

FIFTH SUNDAY *in* LENT

Sunday, March 26, 2023

Watch live: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-0ZmiL7xXdU>

PRELUDE

Beneath the Cross of Jesus – arr. Ted Cornell

Linda Sweetman Waters, Piano

WELCOME *and* ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Bruce Ballantine

MINUTE *for* MINISTRY

Connections ~ Janet Daly

200 Seconds ~ Anita Hutton

CALL *to* WORSHIP

A kind word opens a closed flower. **A soul-deep prayer lifts the clouds.**

A generous gift loosens hardened hearts. **A quiet deed catches another's attention.**

A heart-felt forgiveness releases new possibilities. **Each act of love, each measure of care weaves another strand in God's Kingdom and causes the heart to sing.**

*HYMN 376 - *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

PRAYER *of* CONFESSION

Holy God, we do not understand why you keep on loving us. We hurt our loved ones.

We turn our backs on need. We seek revenge for petty wrongs in petty ways.

We do not understand why you keep on loving us. Yet even as we speak these words, we know your presence and your love. We are sorry, O God, for we know that sins against one another are sins against you.

Make us strong and tender, we pray, that we may live more as you would have us live.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE *of* FORGIVENESS

*GLORIA PATRI – HYMN 579

*PASSING *of the* PEACE

ANTHEM

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross - Gilbert M. Martin

The Chancel Choir and Linda Sweetman Waters, Organ

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died, my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save the death of Christ, my God! All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood. See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down! Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown? Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small; love, so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all! Amen!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MaryEllen Castaldo ~ Director of Children *and* Family Ministries

FIRST READING

John 11:17-27 ~ Cole Bellorgey

SECOND READING

John 11:38-45 ~ Pastor Bruce Ballantine

SERMON

Dreaming Beyond the Boundaries

Rev. Bruce Ballantine

MUSICAL OFFERING

Risen Today – arr. William Cutter

Joshua LeRose, Tenor

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble. Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble. Alleluia, sing to Jesus! His the victory alone. Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood. Jesus, out of every nation, has redeemed us with His blood.

CALL to OFFERING

Please venmo @FirstPres-RidgewoodNJ,
drop your offering in the plate on your way out,
or mail check to the church. Thank you!



PRAYERS of the PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

Out of the ashes, up from the dust, we bring our prayers to God, saying:

In your steadfast love, **O Lord, have mercy on us.**

God of all mercy, we pray for the church. Teach us to treasure your word of grace
and to live faithfully as your people, so that all may know that you are our God.

Silent Prayers

In your steadfast love, **O Lord, have mercy on us.**

God of all mercy, in a world in which some people experience the ravages of war,
and others have their lives turned upside down by natural disasters,
we pray for those who have lost so much.

In a world in which nations are too often betrayed by their leaders,
we ask you to drive out false leaders and wicked rulers.

Draw all people to your way of truth and life, bringing justice and peace to every land.

Silent Prayers

In your steadfast love, **O Lord, have mercy on us.**

God of all mercy, we pray for our communities. Hasten the coming of that great day when all people,
from the greatest to the least - will know the promise of your holy realm.

Silent Prayers

In your steadfast love, **O Lord, have mercy on us.**

God of all mercy, we pray for loved ones as well as those whom nobody loves.
Hear the prayers and tears of all who suffer. By the saving power of Christ Jesus,
deliver them from sickness, sin and death.

Silent Prayers

In your steadfast love, **O Lord, have mercy on us.**

Restore in us, O God, the joy of your salvation; renew and sustain our spirits,
so that we may live according to your will; through Jesus Christ, our hope and strength.

And now we are bold to pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

*HYMN (see attachment) - *In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

First Presbyterian Church 200th Anniversary Hymn

Please join the Chancel Choir in singing the Choral Benediction.

*Welcoming all, we serve Christ in a holy communion,
Sharing His love with all brothers and sisters in union.
With hands that serve we go forth into His world
Meeting the challenge before us.*

POSTLUDE

Rhapsodie Gothique – Gordon Young
Linda Sweetman Waters, Organ

CHANCEL FLOWERS

*Chancel Flowers are given
in celebration of the 59th Anniversary of Joanne & Larry Bonwick on March 28th
& in celebration of the 53rd Anniversary of Sue & Lew Dickinson on March 28th as well!*

*Please stand if you are able.

SCRIPTURE READINGS for SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2023

FIRST READING

John 11:17-27

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” ²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴ Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷ She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

SECOND READING

John 11:38-45

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.” ⁴⁵ Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

376 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

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Charles Wesley, 1747

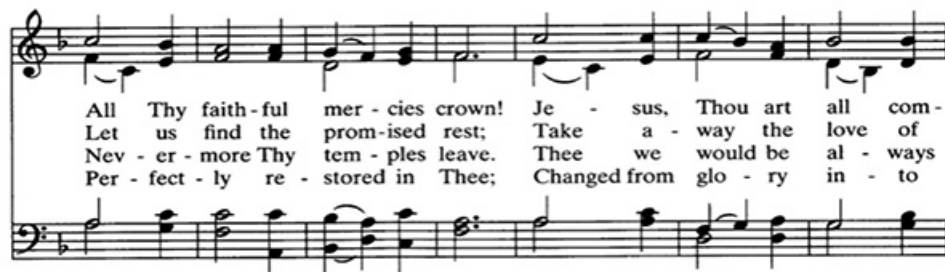
Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1831



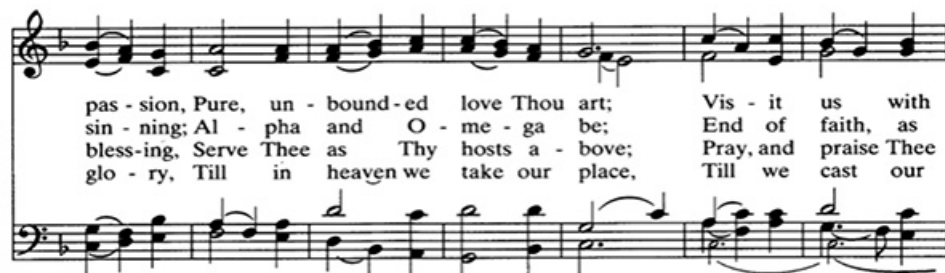
1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to
 2. Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to ev - ery
 3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, Let us all Thy
 4. Fin - ish, then, Thy new cre - a - tion; Pure and spot - less



earth come down, Fix in us Thy hum - ble dwell - ing,
 trou - bled breast! Let us all in Thee in - her - it,
 life re - ceive; Sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er,
 let us be; Let us see Thy great sal - va - tion



All Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown! Je - sus, Thou art all com -
 Let us find the prom - ised rest; Take a - way the love of
 Nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways
 Per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee; Changed from glo - ry in - to



pas - sion, Pure, un - bound - ed love Thou art; Vis - it us with
 sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be; End of faith, as
 bless - ing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts a - bove; Pray, and praise Thee
 glo - ry, Till in heaven we take our place, Till we cast our



Thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore Thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise.

In the Bulb There Is a Flower 250

Hymn of Promise



1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;



in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
 there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.



In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,



un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

The writing of this hymn was spurred by a line from the poet T. S. Eliot: "In my end is my beginning."
 Shortly after this piece was completed, the author/composer's husband was diagnosed with what proved to be a terminal malignancy, and the original anthem version of this hymn was sung at his funeral.