Preparing to Hear God’s Word

Prelude  
Variations on Westminster Abbey  
Richard Proulx

Welcome

A Time for Mothers

Opening Prayer  
Dorothy Piatt

God’s Word to Us

Gospel  
John 14:1-14

Song  
Son of God, Whose Heart Is Peace  
Maori hymn  
trans., Shirley Erena Murray  
John Kleinschmidt, vocals

Epistle  
1 Peter 2:4-10  
Lynne Clements

Old Testament  
Isaiah 28:16

Sermon  
Living Stones in a Time of Pandemic  
Ken Henry

Hymn  
How Firm a Foundation  
verses 1-3 & 5 (see page 2)  
Foundation

Prayers of Intercession and the Lord’s Prayer

Charge and Benediction

Postlude  “I go to prepare a place for you . . . that where I am, there ye may be also”  
Peter Pindar Stearns
1 How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
2 "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis-mayed,
3 "When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
4 "When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
5 "The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,

is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;

What more can be said than to you God hath said,
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,

to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."

It seems odd now to think of singing this text to ADESTE FIDELES, but mainline churches did so well into the 20th century because of a cultural bias against shape note music. The vigor of the present tune seems especially right for the final line's reference to Hebrews 13:5.

TEXT: “K” in John Rippons’s A Selection of Hymns, 1787, alt.
MUSIC: American folk melody; Funk’s Genuine Church Music, 1832, alt.
WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Prayer

In this time set apart from time,
this holy moment halfway to eternity,
give us the faith to truly listen for your voice,
give us the wisdom to discern
what you would have us do and be,
and grant us the inner peace
of knowing we are ever in your hands.
Amen.

Rev. J. Barrie Shepherd

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