



Wandering
Heart *"I'm fixed upon it"*

Open Hands

We are born with the ability
to wrap our fingers around another,
to hold tight to what we know.
Maybe that's where the instinct comes from— this clinging,
this sinking,
this holding on.
Maybe that's why Peter cries, "Never!"
when Jesus must leave.
From the very beginning
we've known how to hold tight.
So I pray:
open up my hands.
Uncurl my fingers
one by one.
Loosen the grip
that I hold unyielding.
Remind me that birds must fly
and children must grow
and leaves must fall.
And even though
we are born with the ability
to hold tight,
we can learn how to love
with open hands.

— 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

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 10, 2024

Gathering Music

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

CRUSADERS’ HYMN;
Words from *Münster Gesangbuch*,
Silesian Folk Melody

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

WONDROUS LOVE;
American Folk Hymn,
Music from Walker’s *Southern Harmony*
harm. Carlton R. Young

“Draw Me Close”

Words and Music by
Kelly Carpenter

“Wandering Hearts”

Words and Music by
Christian McIvor ©2024

Prelude

“More Love To Thee”
Cynthia Griesedieck

arr. Cindy Berry

Welcome

Anna Beth Cross

Call to Worship

One: On our worst days,

All: God is good.

One: On our best days,

All: God is good.

One: When life is consistent,

All: God is good.

One: And when life turns on its head,

All: God is good.

One: Day and night, Monday through Sunday,

All: God is good. God is here. God is love.

One: Hold tight to that good news. Let us worship God!

† Please rise in body or spirit.

† Opening Hymn

“O Love that Will Not Let Me Go”

Words by George Matheson,
Music by Christopher Miner

O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

O light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.

O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

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

Children's Sermon

Lou Dawson

† Centering Song

“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

ARISE; Words by
Robert Robinson (alt.),
American Melody from Walker's *Southern Harmony*

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

Jerry Chiles

Prayer of Confession

**Holy God,
We often find ourselves moving through a world that does not make sense.
Like Peter, we want to yell out, "This should not happen!"
We want to control scenarios beyond our reach.
We want to hold your world in our hands.
Forgive us for the moments when we lead with declarations instead of curiosity.
Forgive us for arguing when we could listen.
Forgive us for fixating on one truth, when we could open ourselves up to many.
Soften our hard edges and teach us how to listen.
With hope in our hearts we pray, amen.**

Words of Forgiveness

Offertory Anthem

"Like a River in My Soul"

arr. Tim Osiek

GBC Choir

I've got peace like a river, like a river in my soul.
I've got peace like a river, soothing river, calmly flow.
When the world closes in, feel the stillness within.
I've got peace like a river, like a river in my soul.

I've got love like an ocean, like an ocean in my soul.
I've got love like an ocean, endless ocean, deep and full.
When you're lost and alone, let the waves bring you home.
I've got love like an ocean, like an ocean in my soul (in my soul...).

I've got joy like a fountain, like a fountain in my soul.
I've got joy like a fountain, like a fountain in my soul.
When your hope nearly dies, just remember, once again
You shall rise!

I've got joy like a fountain, love like an ocean, peace like a river,
In my soul (like a fountain, like an ocean, like a river),
In my soul.

† 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**

Ron Thompson

Scripture Reading

Matthew 16:21-23

Karen Brewer

Sermon

"I'm Fixed Upon It"

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

Invitation

† **Hymn of Response 562**

"Be Thou My Vision"

**Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art—
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.**

**Be Thou my Wisdom and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son,
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.**

**Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.**

**High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.**

Celebrating Community

Christian McIvor

Benediction

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

Postlude

"At the Name of Jesus"

Susan Gardner

WYE VALLEY;

Music by James Mountain

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