

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Don Price

PRELUDE

Bist Du Bei Mir

J.S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP

Creator, Redeemer, Sanctifier,

Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,

Loving, Teaching, Empowering,

Let us worship God.

OPENING HYMN

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

1. Come, Thou Fount of ev - ery bless - ing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
 2. Hith - er - to Thy love has blest me; Thou hast bro't me to this place;
 3. O to grace how great a debt - or Dai - ly I'm con - strained to be!

Streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, Call for songs of loud - est praise.
 And I know Thy hand will bring me Safe - ly home by Thy good grace.
 Let Thy good - ness, like a fet - ter, Bind my wan - dering heart to Thee:

Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, Sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove;
 Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger, Wan - dering from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love;

Praise His name—I'm fixed up-on it— Name of God's re - deem - ing love.
 He, to res - cue me from dan - ger, Bought me with His precious blood.
 Here's my heart, O take and seal it; Seal it for Thy courts a - bove. A - men.

TEXT: Robert Robinson; adapted by Margaret Clarkson

MUSIC: Traditional American melody; John Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, 1813

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

When we seek God's mercy, we draw close the mystery of faith: love that cannot be undone by our sin. Trusting that God is grace, let us offer to God the truth of our lives, first in silent prayer...

Holy Lord, God of life, hear our prayer. Forgive us when we follow those paths that do not lead to life, that lead instead to violence, or hate, or fear, paths that lead to dread and death. Forgive us when we forget that you offer us life, life that is abundant and eternal, life that began at the creation of all things. Forgive us, turn us to the right path, and let your love and grace flow over us and the world. We pray in Jesus' name and for his sake. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Even in our moments of doubt, our lack of faith, and the blindness which means we fail to see God amongst us, God is still at work. God is still healing. God is still forgiving. Even when you fail to see God, God still sees you, and still loves you. Sisters and brothers, your sins are forgiven. Go in peace, and give praise to God!

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

Ephesians 5:21-33

SERMON

Wives and Husbands

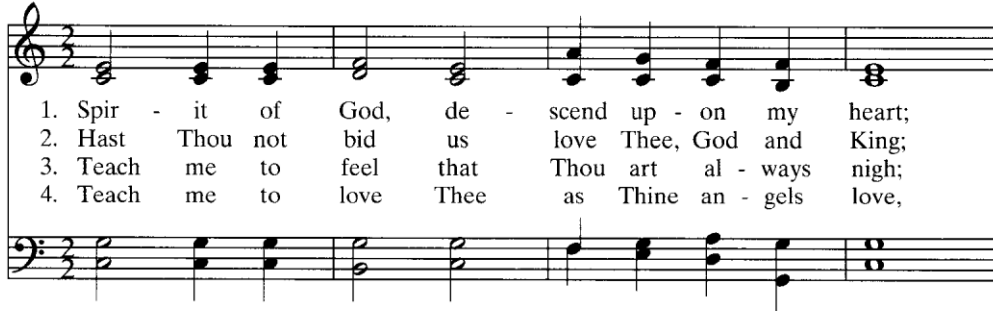
OUR RESPONSE TO THE WORD

HYMN

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

George Croly, 1854

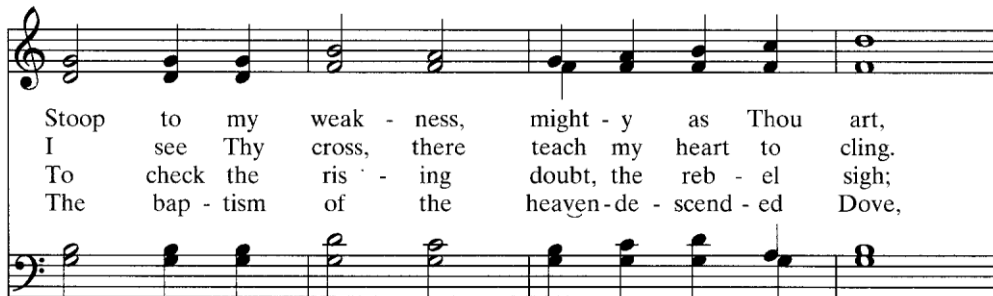
Frederick Cook Atkinson, 1870



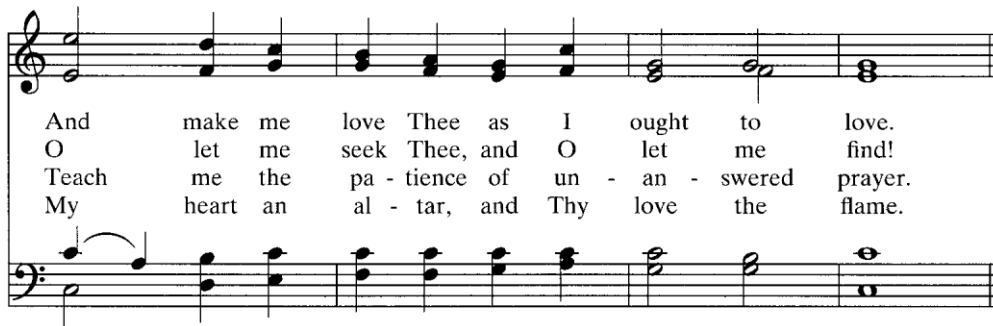
1. Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
2. Hast Thou not bid us love Thee, God and King;
3. Teach me to feel that Thou art al - ways nigh;
4. Teach me to love Thee as Thine an - gels love,



Wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
All, all Thine own: soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
Teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear,
One ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame;



Stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as Thou art,
I see Thy cross, there teach my heart to cling.
To check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh;
The bap - tism of the heaven - de - scend - ed Dove,



And make me love Thee as I ought to love.
O let me seek Thee, and O let me find!
Teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.
My heart an al - tar, and Thy love the flame.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS, AND PRAYER REQUESTS

OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT

SONG OF PRAISE

**We give Thee but Thine own, whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Ever-faithful God, we long to be faithful givers, modeling ourselves on you who has given everything to us. May your Spirit of abundance, which gives more than we ask or imagine, grace these gifts for your kingdom. In Jesus' name, 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

Day Is Done

James Quinn, 1969

Welsh melody, c. 1784



1. Day is done, but love un-fail - ing Dwells ev - er here;
 2. Dark de-scends, but light un-end - ing Shines through our night;
 3. Eyes will close, but You un-sleep-ing Watch by our side;

Shad - ows fall, but hope, pre - vail - ing, Calms ev - ery fear.
 You are with us, ev - er lend-ing New strength to sight;
 Death may come, in love's safe-keep-ing Still we a - bide.

God, our Mak - er, none for - sak - ing, Take our hearts, of Love's own
 One in love, Your truth con - fess - ing, One in hope of heav - en's
 God of love, all e - vil quell-ing, Sin for - giv - ing, fear dis -

mak-ing, Watch our sleep-ing, guard our wak - ing, Be al - ways near.
 bless-ing, May we see, in love's pos-sess - ing, Love's end - less light!
 pel - ling, Stay with us, our hearts in-dwell-ing, This e - ven - tide.

Text: © 1969, James Quinn, S.J. Reprinted by permission of Geoffrey Chapman, a division of Cassell Publishers Ltd., London.

CLOSING BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Sing a New Church

Eugene Englert