

**OUR APPROACH TO GOD**

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

Nancy Curtis

PRELUDE

*Siciliano*

J.S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to give thanks to God,

**Who remains in our midst on our journey of faith.**

We come to give praise to God,

**Who nourishes us with living water.**

We come to give witness to God,

**Who leads us to our final destiny.**

OPENING HYMN

*And Can It Be?*

- 1. And can it be that I should gain An in - t'rest in  
 - 2. He left His Fa - ther's throne a - bove, So free, so in -  
 3. Long my im - pris - oned spir - it lay Fast bound in sin  
 - 4. No con - dem - na - tion now I dread: Je - sus, and all

the Sav - ior's blood? Died He for me, who caused His pain?  
 fi - nite His grace! Emp - tied Him - self of all but love,  
 and na - ture's night. Thine eye dif - fused a quick - 'ning ray:  
 in Him, is mine! A - live in Him, my liv - ing Head,

For me, who Him to death pur - sued? A - maz - ing love!  
 And bled for Ad - am's help - less race! 'Tis mer - cy all,  
 I woke the dun - geon flamed with light! My chains fell off,  
 And clothed in right - eous - ness di - vine, Bold I ap - proach

how can it be That Thou, my God should  
 im - mense and free, For, O my God, it  
 my heart was free, I rose, went forth, and  
 th'e - ter - nal throne, And claim the crown, thru

TEXT: Charles Wesley  
 MUSIC: Thomas Campbell; Choral ending by Joseph Linn  
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There is a list online of seven hymns that churches don't sing anymore. *And Can It Be?* is the first one on the list. Written by Charles Wesley in 1738, it is based on Romans 5:8. Read these theologically grounded words.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God of mercy and forgiveness, you accepted the complaints of the Israelites in the desert. Be understanding when we question, doubt, or test your fidelity and patience. We confess that we forget your many gifts and graces to us when we feel alone and in need. We acknowledge that we complain and grumble against our leaders and those who do not always and immediately meet our needs. We admit that we have not responded to others whose needs are greater than ours, whose status is lower than ours, whose claims interfere with ours. Help us to look beyond our individual needs and see the common good; help us to feel more than our own pain and offer comfort to others; help us to work for more than our own ambitions and be of service to those who are neglected. We humbly ask this through Christ...*Time of silent reflection***

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE - *John 3:16-17*

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

## SEASONAL RESPONSE

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be;  
World without end! Amen, Amen.**

## THE WORD OF GOD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### SCRIPTURE

John 4:5-42

### SERMON

HYMN

*I Love to Tell the Story*

1. I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove, Of Je - sus  
 2. I love to tell the sto - ry—'tis pleas - ant to re - peat What seems, each  
 3. I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best Seem hun - ger-

and His glo - ry, of Je - sus and His love; I love to tell the  
 time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet; I love to tell the  
 ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest; And when in scenes of

sto - ry be - cause I know 'tis true, It sat - is - fies my long - ings  
 sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard The mes - sage of sal - va - tion  
 glo - ry I sing the new, new song, 'Twill be the old, old sto - ry

*Refrain*

as noth - ing else can do.  
 from God's own ho - ly Word. I love to tell the sto - ry! 'Twill be my  
 that I have loved so long.

theme in glo - ry— To tell the old, old sto - ry Of Je - sus and His love.

TEXT: A. Catherine Hankey  
 MUSIC: William G. Fischer

## **OUR RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS, AND PRAYER REQUESTS

OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT

SONG OF PRAISE

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**O gracious God, we give you thanks for the simple gifts of food and drink as well as the personal gifts of family, friends, and community. Keep us mindful of how blessed we are, especially when we feel unsure about our future or embarrassed by our past. Help us to be satisfied with what we need, not what we want. Move us to share our resources with those who lack the basic necessities of human life. See in the gifts that we offer a sign of our willingness to be offered as your manna and your water for the people of the world. We make this offering in the name of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.**

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth,**

**And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PASTORAL PRAYER with the Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive  
our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

HYMN

*Pass It On*

1. It on - ly takes a spark to get a fire go - ing,  
2. What a won - drous time is spring - when all the trees are bud - ding,  
3. I wish for you, my friend, this hap - pi - ness that I've found - pass it on!

And soon all those a - round can warm up in its glow - ing;  
The birds be - gin to sing, the flow - ers start their bloom - ing;  
You can de - pend on Him, it mat - ters not where you're bound; pass it on!

That's how it is with God's love, once you've ex - per - i - enced it: You  
That's how it is with God's love, once you've ex - per - i - enced it: You  
I'll shout it from the moun - tain top, I want my world to know: The

spread His love to ev - 'ry - one, you want to pass it on.  
want to sing, it's fresh like spring, you want to pass it on.  
Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on.

TEXT and MUSIC: Kurt Kaiser

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CLOSING BLESSING

POSTLUDE *Plein Chant du Premier Kyrie, en Taille* Francois Couperin