Preparing to Hear God’s Word

Prelude  Fantasia on Laßt uns erfreuen  Flor Peeters

Welcome

♦ Call to Worship  from the *Iona Abbey Worship Book*

> With nature in its power and beauty,
> With rain and wind and sunshine,
> With the ancient rocks and budding flower,
> we gather in praise to God.
> With believers and seekers the whole world wide,
> With people in every land and speakers of every language,
> we gather in praise to God.
> With the angels and saints in heaven
> And with all who have worshiped in this place,
> we gather in praise to God.
> With Jesus who promised his presence
> And the Spirit who showers her blessings,
> we gather in praise to God.
> Here let heaven and earth embrace,
> here may God’s people find home.
> Let us worship God!

♦ Hymn 401  Gather Us In  GATHER US IN

Call to Confession

*God is present among us – in all we touch and all we meet. As bearers of God’s image, we come ready to be reshaped. Dependent on God’s mercy, we ask to be made new.*

Prayer of Confession

For the right roads we avoided traveling,
and the kindly words we refused to share.
For the false gods who received our worship
and the true selves we have starved of love,
God, by your grace, forgive us.

For the hidden hurts we have held too tightly,
and the promises which we never kept;
For the careless use of our time and money
and the lame excuses we should never have made,
God, by your grace, forgive us.

For all we were made to be, and all we can amend,
God, in your love, renew us and make us whole.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Assurance of Forgiveness
Friends, hear the good news: in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, God says unequivocally, you are my own, you are forgiven, and I am with you always. Believe and be at peace.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

All glory be to God on high, and peace on earth from heaven,
And God’s good will unfailingly be to all people given.
We bless, we worship You, we raise
For Your great glory thanks and praise,
O God, the great Creator.

God’s Word to Us

A Time with Children and Youth

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading
Genesis 28:10-19a
Barry Parks

Second Reading
Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24

Sermon
Sleeping on a Stone Pillow
Lynne Clements

Responding to God’s Word

Affirmation of Faith
from the Iona Abbey Worship Book

We believe in God, Maker and Sustainer of all life,
Of sun and moon,
Of water and earth,
Of all living things.

We believe in God beside us,
Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh,
Born of woman, servant of the poor,
Tortured and nailed to a tree.

A man of compassion, he died forsaken;
He descended into the earth to the place of death.
On the third day, he rose from the tomb;
He ascended into heaven
To be everywhere present; and his kingdom will come on earth.
We believe in God within us,  
The Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,  
Life-giving breath of the church,  
Spirit of healing and forgiveness,  

Hymn 29  
O God, You Search Me

Prayers of the Congregation and 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.

The Offering

Offertory  
Be Thou My Vision  
David Abramsky, arr.  
Lynanne Wilson, cello

Presentation of the Offering

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer of Dedication

God of mystery and grace, you have met us and blessed us with your loving presence  
and abundant promise. In gratitude, we offer what we have and who we are. We pray  
that you would use us and these offerings to bless the world you so love. In the name of  
Jesus and by the movement of the Spirit, we offer this prayer. Amen.

Hymn 543  
God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

Charge and Benediction

Passing of the Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you.  
And also with you.

Postlude  
Jubilus  
Johannes Wenk

Please stand, as you are able.
The guest organist for today's service is Winston Barham.

What’s Happening
at Westminster

Sunday, July 23
10 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
11:15 a.m. PACEM Interest Meeting in the Library

Musical Week July 24-28
5:30-8 p.m. It's Cool in the Furnace Events in the Fellowship Hall

Saturday, July 29
10 a.m.-noon It's Cool in the Furnace Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

Sunday, July 30
10 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary, including It's Cool in the Furnace

Wednesday, August 2
5:30 p.m. Fellowship on Tap at Three Notch'd

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To give, scan the QR code to the right.
Here in This Place
Gather Us In

1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-ter-y. We are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,

van-ish-ed a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;
brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king-dom, and now is the day.

Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com-pass-ion; give us to eat the
Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and

blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ple to-geth-er,

we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

The "you/your" mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God's witnesses and for God's purposes.

TEXT and MUSIC: Marty Haugen, 1979
Text and Music © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc.
O God, You Search Me
(Psalm 139)

1 O God, you search me and you know me. All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.
2 You know my resting and my rising. You discern my purpose from afar.
3 Before a word is on my tongue, Lord, you have known its meaning through and through.
4 Although your Spirit is upon me, still I search for shelter from your light.
5 For you created me and shaped me, gave me life within my mother's womb.

walk or lie down you are before me: ever the love ever lasting you besiege me: in every
with me beyond my understanding: God of my nowhere on earth I can escape you: even the wonder of who I am, I praise you: safe in your

maker and keeper of my days.
moment of life or death, you are.
present, my past, and future, too.
darkness is radiant in your sight.

Psalm 139 is one of the most introspective and most intimate of all the psalms, showing an acute mindfulness of God's presence in all aspects of one's life. Sometimes resisted, this omnipresence ultimately becomes a ground of hope, a promise that we never stray beyond God's care.

TEXT and MUSIC: Bernadette Farrell, 1992
Text and Music © 1992 Bernadette Farrell (Published by OCP)
God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me
O Christ, Surround Me

1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
   move my voice; God, be the strength to now uphold me:

2 Bind to myself the Name of Holy, great cloud of witness;
   es en-fold; prophets, apostles, angels witness:
   strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of planet:
   light my way, and from beneath, above, and all ways:

3 Brightness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash-ing of light-ning,
   strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of planet:
   light my way, and from beneath, above, and all ways:

4 Walking behind to hem my journey, going ahead to
   hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:

5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that
   O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

This hymn is a 21st-century adaptation of the traditional Celtic prayer style known as a lorica (Latin for "armor" or "breastplate"). Many such petitions for God's presence and protection were never written down, but this one is based on an example attributed to St. Patrick.

TEXT and MUSIC: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, 2004
Test and Music © 2004 This Here Music, Worldmaking.net
GREEN TYLER
9.8.9.5.5