  
how beautiful is the body of Christ.*

# GOD SPEAKS TO US

Sermon

James: Undefined Religion

Chad Smith

James 3:1-12 | *Free Speech*

Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment. <sup>2</sup> For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well. <sup>3</sup> Now if we put the bits into the horses' mouths so that they will obey us, we direct their entire body as well. <sup>4</sup> Look at the ships also, though they are so great and are driven by strong winds, are still directed by a very small rudder wherever the inclination of the pilot desires. <sup>5</sup> So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things.

See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire! <sup>6</sup> And the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell. <sup>7</sup> For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by the human race. <sup>8</sup> But no one can tame the tongue; *it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison.* <sup>9</sup> With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God; <sup>10</sup> from the same mouth come *both* blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way. <sup>11</sup> Does a fountain send out from the same opening *both* fresh and bitter water? <sup>12</sup> Can a fig tree, my brethren, produce olives, or a vine produce figs? Nor *can* salt water produce fresh.

# GOD STRENGTHENS US

## Celebration of the Lord's Supper

### (CUP) Worship Singing

*We Are Not Overcome*

Robert Heiskell (2013)

Flesh will fail, bones will break;  
Thieves will steal; the earth will shake.  
Night will fall, the light will fade;  
The Lord will give and take away.

Put no trust in the earth,  
In the sod you stand upon.  
Flowers fade into dust,  
The Lord will make a place for us.

**REFRAIN:** *Because of His great love,  
we are not overcome.  
Because of His great love,  
we are not overcome.*

Have no fear for your life.  
Turn your cheek, turn your cheek.  
Bear the yoke of love and death.  
The Lord will give life and breath. **REFRAIN**

# GOD SENDS US

## God's Promise of His Presence and Blessing