

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

WELCOME

Nancy Curtis

OPENING PRAYER AND LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

PRELUDE

ERHALT UNS, HERR

Johann Gottfried Walther

CALL TO WORSHIP – *Adapted from Psalm 103:1-2a, 17*

Let our souls bless the Lord;

Let all that is within me bless God's holy name.

Let our souls bless the Lord;

Let us remember all God's benefits to us.

Let our souls bless the Lord;

Whose steadfast love is from everlasting to everlasting.

OPENING HYMN *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

Charles Wesley, 1738; alt.

Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828
Arr. Lowell Mason, 1839

1. O for a thou-sand tongues to sing My dear Re-deem-er's praise,
2. Je - sus, the name that charms our fears, That bids our sor - rows cease;
3. Christ breaks the power of reign - ing sin, And sets the pris - oner free;
4. My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, As - sist me to pro - claim,

The glo - ries of my God and King, The tri - umphs of God's grace!
'Tis mu - sic in the sin-ner's ears, 'Tis life, and health, and peace.
Christ's blood can make the sin - ful clean, Christ's blood a - vailed for me.
To spread through all the earth a - broad The hon - ors of Thy name.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing'. It features two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/2. The lyrics are written below the staves, with four numbered verses in the first system and a concluding stanza in the second system.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

How often have you spoken words of grace to us, O God, words we brushed aside as insignificant? How often have you spoken words of judgment, words not taken seriously? You communicate with us in words, yet when those words reach our ears, how often have we simply ignored them and discredited your claim on our deeds, our very lives? Yet you continue to listen to us, and that constancy is what makes us pray for your forgiveness. Help us to hear you as you intend us to hear, and give us the courage to respond, to grow, and to offer worship acceptable to you, shown so clearly in the ministry of your Son, in whose name we speak this prayer... *Time of silent reflection*

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

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.

Believe this Gospel and go forth and live in peace. Amen.

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 READING

Luke 13:10-17

SERMON

HYMN

O Christ, the Healer

Fred Pratt Green, 1969

Klug's *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543
Harm. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1725; alt.

1. O Christ, the heal - er, we have come To pray for
2. From ev - ery ail - ment flesh en - dures Our bod - ies
3. How strong, O Lord, are our de - sires, How weak our
4. In con - flicts that de - stroy our health We rec - og -
5. Grant that we all, made one in faith, In Your com -

health, to plead for friends. How can we fail to
clam - or to be freed; Yet in our hearts we
knowl - edge of our - selves! Re - lease in us those
nize the world's dis - ease; Our com - mon life de -
mu - ni - ty may find The whole - ness that, en -

be re - stored, When reached by love that nev - er ends?
would con - fess That whole - ness is our deep - est need.
heal - ing truths Un - con - scious pride re - sists or shelves.
clares our ills: Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?
rich - ing us, Shall reach the whole of hu - man - kind.

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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

We come before you, all-giving God, rich with the gifts you have given to us, rich with the love you have lavished on us, rich with the blessings your Son has brought to us. The gifts we offer you here speak not only of our gratitude for your love, but also of our commitment to seek anew and continuously to grow in our discipleship. Bless these our gifts, and us as givers, to the work for which you have called us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit

Doris Akers, 1962

Doris Akers, 1962

1. There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, And I
2. There are bless - ings you can - not re - ceive Till you

know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord; There are
know Him in His full - ness and be - lieve; You're the

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LIFE IN CHRIST

sweet ex - pres-sions on each face, And I know they feel the
one to prof - it when you say, "I am going to walk with

Refrain

pres-ence of the Lord. Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it,
Je - sus all the way."

Sweet heav-en-ly Dove, Stay right here with us, Fill-ing us

with Your love; And for these bless-ings We lift our hearts in

praise. With - out a doubt we'll know that we have

been re - vived When we shall leave this place.

CLOSING BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices!

Paul W. Hofreiter