

A Year to Praise

In Psalm 51 David asks God to open his mouth so that his mouth might declare God's praise. This year we are praying that same prayer. We need God to open our hearts and our mouths to fill the whole sanctuary and all of Avery County with his praise.

To help us learn to sing more freely and fully we are going to focus on singing one hymn or song for each month. The hope is that can learn these hymns by heart and sing them from our hearts.



"Be Thou My Vision", our hymn for March, is a traditional Christian hymn of Irish origin. The words are based on a Middle Irish poem or prayer often attributed to the sixth-century Irish Christian poet St. Dallán Forgaill. The best-known English version was translated by Eleanor Hull and published in 1912. Since 1919 it has been commonly sung to an Irish folk tune, noted as "Slane."

The prayer belongs to a type known as a "lorica", a prayer for protection. The symbolic use of a battle-shield and a sword to invoke the power and protection of God draws on Saint Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians (Ephesians 6) which refers to "the shield of faith" and "the sword of the Spirit".

Welcome!

We are grateful that you joined us today and would love to keep in touch. We have a nursery for infants and toddlers. After the Passing of the Peace, Pre-K through 2nd grade continue to worship upstairs. After worship, please join us downstairs for refreshments provided by Arbor Dale's Patience Group.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Refreshments for next Sunday: Kindness Group.
Contact Sondra Underwood 898-7640

Weekend to Remember Marriage Getaway: Please see Isabel Peterson if you're interested. There are multiple locations and dates available.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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March 8, 2020

* Congregation Stands

Prayer of Preparation

O Lord, open our lips
And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Blessed are you, Sovereign God,
creator of all;
To you be glory and praise for ever!
You founded the earth in the beginning and
the heavens are the work of your hands.
As we rejoice in the gift of your presence
among us, let the light of your love
always shine in our hearts
and your praises ever be on our lips,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:
Blessed be God for ever!


GREETING

Leader: The Lord be with You.
All: And also with you.

- * **CALL TO WORSHIP** Psalm 148
- * **OPENING HYMN** #90 Joyful, Joyful,
We Adore Thee
- * **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**
**Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry,
too real to hide, and too deep to undo.**
Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what

**our hearts can no longer bear, and what has
become for us a consuming fire of judgment.**
**Set us free from a past that we cannot change;
open to us a future in which we can be changed;
and grant us grace to grow more and more in your
likeness and image; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**
Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

- * **THE GLORIA PATRI and PASSING THE PEACE** 
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the
Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and
ever shall be, world without end, amen, amen.


CHILDREN'S SERMON

- * **HYMN OF PREPARATION** #562 Be Thou My Vision
- SCRIPTURE AND SERMON** Matthew 5:33-37
Rainey Ratchford ~ Yes and No
- * **CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

Leader: The Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.
Leader: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them up to the Lord.
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: Therefore we join our voices with
all the saints and angels and the
whole creation to proclaim the glory
of your name.
**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power
and might, heaven and earth are
full of your glory. Hosanna in the
highest. Blessed is he who comes
In the name of the Lord. Hosanna
in the highest.**

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

- * **THE DOXOLOGY** 
Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

- * **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**
Q. What is your only comfort in life and in
death?
**A. That I am not my own, but belong— body
and soul, in life and in death— to my
faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.**
- * **HYMN OF DEDICATION** #650 O for a Heart
to Praise My God
- * **BENEDICTION**

After the service, please join us downstairs
for refreshments and fellowship, followed by
Sunday School for both children and adults.