Preparing to Hear God’s Word

Prelude  
_Berceuse_  
Gabriel Fauré  
Meg Bowen, violin

Welcome  
Ken Henry

Litany of Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

Anthem  
_How Great Thou Art_  
Stuart Hine  
the Bird family

God’s Word to Us

Old Testament  
Exodus 19:2–8a  
Dennis Lo

Gospel  
Matthew 9:35–10:4,16–23

Sermon  
Imperfect Persistence  
Dorothy Piatt

Hymn  
_Guide My Feet_  
_Guide My Feet_

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer  
Ken Henry

Charge and Benediction

Postlude  
_Batalla_  
Naji Hakim
1 Guide my feet while I run this race;

(yes, my Lord!)

guide my feet while I run this race;

(yes, my Lord!)

guide my feet while I run this race, for I

don’t want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)

2 Hold my hand ... 5 Search my heart ...

3 Stand by me ... 6 Guide my feet ...

4 I’m your child ...

This African American spiritual is based on the imagery of “the race that is set before us” in Hebrews 12:1-2. Its call-and-response structure allows for the improvisation and addition of stanzas related to an athletic metaphor that is as vivid today as it was centuries ago.
WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Prayer

Our little lives, our big problems —
these we place upon Your altar!
The quietness in Your temple of silence
again and again rebuffs us:
For some there is no discipline
to hold them steady in the waiting,
and the minds reject the noiseless invasion
of Your spirit.
For some there is no will to offer
what is central in the thoughts—
the confusion is so manifest;
there is no starting place to take hold.
For some the evils of the world
tear down all concentrations
and scatter the focus of the high resolves.
We do not know how to do what we know to do.
We do not know how to be what we know to be.
Our little lives, our big problems —
these we place upon Your altar!
Pour out upon us whatever
our spirits need of shock, of life, of release,
that we may find strength for these days —
courage and hope for tomorrow.
In confidence we rest in Your sustaining grace,
which makes possible triumph in defeat,
gain in loss, and love in hate.
We rejoice this day to say:
Our little lives, our big problems —
these we place upon Your altar!

Howard Thurman

Westminster Staff

Ken Henry, Pastor
khenry@westminsterva.org
Lynne Clements, Associate Pastor
lclements@westminsterva.org
Dorothy Piatt
Assoc. Pastor for Social Justice and University Mission
dpiatt@westminsterva.org
Megan Sharp
Director of Fine Arts
Jonathan Schakel
Organist
Sanford Wilcox
Church Administrator
Kate Brinkley
Office Manager
Steve Brown
Finance Administrator
Tom Mullen
Sexton
Alonzo Williams
Assistant Sexton

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