



Wandering Heart

*"Rescue me
from danger"*

Rescue Me

I'd rather not need rescue.

I'd prefer a five-step plan

and a quick-fix solution.

I'd prefer stubborn insistence over honest vulnerability, because rescue requires asking for help.

Rescue names

the rising water. Rescue sees

the tired, treading feet. Rescue feels

the swell of the wind

and the rain at a slant.

But when the floor falls out

and the world is on fire

and my small hands

cannot fix the hurt welling in me, the prayer that slips out

is rescue

rescue

rescue me.

— Rev. Sarah Speed

*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

Second Sunday in Lent

February 25, 2024

Gathering Music

“Eternal Father, Strong to Save”

MELITA;
Words by William Whiting,
Music by John Bacchus Dykes

“Amazing Grace”

NEW BRITAIN;
Words by John Newton,
Music from *Columbian Harmony* arr. Edwin O. Excell

“Firm Foundation (He Won’t)”

by Cody Cranes, Austin Davis,
and Chandler Moore

“Little Blue”

by Jacob Collier

Prelude

“I Will Keep My Eyes on You”

Cynthia Griesedieck

by Cindy Berry

Welcome

Christian McIvor

† Call to Worship

One: God welcomes the dreamers and the doubters.

All: the courageous and the fearful,

One: the hungry and the hopeful,

All: the impatient and the reserved.

One: God welcomes the young and the old,

All: the poets and the prophets,

One: the faithful and the tired,

All: the curious and the convicted.

One: Wherever you are on your journey,
wherever your boat is at sea,

All: there is room for all to gather here.

One: This is God’s house.

All: Let us worship the one whom even the seas obey.

† Please rise in body or spirit.

† Opening Hymn

“Wandering Hearts”

by Christian McIvor ©2024

**On this road we walk together, through the bends, the twists and turns,
Let us to your love be tethered by a faith that for you burns.**

**In the valley, on the mountain, in the water and the wind;
Lord, your mercy, like a fountain, flows for us from deep within.**

Chorus:

**On this journey, we'll live into who you're calling us to be;
Every high and low we're shaped through, bind our wandering hearts to thee.
Bind our wandering hearts to thee.**

**All our flaws and imperfections, our whole selves, Lord, you embrace.
As our paths lead all directions, tune our hearts to sing your grace.**

**As the planets go on spinning, we will learn with each new day;
You're in every new beginning and in you, we find our way.**

(Chorus)

Bridge:

**As our story keeps unfolding, for your justice we will speak.
Onto you, Lord, we are holding and your kin-dom we will seek.**

(Chorus)

*During the last stanza of our Opening Hymn,
all children are invited to come forward for today's children's sermon.*

Children's Sermon

Kay Meyer

† Centering Song

“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

HYFRYDOL; Words by
Robert Robinson (alt.), Music from
Rowland Hugh Prichard harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams

**Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious love.**

Call to Confession

Anna Beth Cross

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,
There are days that threaten to swallow us,
days when the storms of life feel too big.
In those moments, we often cling to the sides of our ships in fear,
spending more energy hiding from storms than looking for you.
Forgive us for doubting ourselves.
Forgive us for doubting you.
Rescue us from the storms of today and from the fears that trap us.
With hope in our hearts we pray,
amen.

Words of Forgiveness

Offertory Anthem

“The Storm Is Passing Over”

GBC Choir

by Charles Albert Lindley,
arr. Barbara W. Baker

Have courage my soul and let us journey on
Though the night is dark, and I am far from home.
Thanks be to God, the morning light appears.

The storm is passing over,
The storm is passing over,
The storm is passing over, Hallelu!
(Repeat)

Halelujah, Ha-le-lu-jah, Ha-le-lu-jah!
The storm is passing over,
The storm is passing over,
The storm is passing over, Hallelu!
(Repeat...)

✠ Lenten Doxology

**Praise God throughout these forty days.
Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.
And praise the Spirit who imparts
God’s love in Christ into our hearts.**

LAMB OF GOD;
Words by G. W. Dub Shepherd,
Music by Twila Paris

✠ Prayer of Dedication

Amy Ng

Scripture Reading

Psalm 22:23-31, Matthew 14:22-33

Erin Delgado

Sermon

“Rescue Me”

April Alston

Invitation

† **Hymn of Response 684** *“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”*

**Precious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, help me stand.
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Thro’ the storm, thro’ the night, Lead me on to the light.
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.**

**When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near—
When my life is almost gone.
Here my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall.
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.**

Celebrating Community

Anna Beth Cross

Benediction

Postlude

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Susan Gardner

LOBE DEN HERREN;

Music from the *Stralsund Gesangbuch*

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Graphic Design by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman | Liturgy by Rev. Sarah Speed
“Lift Off” by Nicolette Peñaranda | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Financial Information as of January 31, 2024

Contributions Received:	\$53,119.03
Expenses:	\$65,780.10
Net:	\$(12,661.07)

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