

## OUR APPROACH TO GOD

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Don Price

PRELUDE

*Spread a Little Sunshine*

Stephen Swartz

Back in my younger days, if things were going wrong, I might sulk, I might pout.  
Now I've learned if I just pitch in and do what's right, things will always work out.  
And if we all could spread a little sunshine, all could light a little fire,  
We all would be a little closer to our heart's desire.

Lord knows we've seen enough trouble already; we've had our fill of grey skies.  
So put down the vinegar, take up the honey jar; you'll catch many more flies.  
And if we all could spread a little sunshine, all could think before we strike,  
We all would be a little closer to the world we like.

I know the parables told in the holy book I keep close on my shelf.  
God's wisdom teaches me: when I help others, I'm really helping myself.  
And if we all could spread a little sunshine, all could lend a helping hand,  
We all would be a little closer to the Promised Land.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather today to worship the One who created us,

**The One who calls us,**

The One who equips us,

**The One who loves us without end.**

With joyful hearts, let us worship God.

OPENING HYMN *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867; alt. 1987

Welsh folk melody  
Adapted in *Caniadau y Cyssegr*, 1839

1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
3. To all, life Thou giv - est, to both great and small;  
4. Thou reign - est in glo - ry, Thou rul - est in light,

In light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, Thou rul - est in might;  
In all life Thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
Thine an - gels a - dore Thee, all veil - ing their sight;

Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
Thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
We blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,  
All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

Al - mighty, vic - to - rious, Thy great name we praise.  
Thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
Then with - er and per - ish; but naught chang - eth Thee.  
'Tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth Thee!

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the fullness of our lives, that which is beautiful and good, and that which is hurtful and hateful. We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do. We love with condition. We judge and condemn. We cast the first stone, and keep the logs in our own eyes. We do not turn to You as the source of our healing. Forgive us, we pray. Forgive our sin, and empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service...*Time of silent reflection***

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Friends, hear the Good News: God so loved the world that God sent Jesus to us, not to condemn the world but in order that we might be saved, healed and forgiven, through him. Thanks be 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

Philippians 1:12-18a

### SERMON

*God is Faithful in Unexpected Ways*

## OUR RESPONSE TO THE WORD

HYMN

*O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee*

Washington Gladden, 1879

Henry Percy Smith, 1874

1. O Mas - ter, let me walk with Thee In low - ly  
2. Help me the slow of heart to move By some clear,  
3. Teach me Thy pa - tience; still with Thee In clos - er,  
4. In hope that sends a shin - ing ray Far down the

paths of ser - vice free; Tell me Thy se - cret;  
win - ning word of love; Teach me the way - ward  
dear - er com - pa - ny, In work that keeps faith  
fu - ture's broad - ening way; In peace that on - ly

help me bear The strain of toil, the fret of care.  
feet to stay, And guide them in the home - ward way.  
sweet and strong, In trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong.  
Thou canst give, With Thee, O Mas - ter, let me live.

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

**For the wondrous gift of life, we are thankful, O God. Your generous outpouring of grace reminds us of the fruitful life we are called to bear. May these gifts of time and labor, therefore, embody our desire to share and contribute to your coming reign among us. 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 ENDIING 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

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

Thomas Obediah Chisholm, 1923

William Marion Runyan, 1923

1. \*Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther,  
 2. Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring-time and har - vest,  
 3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

There is no shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee;  
 Sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove  
 Thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide;

Thou chang - est not, Thy com - pas - sions they fail not;  
 Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness  
 Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,

As Thou hast been Thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
 To Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.  
 Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

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*Refrain*

Great is Thy faith - ful-ness! Great is Thy faith - ful-ness!

Morn-ing by morn-ing new mer-cies I see; All I have need-ed Thy

hand hath pro - vid - ed; Great is Thy faith - ful-ness, Lord, un - to me!

## CLOSING BLESSING

POSTLUDE *Let There Be Peace on Earth* Jill Jackson & Sy Miller

**Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.  
 Let there be peace on earth the peace that was meant to be.  
 With God as our father, children all are we.  
 Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.**

**Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.  
 With every step I take let this be my solemn vow.  
 To take each moment and live each moment with peace eternally;  
 Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.**