



Gilead Presbyterian Church
Patterson Community Church
Brewster Presbyterian Church
February 22, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

OPENING MUSIC

“Come Unto Him”
Mary Temple, organ

by J. H. Maunder
arr. by Benton Price

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 58:5-8

Leader: Is this the fast that I choose, says the Almighty, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Is this a fast acceptable to God?

People: Is not this the fast that our God has chosen: to loose the bonds of injustice, to let the oppressed go free, to share our bread with the hungry, provide shelter for the homeless, and clothing for the naked?

Leader: Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, and the glory of the Almighty shall be your rear guard.

***PURPLE HYMNAL #418**

“Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling”

1. Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me.

See, on the portals he’s waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.

Refrain: “Come home, come home! You who are weary, come home.”

Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, “O sinner, come home!”

2. Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?

Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me?

(Refrain)

3. O for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me!

Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me.

(Refrain)

UNISON OPENING PRAYER

Spirit Divine, we welcome you into our hearts and minds. Guide our thinking, feeling and acting, that in our worship and praise we might sacrifice ourselves to you, letting go of all that stands in the way of our living lives of grace, mercy, and peace. Guide us in reflection, penitence, and renewal, that we might begin our Lenten journey toward resurrection in the love of Jesus Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Joel 2:12-17

¹² Yet even now, says the Almighty, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³ rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to your God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. ¹⁴ Who knows whether the Almighty will not turn and relent, and leave behind a blessing, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Beloved, your God? ¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶ gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the newlyweds leave their room, abandon their canopy. ¹⁷ Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Almighty, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O God, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, "Where is their God?"

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION Psalm 51

Against you, you alone, have I sinned, O God, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. Dear God, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a humble spirit; a humble and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

SILENT PRAYER

AFFIRMATION OF FORGIVENESS

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:2

^{5:20b} We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake God made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. ^{6:1} As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ² For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!

MESSAGE

"Beauty for Ashes"

Rev. Martin McGeachy

***PURPLE HYMNAL #433**

"Sign Us with Ashes"

**Refrain: Sign us with ashes, merciful God, children of dust, as to dust we return.
Sign us with ashes, merciful God. Mark us and make us your own.**

**1. Surely, you alone can save us. You pay our price with precious blood.
Reaching through your great compassion, you lift up your people with love.
(Refrain)**

**2. Surely, you alone uphold us. You give us strength for all our needs.
Shielding with a father's favor, you bless us with pardon and peace. (Refrain)**

**3. Surely, you alone can heal us. Yours is the will to make us whole.
Soothing with a mother's kindness, the contrite of heart, you console. (Refrain)**

**4. Surely, you alone can free us. You break the bonds of guilt and sin.
Bracing, till we walk uprightly, you bolster our hope once again. (Refrain)**

**5. Surely, you alone refine us. You give us grace for lives made new,
forging, through your fire and radiance, a sacrifice worthy for you. (Refrain)**

**6. Surely, you alone redeem us. You fill our dust with holy breath.
Bursting from the grave in glory, you rise from the ashes of death! (Refrain)**

**PASTORAL PRAYER 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, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

ANTHEM "What Wondrous Love" folk tune
Gilead Singers music, William Walter

OFFERING AND THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

**People: God of our lives, out of the dust of creation you have formed us and
given us life. May these ashes not only be a sign of our repentance and death, but
reminders that by your gift of grace in Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, we are
granted life forever with you. Amen.**

(The congregation is invited to come forward to receive ashes.)

ANTHEM "Just as I Am, Without One Plea" text: Charlotte Elliot
Joint Church Choirs music: William B. Bradbury

CLOSING PRAYER

PURPLE HYMNAL #833 "O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go"

**1. O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.**

**2. O Light that followest all my way, I yield my flickering torch to thee;
my heart restores its borrowed ray, that in thy sunshine's blaze its day
may brighter, fairer be.**

**3. O Joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain
that morn shall tearless be.**

**4. O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead, and from the ground there blossoms red
life that shall endless be.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“O for A Closer Walk with God”
Mary Temple, organ

by Gordon Young



*Tonight's offering will feed the hungry
through the Patterson Community Church Food Pantry.*

Thank you to our videographer, Stephanie Gould.

† *We accept offerings through the “Online Giving” link on our website, www.gileadchurch.org, or mail checks made out to Gilead Presbyterian Church, 9 Church Street, Carmel, NY 10512. Or give elsewhere if you see a need. In doing so, we brighten the world, and brighten our hearts.*

GILEAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Martin McGeachy, Pastor
Mary Temple, Music Director
Diana Drake Behan, Church School Superintendent

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www.gileadchurch.org



CONFESSION

418 Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 O for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain
 watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!
 par - don for you and for me. "Come home, come home!

You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

This 19th-century gospel hymn has often been used as a hymn of invitation at evangelistic services. Its imagery is primarily based on Jesus' parable in Luke 15:11-32, commonly called "The Prodigal Son." Each singer thus becomes a wandering child who is urged to return home.

TEXT and MUSIC: Will L. Thompson, 1880

SOFTLY AND TENDERLY
 11.7.11.7 with refrain

CONFESSION

433 Sign Us with Ashes

Capo 3: (G) (D) (Em) (Bm) (Am7)
 Refrain B \flat F Gm Dm Cm7
All

Sign us with ash - es, mer - ci - ful God, chil - dren of

(G) (Am7) (D) (G) (D)
 B \flat Cm7 F B \flat F

dust, as to dust we re - turn. Sign us with ash - es,

(Em) (Bm) (Am7) (D7) (Gsus) (G)
 Gm Dm Cm7 F7 B \flat sus B \flat *Fine*

mer - ci - ful God. Mark us and make us your own.

(D) (G) (C)
 F B \flat E \flat
Leader or All

- | | | | | |
|---|------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1 | Sure - ly, | you a - lone | can save us. | You pay our |
| 2 | Sure - ly, | you a - lone | up - hold us. | You give us |
| 3 | Sure - ly, | you a - lone | can heal us. | Yours is the |
| 4 | Sure - ly, | you a - lone | can free us. | You break the |
| 5 | Sure - ly, | you a - lone | re - fine us. | You give us |
| 6 | Sure - ly, | you a - lone | re - deem us. | You fill our |

(G) (D) (G) (D)
 B \flat F B \flat F

price	with pre - cious blood.	Reach - ing	through your
strength	for all our needs.	Shield - ing	with a
will	to make us whole.	Sooth - ing	with a
bonds	of guilt and sin.	Brac - ing,	till we
grace	for lives made new,	forg - ing,	through your
dust	with ho - ly breath.	Burst - ing	from the

The refrain here recalls the imposition of ashes, a ritual based on Genesis 3:19, which has been a part of Christian worship on Ash Wednesday since the 9th century. As *The Book of Common Worship* states, "This ancient sign speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life."

TEXT: Mary Louise Bringle, 2003
 MUSIC: William P. Rowan, 2003
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PHOENIX
 LM with refrain

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go 833

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of three systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

1 O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my
2 O Light that fol-lowest all my way, I yield my
3 O Joy that seek - est me through pain, I can - not
4 O Cross that lift - est up my head, I dare not

wea - ry soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that
flick - ering torch to thee; my heart re - stores its bor - rowed ray, that
close my heart to thee; I trace the rain - bow through the rain, and
ask to fly from thee; I lay in dust life's glo - ry dead, and

in thine o - cean depths its flow may rich - er, full - er be.
in thy sun - shine's blaze its day may bright - er, fair - er be.
feel the prom - ise is not vain that morn shall tear - less be.
from the ground there blos - soms red life that shall end - less be.

This intense hymn of commitment to God (addressed as Love, Light, and Joy) closes with an invocation of the ultimate testimony to those attributes (the Cross). The composer, a Scotsman, named this specially-composed tune for the 11th-century patroness of Scotland.

TEXT: George Matheson, 1881, alt.
MUSIC: Albert Lister Peace, 1884, alt.

ST. MARGARET
8.8.8.6