



Full { *Prodigal*  
to the Brim *grace*

## Cover Art:

### *New in Christ*

by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

Inspired by 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Digital painting

How does one image the transformation we experience in Christ? I began with this verse: “So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” (2 Cor. 5:17, NRSV)

When I closed my eyes and repeated this verse over and over again, I began to see the silhouette of a person filled with the echoes of the first creation narrative in Genesis. This came at no surprise to me, considering I like to think of the first creation narrative in a radial fashion, with the imagery of each day starting from the center and building in rings upon the next. Within this person experiencing new life in Christ is imagery of the delineation of light and darkness, water and sky, water and earth. They contain seeds yielding vegetation, the light of the sun and the moon, the feathers of winged creatures, the patterned wings of butterflies, and the closed buds of Sabbath. From there the creation narrative begins again, continuing to ripple and move toward the edges of the figure.

At the center of the creation narrative is a fire poppy, which symbolizes new life, for it grows and thrives in the ash following the destruction of wildfire. A butterfly is poised on the flower, also representing new life, for it transforms from a caterpillar into an intricately-designed, delicately-winged creature. The poppy grows from the wound of the golden figure who is meant to personify the transformative love of Christ. The figures, one experiencing new life, and the other sharing the love of Christ, embrace and dance, offering a new picture of what the ministry of reconciliation might look like.

—Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman



*With Christ as the Cornerstone, we will build a church of living stones,  
where every member is a minister and is equipped to express God's love  
by word and deed to all people.*

*Based on 1 Peter 2:5, 6*

# The Worship of God

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 27, 2022

*All Are invited to sing during worship! Masks are recommended but not required.  
For anyone who would like to wear a mask but does not have one,  
they are available at the back of the sanctuary.*

**Prelude**

**"Amazing Grace"**

Tim Hendrix

Traditional,  
arr. Mark Hayes

**Welcome**

April Alston

**✠ Call to Worship**

One: God's reach is endless.

**All: God's mercy is unstoppable.**

One: God's grace is lavish.

**All: God's love is constant.**

One: God's wisdom is vast.

**All: God's hope is stubborn.**

One: God's presence is here—

**All: with us, among us, moving through us...**

One: Breathe easy. Breathe deeply.

**All: We are in God's house.**

One: Let us worship the One who welcomes us home.

**"Full to the Brim"**

Words and Music by  
Christian McIvor ©2022

**Full to the brim, God's love is overflowing.**

**Full to the brim, God's grace, in us, is growing.**

**Let us pour out living streams**

**as we realize God's dream,**

**living lives that are full to the brim.**

✠ Please rise in body or spirit.

† **Opening Hymn 355**      “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

Verses 1, 3-4

WELLESLEY;

Words by Frederick W. Faber,  
music by Lizzie S. Tourjee

**There’s a wideness in God’s mercy like the wideness of the sea;  
There’s a kindness in His justice which is more than liberty.**

**For the love of God is broader than the measure of man’s mind;  
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.**

**If our love were but more simple, we should take Him at His word;  
And our lives would be illumined by the presence of our Lord.**

**Children’s Sermon**

April Alston

**Call to Confession**

Steve Rose

If you ask any parent with a teenager what it’s like to wait up for their child to meet curfew, they will tell you—they’re standing at the door. The porch light is on. No one can sleep until that child is home safe.  
Friends, I think God is like that for us. The porch light is on. The door is unlocked. We might be late for curfew, but God is just so glad we’re home.  
So let us pray the prayer of confession together, trusting that no matter what we do or what we leave undone, the porch light is always on. Let us pray...

**Prayer of Confession**

**The prodigal son isn’t given a name, but we know his name. It sounds like ours.  
And we know his story. It sounds like ours.  
For who among us hasn’t burned a bridge?  
Who among us hasn’t forgotten that we belong to one another?  
Who among us has not ached for home?  
The prodigal son isn’t given a name, but we know his name.  
Forgive us God. We want to come home.**

**Words of Forgiveness**

One:    Family of faith, the word ‘prodigal’ can be defined as wasteful or imprudent, hence the name, “Prodigal Son.” However, ‘prodigal’ can also be described as extravagant and excessive.  
Friends, we worship a prodigal God—a God who is extravagant in mercy and excessive in grace.  
For no matter how many times we run, no matter how far we go or how lost we get, God is standing at the end of the driveway waiting for us. The doors are open.  
The feast is for you. This grace is extravagant.

**All:    Thanks be to God, amen.**

## † Offertory Anthem

“Grace”  
GBC Adult Choir

arr. Mark Hayes

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch, a wretch like me;  
I once was lost but now am found;  
I once was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And that same grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour when I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,  
I have already safely come;  
This grace hath brought me safe thus far,  
And surely, surely grace will lead me home,  
I shall go home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun, the glorious sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than since the day we first begun,  
Than since the day we first begun.

## † Doxology

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

O WALY WALY;

Words by Neil Weatherhogg,  
Music: Scottish Folk Melody

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise Christ, all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
praise Triune God, whom we adore.**

## Prayer of Dedication

Bill Baxley

## Scripture Reading

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Amy Vandersip

## Sermon

“*Prodigal grace*”

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

## Silent Reflection

## Musical Reflection

## “Broken Vessels (Amazing Grace)”

Words and Music  
by Joel Houston and Jonas Myrin

Verse 1:

**All these pieces broken and scattered,  
In mercy gathered, mended and whole;  
Empty handed but not forsaken,  
I've been set free, I've been set free.**

Prechorus:

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me;  
Oh, I once was lost but now I am found  
Was blind but now I see.**

Chorus:

**Oh, I can see You now,  
Oh, I can see the love in Your eyes;  
Laying Yourself down,  
Raising up the broken to life.**

Verse 2:

**You take our failure, You take our weakness,  
You set Your treasure in jars of clay.  
So take this heart Lord, I'll be Your vessel;  
The world to see Your life in me.**

(Prechorus 2x)

(Chorus)

## Pastoral Prayer

Anna Beth Cross

## Invitation

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

## † Hymn of Response 479

“Softly and Tenderly”

THOMPSON;  
Words and Music by Will L. Thompson

**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!"**

(cont'd on next page)

† Please rise in body or spirit.

**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)

**Time is now fleeting; the moments are passing, passing from you and from me.  
Shadows are gathering; death's night is coming, coming for you and for me.**

(Refrain)

**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)

## **Celebrating Community**

Christian McIvor

## **Benediction**

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

As you leave this place,  
may you be awestruck by the beauty of this world.  
May you laugh, and may it be contagious.  
May you overflow with love for those around you.  
May you be effusive with hope and quick to point out joy.

And in all of your living, and breathing, and being,  
may you find yourself full to the brim with God's Holy Spirit,  
and may it change your life.  
In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself—  
go in peace, full to the brim. Amen.

## **Postlude**

**"Celebration on 'Warrenton'"**  
Pam Weis

from *The Sacred Harp*,  
arr. Douglas E. Wagner

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