



Study for Nicodemus Visiting Jesus, 1899 - Henry Ossawa Tanner

Presbyterian Church of
Western Springs

Sunday, January 22, 2023 | 9:30 A.M.

Third Sunday after
Epiphany

Worshipping
Together

GATHERING TOGETHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus
Stephanie Coates, piano

setting by Marianne Kim

GATHERING & GREETING

The Rev. Lesley Weir

PRAYER OF TRANSITION

God of Love, You are with us in every transition and change. As we enter into this new era with excitement and even some anxiety, we recall your deep compassion, presence, and abounding love. We thank you for the gifts, talents and skills with which you have blessed us and our PNC. We thank you for the experiences that have brought us to this moment. We thank you for the work of others that will lead us to our next pastor. Be with us as we move forward, rejoicing with you and supporting one another. We ask this in your Holy Name. Amen

♦ INTRIOOT

A Gathering Dance of Peace
Jim & Tricia Koning, native flutes

♦ CALL TO WORSHIP

Matt Booth

For God so loved the world;

The sparrows, the mountain lions, the fish and the people.

For God so loved the world;

In success and failure, in sickness and health, in ordinary and extraordinary.

For God so loved the world;

**Enough to become one of us, enough to suffer along with us,
enough to offer new life for us.**

For God so loved the world;

Let us worship God!

♦ OPENING HYMN #53

O God, Who Gives Us Life

NOEL

♦ Indicates congregation standing, if able.

♦ CALL TO CONFESSION

In this season of Epiphany, the Light shines around us. But we have a tendency to seek the shadows. Knowing the darkness cannot overcome the light, we turn with confidence to our merciful God, ready to confess our ways. Please join me in silence first, then together, as we seek God's mercy and grace.

♦ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Light of the world has come, Ceaseless Creator, but we admit we love the shadows all around us. For there, we can boast of our achievements, rather than point to your grace; there, we can grumble of our unhappiness with you, instead of singing your praises; there, we can give into our natural anger, and not be touched by your call to be agents of peace and hope. Like Nicodemus, we slip around in the darkness of life, asking our questions, but not willing to listen to your answers. Forgive our stubborn ways, forgive our hardened hearts. Bring us into the light of your love.

♦ ASSURANCE OF PARDON

How much does God love us? Enough to send the divine heart, hope, and spirit to us; not to condemn us, but to save us.

Not by our speaking or doing, but by God's good and precious grace are we saved.

Thanks be to God!

♦ GLORIA PATRI

Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI

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.

♦ PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Lesley Weir

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 3:1-21

Pew Bible, New Testament, page 88

CHILDREN'S SERMON & LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Lesley

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

SERMON

The Rev. Lesley Weir

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

♦ HYMN OF RESPONSE #292

As the Wind Song

WAIRUA TAPU

PASTORAL PRAYER

SHARING OUR GIFTS AND GRATITUDES

OFFERTORY

Wayfaring Stranger

Jim & Tricia Koning, native flutes

♦ PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKS

We recognize that the greatest gift is the gift of love. May our offerings distribute this love to the world: the small world we inhabit and the larger world where the power of love is sorely needed. Let your Spirit blow these gifts into every corner of your world. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

♦ SENDING HYMN #137

He Came Down

HE CAME DOWN

♦ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Arietta
Stephanie Coates, organ

by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
arr. by George Blake

*Chancel flowers are sponsored this week by Jane & David Boxell –
Thanks to God for 60 years of marriage*

The nursery is available during worship and fellowship with Ms. Shaquirra

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-713281 and CCLI (license numbers 1117008 and 20337417).

This service is being streamed live and recorded for publication. Please sit in the balcony or the back pews if you wish to be out of camera view.



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53 O God, Who Gives Us Life

1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
 2 O God, who calls your people out to venture and to dare,
 3 O God of covenant and law, re-vealed in cloud and flame,

who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
 to plumb the bleak abyss of doubt and find you even there:
 your mighty deeds evoke our awe; we dare not speak your name.

de-liver us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
 when we de-spair in wan-der-ing through wastes of empty lies,
 Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your people prove,

Help us to know your Spirit still is making all things new.
 re-fresh us with the living spring of hope that never dies.
 as on our hearts you write a new the covenant of love.

Christians often fail to appreciate how much we can learn about God from the Hebrew Scriptures. This text draws on a variety of passages that call attention to God's faithfulness toward the Chosen People and the promise of a new covenant written on the heart (Jeremiah 31:31-34).

Glory Be to the Father

581

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the

The first system of the musical score is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The vocal line begins with a dotted quarter note on 'Glo', followed by eighth notes for 'ry be to the Fa - ther,' and a quarter note for 'and to the'. The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the left hand and single notes in the right hand.

Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -

The second system continues the melody. The vocal line has a dotted quarter note on 'Son,' followed by eighth notes for 'and to the Ho - ly Ghost;' and a quarter note for 'as it was in the be -'. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and single notes.

gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,

The third system features a dotted quarter note on 'gin - ning,' followed by eighth notes for 'is now, and ev - er shall be,' and a quarter note. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and single notes.

world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

The fourth system concludes the piece. The vocal line has a dotted quarter note on 'world with - out end.' followed by eighth notes for 'A - men, a - men.' and a quarter note. The piano accompaniment ends with a final chord and a double bar line.

As the Wind Song

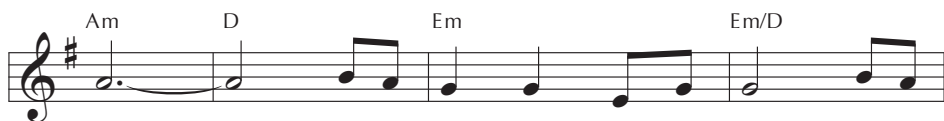
風之頌



1 As the wind song through the trees, as the
 2 As the rain - bow af - ter rain, as the
 1 風之頌, 林中吹送, 輕風之
 2 彩之虹, 雨後高懸, 生之



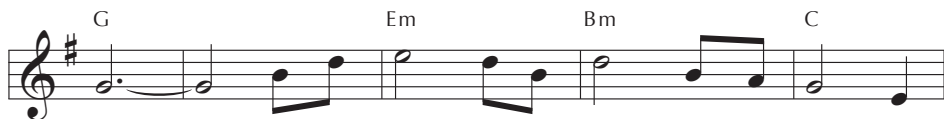
stir - ring of the breeze, so it is with the Spir - it of
 hope that's born a - gain, so it is with the Spir - it of
 送, 心中振動, 上主的靈如風吹
 盼, 人間再現, 上主的靈如風吹



God, as the heart made strange-ly warm, as the
 God, as the green in the spring, as a
 送; 心溫暖, 奇異難明, 風浪
 送; 春天裡, 青山綠水, 線上



voice with - in the storm, so it is with the Spir - it of
 kite on a string, so it is with the Spir - it of
 中, 靜聽主聲, 上主的靈如風吹
 繫飛揚風箏, 上主的靈如風吹



God. Nev - er seen, ev - er known where this wind has
 God, mak - ing worlds that are new, mak - ing peace come
 送; 眼不見, 心未明, 風來去何
 送; 大地萬象更新, 和平終實

Reversing the usual order, this hymn began with the music rather than the words. The composer (from Singapore) sent this tune to the author (in New Zealand) to see what text it might inspire from her. She also suggested the tune name, a Maori phrase meaning "Holy Spirit."



blown bring-ing life, bring-ing power to the world,
 true, bring-ing gifts, bring-ing love to the world,
 蹤, 給 世 人 賜 生 命 加 力 量;
 現, 給 世 人 帶 來 愛 和 禮 物;



as the danc - ing tongues of fire, as the soul's most deep de -
 as the ris - ing of the yeast, as the wine at the
 火 之 舌, 跳 動 飛 舞, 心 深 處, 朝 思 暮
 麵 之 酵, 悄 然 膨 升, 盛 宴 上, 醇 香 美



sire, so it is with the Spir - it of God.
 feast, so it is with the Spir - it of God.
 想, 上 主 的 靈 如 風 吹 送。
 酒, 上 主 的 靈 如 風 吹 送。

He Came Down

137

He came down that we may have love; he

came down that we may have love; he came down that we may

have love; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.

Leader: Why did he come?

Additional stanzas:

... that we may have light
 ... that we may have peace
 ... that we may have joy

Because this traditional Cameroon piece begins with the refrain, it does not initially reveal that it is cast as a call-and-response song. Assigning the answers to the congregation rather than to the leader is a notable affirmation of the corporate wisdom of God's people.