



Wandering Heart

"Teach me"



Teach Me

Teach me about the ways of the wind,
about the ways of the world,
about the ways of the heart.
Teach me about the soft crook of my lover's arm,
and the way two souls can hold each other close.
Teach me about forgiveness, about the language of *I'm sorry*
and the softness of sincerity.
Teach me about abundance, about *seventy-times-seven*
and *all the days of my life*.
Teach me about joy, about its contagious weaving
and its soul-healing.
Teach me about mercy, about open hands and deep breaths.
Teach me about the dawn of time and the stars in the sky.
Teach me what matters most.
Teach me what is mine to do.
Teach this achingly curious heart
until I run out of questions
or I run out of days.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
and I will have a life well-lived.

— 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

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 17, 2024

Gathering Music

“Though I May Speak”

GIFT OF LOVE;
Words by Hal H. Hopson,
English Folk Melody adapt. Hal H. Hopson

“Help Us Accept Each Other”

BARONITA;
Words by Fred Kaan,
Music by Doreen Potter

“Love Your Crooked Neighbor with Your Crooked Heart” Words and Music by
Christian McIvor ©2018

“The Answer”

Words and Music by
Christian McIvor ©2023

Prelude

“Give Me Jesus ”
GBC Handbell Choir

Traditional Black Spiritual
arr. Lloyd Larson

Welcome

Chrissy Williamson

† Call to Worship

One: Why are you here?

**All: I am seeking God with my whole heart,
with my entire mind, with a fire burning in my bones.**

One: I see it! You're in the right place!
This is God's house. The door is open to you.

All: Why are *you* here?

One: I am seeking God with my whole heart,
with my entire mind, with a fire burning in my bones.

**All: We see that in you! You're in the right place.
This is God's house. The door is open to you.**

One: Let us worship God.

All: Let us learn from the Spirit. Amen!

† *Please rise in body or spirit.*

† Opening Hymn

“Wandering Hearts”

Words and Music 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

April Alston

Musical Reflection

“I Need Thee Every Hour”
GBC Handbell Choir

by Robert Lowry arr. Lloyd Larson

† Centering Song

“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

AUSTRIAN HYMN;
Words by Robert Robinson,
Music by Franz Joseph Haydn

**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!**

Prayer of Confession

Holy God,

We long to be lifelong learners.

We long to approach you with curiosity and an open mind.

Instead, we often live as if we know best.

We forget that the disciples called you “Rabbi, Teacher.”

Forgive us for the times when we fail to be curious.

Forgive us for the times when we assume we know best.

Forgive us for the moments when we imagine that our learning is done and that we have all the answers.

Like Peter—who was brave enough to ask, “How many times should we forgive?”—make us brave. Spark a desire in us to learn, and may our curiosity carry our faith into deeper waters.

With hope and humility we pray, amen.

Words of Forgiveness

Offertory Anthem

“I Choose Love”

GBC Choir

Words by Lindy Thompson,
Music by Mark A. Miller

In the midst of pain, I choose love.

In the midst of pain, I choose love.

In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,

I await the sun again, I choose love.

I choose love.

In the midst of war, I choose peace.

In the midst of war, I choose peace.

In the midst of war, hate and anger keeping score,

I will seek the good once more, I choose peace.

I choose peace.

When my world falls down, I will rise.

When my world falls down, I will rise.

When my world falls down, explanations can't be found,

I will climb to holy ground, I will rise.

I will rise.

In the midst of pain, I choose love.

In the midst of pain, I choose love.

In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,

I await the sun again, I choose love.

I choose love.

† 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

Ramona Taylor

Scripture Reading

Matthew 18:15-22

Justin Williamson

Sermon

"Teach Me"

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

Invitation

† Hymn of Response 426 "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

**Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.
Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.
When we asunder part, it gives us inward pain;
But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.**

Celebrating Community

April Alston

Benediction

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

Postlude

*"Down to the River to Pray'
with 'Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying'"*
Pam Weis

arr. Mary McDonald

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