



Wandering Heart

"Praise the mount"

Praise the Mount

I have stayed quiet before.

I have held my tongue
while passing mountains.

I have slipped my hands deep into pockets,
despite the music that invites me to dance.

I have glimpsed a new moon and a new love
and have acted as if it was something other than a complete, God-given miracle.

But not today.

Not today.

Today I will dance.

Today I will tap my toes all the way to heaven's gates.

Today I will point out every shade of gold and periwinkle that we pass. Today I will talk
about my faith like we talk about the weather—

early and unprompted, comfortable and unashamed.

Today I will tell you that God did such a good job with freckles, willow trees,
and your entire being.

And I will not be embarrassed by my own conviction.

I will not swallow my praise.

I have stayed quiet before,
but not today.

Today I will sing.

— 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

Third Sunday in Lent

March 3, 2024

Gathering Music

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

FAITHFULNESS;
Words by Thomas O. Chisholm,
Music by William Marion Runyan

“God, You Spin the Whirling Planets”

PLEADING SAVIOR;
Words by Jane Parker Huber,
American Folk Melody harm. Richard Proulx

“Wholehearted”

Words and Music by
Gareth Gilkeson and Chris Llewellyn

“Indescribable”

Words and Music by Jesse Reeves
and Laura Story

Prelude

Sandra Hunt

Welcome

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

Call to Worship

One: If you ask the sky who God is,

All: the sky will tell you of God's reach.

One: If you ask the day who God is,

All: the sun will tell you of God's warmth.

One: If you ask the night who God is,

All: the moon will tell you of God's comfort.

One: “The heavens are telling the glory of God” (Psalm 19:1).

Are you listening?

All: We are listening!

We will sing of God's glory.

One: Let us worship Holy God.

† Please rise in body or spirit.

Opening Hymn 210

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
Join me in glad adoration!**

**Praise to the Lord, who o’er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires all have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?**

**Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
If with His love He befriend thee.**

**Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the “amen” sound from His people again;
Gladly forever adore Him!**

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

Children’s Sermon

Paxton Vaughn

† Centering Song

“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

HOLY MANNA; Words by
Robert Robinson (alt.),
Music by William Moore

**Come, thou Fount of every blessing;
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I’m fixed upon it,
mount of God’s unchanging love!**

Call to Confession

Steve Rose

Prayer of Confession

Holy God,
Some days, we are quick to declare your goodness.
Like Peter, we see you in our midst and we are confident in our faith.
Other days, we are distracted and uncertain, desperate for answers.
Forgive us for losing sight of you.

Some days we are quick to trust your blessings—
trusting that we are called, that we can make a difference.
Other days, our praise falls silent and doubt creeps in.
Forgive us for losing sight of ourselves.

We know that fear and doubt are part of the journey of faith.
But for the days when we are far from you and far from ourselves, we ask for your tender grace.
Pull us closer toward you. Remind us of the mountaintop moments of our faith. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

Offertory Anthem

“The Meditations of My Heart”
GBC Choir

by Elaine Hagenberg

† Lenten Doxology

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

**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.**

† Prayer of Dedication

Sammy Roberts

Scripture Reading

Matthew 16:13-20

Sylvia Cash

Sermon

“Praise the Mount”

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

Communion

Chrissy Tatum Williamson and Anna Beth Cross

† **Hymn of Response 147**

“How Great Thou Art”

Stanzas 1-2, 4

**O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy pow’r throwout the universe displayed.**

Refrain:

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee;
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee;
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!**

**When thro’ the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;**

(Refrain)

**When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim: my God, how great Thou art!**

(Refrain)

Celebrating Community

Christian McIvor

Benediction

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

Postlude

“Praise Him! Praise Him!”
Pam Weis

arr. Mary McDonald

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