

Central Presbyterian Church
First Sunday in Lent
March 9, 2025 at 11:00 am ET



Gathering

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Ann Deibert

Prelude

Phillip Morgan

Call to Worship

Norah

One: Blessed are those who trust in God.

They will be like a tree planted by the water,

All: sending out roots into the nourishing stream.

One: This tree does not fear when heat comes;

All: its leaves are green, its fruit endures.

One: So come, let us trust in God!

All: We will live in hope and faith together.

adapted from Psalm 1

Prayer of the Day (unison)

God of peace, in Jesus Christ

you have shown us the way to live

and how to treat others with love.

May your Holy Spirit

fill our hearts, minds, and actions

so that we may love others as you have loved us.

* Hymn No. 32

“I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

Congregation

ELLACOMBE

Prayer of Confession

God of love,

you are always arriving in our world.

You are always making your ways and your will known among your people.

Forgive us when we are distracted and dissatisfied.

Forgive us when we fill our lives with clutter and noise.

Forgive us when we fail to heed your call.

Help us in this day and every day to remain attentive,

that we might not miss your invitations for and among us.

(a time for silent prayer)

Assurance of God's Promise

One: Beloved in Christ,
we remember the waters of baptism
that claim us and remind us
that in life and death, we belong to God.
God loves us, forgives us, heals us and calls us.

**All: We remember our call,
that even in a broken and fearful world,
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples,
to unmask idolatries,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work for justice, freedom and peace
as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth together.**

adapted from A Brief Statement of Faith

Song of Thanksgiving
Hymn No. 447

“We Are Forgiven”
WE ARE FORGIVEN

Congregation

The Journey

* Passing the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you!

*Song of Community
Hymn No. 771

“What Is the World Like”
NEW WORLD
(We will sing verse 1.)

Congregation

Listening

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Luke 8:4-15

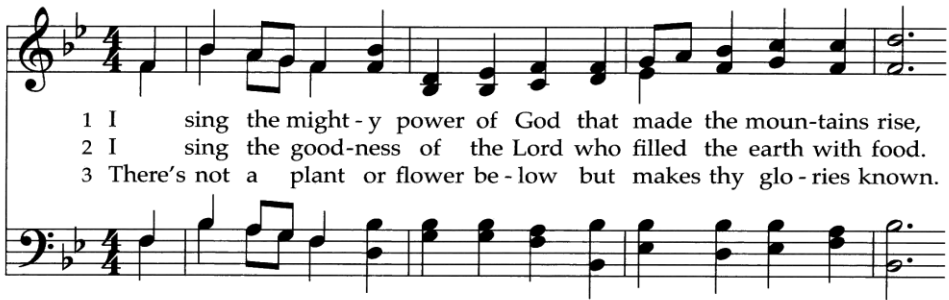
One: The word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

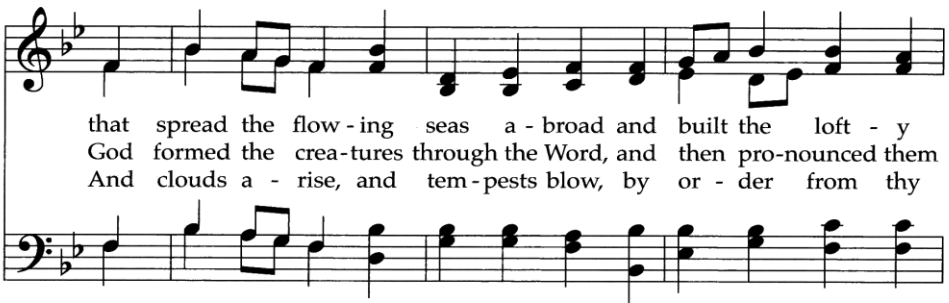
Sermon

Rev. Dr. Ann Deibert

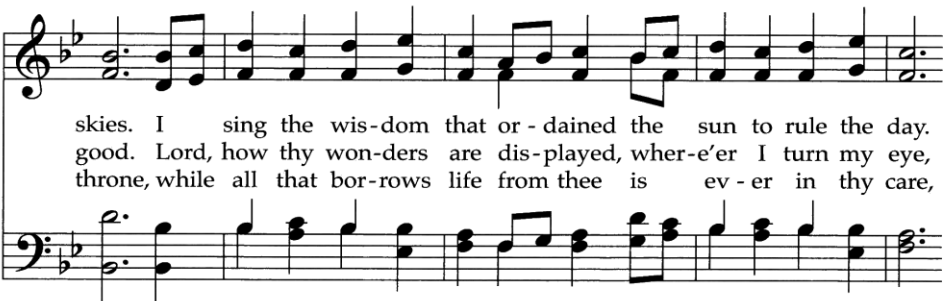
32 I Sing the Mighty Power of God



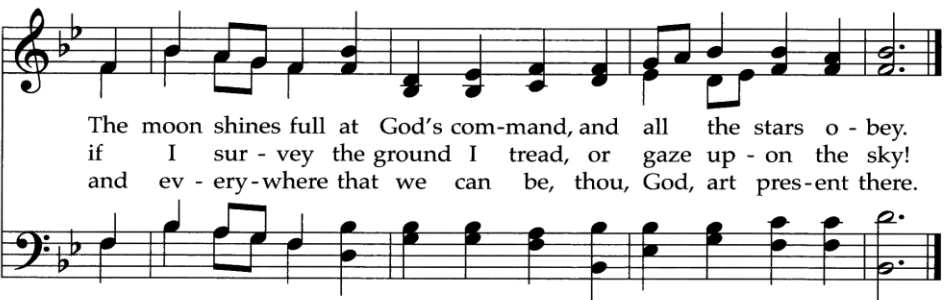
1 I sing the might-y power of God that made the moun-tains rise,
2 I sing the good-ness of the Lord who filled the earth with food.
3 There's not a plant or flower be-low but makes thy glo-ries known.



that spread the flow-ing seas a-broad and built the loft-y
God formed the crea-tures through the Word, and then pro-nounced them
And clouds a-rise, and tem-pests blow, by or-der from thy



skies. I sing the wis-dom that or-dained the sun to rule the day.
good. Lord, how thy won-ders are dis-played, wher-e'er I turn my eye,
throne, while all that bor-rows life from thee is ev-er in thy care,



The moon shines full at God's com-mand, and all the stars o-bey.
if I sur-vey the ground I tread, or gaze up-on the sky!
and ev-ery-where that we can be, thou, God, art pres-ent there.

With minimal revision this text brings together six of the eight four-line stanzas in an 18th-century hymn written for children and originally headed "Praise for Creation and Providence." The anonymous German tune provides a fitting sense of breadth and wonder.

447

We Are Forgiven

G Am D7 Gsus G C
 We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to
 G Am7 Dsus D G Am
 God. Thanks be to God. We are for - giv - en.
 D7 Gsus G C G Am7 D G
 We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

To sing, rather than simply say, a response to the Declaration of Forgiveness has the effect of making the moment both more affirmative and more corporate. The musical repetition of the two sentences also strengthens awareness of what it means to be assured of God's pardon.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
 MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1995
 Music © 1995 Hal H. Hopson

WE ARE FORGIVEN
 10.8.10.8

What Is the World Like 771

Capo 1: (G) A^b (Em7) Fm7 (C) D^b (D) E^b

1 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 2 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 3 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 4 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 5 These are the sto - ries that Je - sus im - parts,

(Em) Fm (C) D^b (Am) B^bm (B7) C7

Mus - tard seeds grow more than we can con - ceive:
 Wit - ness the wan - der - ing child com - ing home;
 No more is neigh - bor just al - ly or friend;
 Read - y for feast - ing, we watch through the night,
 filled with the Spir - it who joins us as one.

(Em) Fm (Am) B^bm (D) E^b (G) A^b

roots thread the soil; branch - es reach for the sun.
 watch as the par - ent breaks in - to a run.
 peace thrives in plac - es where once there was none.
 tend - ing our lamps till the new day's be - gun.
 Born through our voic - es, our hands, and our hearts,

(C) D^b (Em7) Fm7 (Am7) B^bm7 (D) E^b (G) A^b

This is how God moves us each to be - lieve.
 This is how God longs for us when we roam.
 This is how God works when ri - val - ries end.
 This is how God read - ies us for the light.
 this is a new world where God's will is done.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This text and tune were written to conclude a hymn festival at the 2009 Annual Conference of The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada. Four parables framed both the festival and the hymn: the Mustard Seed, the Prodigal Son, the Good Samaritan, and the Ten Bridesmaids.

Called as Partners in Christ's Service 761



1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
4 So God grant us for to - mor-row ways to or - der hu - man life



we re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.
help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
that sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-quests strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,
Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in-crease,



e - qual part-ners in our car-ing to ful-fill God's cho-sen end.
blend-ing hu-man skills to- geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.
bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
mes-sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con-fi-dence and peace.



This hymn is a celebration of mutuality and diversity as well as a challenge to the Christian community to live out a ministry of reconciliation and inclusion. This 20th-century text is set to a 19th-century tune named for the noted pastor and preacher Henry Ward Beecher.

698 Take, O Take Me as I Am

Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody begins with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B-flat4, and C5. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines.

be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

The second system of musical notation continues the piece. The treble staff melody includes a half note G4, quarter notes A4, B-flat4, and C5, followed by a half note D5. The bass staff continues with accompaniment, ending with a final chord.

The brevity of this text and tune invite repeated singing, either as a sustained chain of sound or as a sung response in a series of prayers. It offers a more reflective approach to the same theme of self-dedication evident in older hymns such as "Just as I Am" (see no. 442).

747 The Lord Now Sends Us Forth

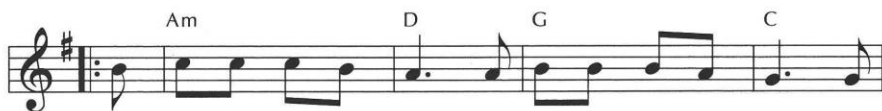
Enviado soy de Dios



The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give, to
En - via - do soy de Dios, mi ma - no lis - ta es - tá pa -



make of all the earth a bet - ter place to live.
ra cons - truir con él un mun - do fra - ter - nal.



The an - gels are not sent in - to our world of pain to
Los án - ge - les no son en - via - dos a cam - biar un



do what we were meant to do in Je - sus' name; that
mun - do de do - lor por un mun - do me - jor; me



falls to you and me and all who are made free. Help
ha to - ca - do a mí ha - cer - lo rea - li - dad. A -



us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will to - day.
yú - da - me, Se - ñor, a ha - cer tu vo - lun - tad.

This text by a Cuban Pentecostal pastor is plural here in English and singular in the original Spanish version; singing both languages helps to show how the call to action in the world is both corporate and individual. The minor tune suggests the resolve needed to do God's work.

Donate:



There are several ways to make a donation to Central today:

Donate at <https://bit.ly/centralgiving>

Use the “donate” button on our website: CentralChurchKY.org

Download the Vanco Mobile app in the Apple app store or Google play store

A check or cash can be placed in one of the offering boxes near the sanctuary doors

Central Presbyterian Church

318 West Kentucky Street 40203 (502) 587-6935

www.centralchurchky.org

Parents and Kids:

- Child care is available during the worship service for children 6 years old and younger. Please see a greeter or another parent for the passcode for the child care area.
- Worship bags for kids can be found by the table on the screen side of the sanctuary.
- Books for kids can be found by the table at the back of the pews.
- Faith Formation for Families (kids, parents, grandparents, caregivers) happens monthly after worship. Connect with Ann Deibert for more information.

Our Church



Matthew 25 (pcusa.org/matthew25) We have committed to building congregational vitality, dismantling systemic racism, and eradicating systemic poverty.



Peacemaking (pcusa.org/peacemaking)



More Light (mlp.org). We welcome the full participation of LGBTQ+ people of faith in the life, ministry, and witness of the Presbyterian Church.



Four for Four We support Presbyterian mission around the corner and around the globe through the four church-wide Special Offerings.

Choice Congregation We support the rights of all people to access the full spectrum of reproductive healthcare choices without coercion or judgment.

Our Staff

Pastor – Rev. Dr. Ann J. Deibert ann@centralchurchky.org

Director of Music – Mr. Phillip Morgan phillip@centralchurchky.org

Administrative Assistant – Ms. Barbara Creasy office@centralchurchky.org

In-person office hours:

Mondays 10am—1:00pm, Wednesdays 2:30pm—5:30pm, Fridays 10am—2pm

Other times by appointment