

P R A Y I N G R E S T / O R A T I O N



DATE: MARCH 14, 2010

First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
145 Capital Avenue NE
Battle Creek, Michigan 49017
269.965.1225 www.fccbc.org



Sunday, March 14, 2010

Praying Rest / Oration
Fourth Sunday in Lent

Welcome to First Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ!

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

If you are visiting with us for the first time, we invite you to stop by the round desk at our Welcome Center to receive a gift from our church. While you are there, the Hospitality and Information Person can answer any questions you may have.

Large print bulletins are available from any usher.

Do you have difficulty hearing the service in the Sanctuary?

The Worship and Fine Arts committee has published a map of the sanctuary with areas color coded to help hearing impaired people find the best places to sit based on the acoustics of the room. Ear Buds and Headphones are available to enhance hearing the worship experience. The ushers have a map at each doorway to help with seating locations and can provide Ear Buds and Headphones to those who need them. Please feel free to ask your favorite usher to help you out!

Childcare for infants and small children is available. Our nursery is located to the left of the Welcome Center desk, down the yellow hallway.

Lap Packs for young children, including coloring pages, crayons, and finger labyrinths can be obtained from any usher.

Restrooms are located in the alcove to the left of the Welcome Center desk.

For more information about our programs and ministries, please call the church office, 965-1225, or check the website, www.fccbc.org.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE Andante, from *Organ Symphony 1*

Louis Vierne

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT *The Lord is in this Holy Temple*

The Lord is in this holy temple,
Let Christians all come to worship and praise God.

CALL TO WORSHIP

PRAISING GOD

* **PROCESSIONAL HYMN** *Gather Us In*

Pages 10-11

INVOCATION

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

In the act of confession we long to feel your mercy always and again,
Oh God. We confess to reducing our spiritual lives to me and mine,
instead of connecting with the whole house of Israel.

We often cry out "*our bones are dry and our hope is lost*"
while holding fast to the instruments and cultural habits of death
that oppress us and others.

We are cut off from you completely at times, not because you let us go,
but because we fail to believe in the love made possible by your power.

When you breathe your spirit inside of us,
we are afraid of intimacy with you and with others,
so we distract ourselves. We get busy. We turn away.

Even when you breathe your spirit directly into us, we find reasons
to harden, to put up walls. Open our graves. Bring us up. Bring us back.
Forgive us. Forgive us and place us in surrendered soil, soil that gives way
to new life, new freedom, new connections, new joy.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

And you shall know that I am the Lord,
Oh my people. I will put my spirit within you,
and you shall live.
Thanks be to God.
Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Hallelujah*



HEARING GOD'S WORD

TIME WITH CHILDREN

* **HYMN OF PREPARATION** *Your Love, O God* Page 9

* **CALL TO SCRIPTURE** *Break Now the Bread of Life*

Break now the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
As you did break the loaves beside the sea;
Beyond the sacred page I seek thee, Lord;
My spirit longs for thee, O living word!

SCRIPTURE READING Ezekiel 37:11-14 Page 806

ANTHEM *Psalm 86 (A Prayer of David)* Gustav Holst
Soloists: Corey Shotwell and Katie Van Mannen

Choir and treble quartet

To my humble supplication,
Lord, give ear and acceptation;
Save thy servant, that hath none
Help nor hope but Thee alone.
Send, O send relieving gladness
To my soul oppressed with sadness,
Which, from clog of earth set free,
Winged with zeal, flies up to Thee.

Soloists

Bow down thine ear O Lord, hear me;
For I am poor and needy
Preserve my soul for I am holy
O thou my God, save thy servant that trusteth in thee.
Be merciful unto me O Lord;
For I cry unto thee daily
Rejoice the soul of thy servant
For unto thee O Lord do I lift up my soul.
For thou Lord art good and ready to forgive
And plenteous in mercy unto them that call upon thee.
Give ear O Lord unto my prayer
And tend unto the voice of my supplication.

I will praise thee O Lord my God with all my heart
And I will glorify thy name forevermore.

Choir

To thee, rich in mercies'treasure,
And in goodness without measure,
Never failing help to those
Who on thy sure help repose.
Heavenly Tutor, of thy kindness,
Teach my dullness, guide my blindness
That my steps thy paths may tread
Which to endless bliss do lead.

SERMON

Praying Rest/Oration

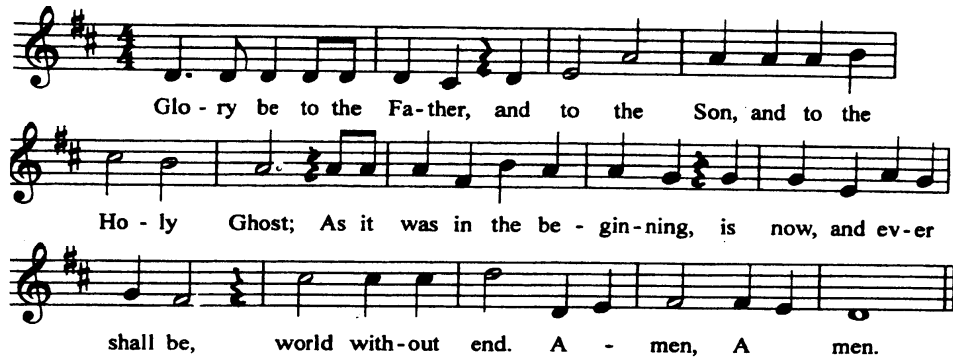
Pastor Emily Joye McGaughy

RESPONDING TO GOD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I will take you from the nations
And gather you from all the countries,
And bring you into your own land.
**I will sprinkle clean water upon you,
And you shall be clean from all your uncleanness,
And from all your idols I will cleanse you.**
A new heart I will give you,
And a new spirit I will put within you;
**And I will remove from your body the heart of stone
And give you a heart of flesh.**
I will put my spirit within you,
And make you follow my statutes
And be careful to observe my ordinances.
**Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors;
And you shall be my people,
And I will be your God.**

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Gloria Patri*



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the
Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er
shall be, world with - out end. A - men, A men.

PASTORAL PRAYER *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.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for Thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

CHORAL ORISON *Incline Thine Ear, O Lord* A. Arkhangelsky
Incline thine ear, O Lord, O hear us.

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Wash Me Thoroughly* Samuel S. Wesley

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness
And forgive me all my sin,
For I acknowledge my faults,
And my sin is before me Psalm 51: 2, 3

RECEPTION OF GIFTS

*** DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all bles-sings flow; Praise God, all crea-tures here be -
low; Praise God for all that love has done; Cre - a-tor, Christ, and Spi - rit, One.

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

COMMISSIONING OF THE COMMUNITY

* RECESSIONAL HYMN *Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me*

Page 12

* BENEDICTION

* CLOSING SONG *God Be With You*

Ralph Vaughan Williams

God be with you till we meet a - gain;

by his coun - sels guide, up - hold you, with his arms se -

cure - ly ___ hold you; God be with you till we meet a - gain.

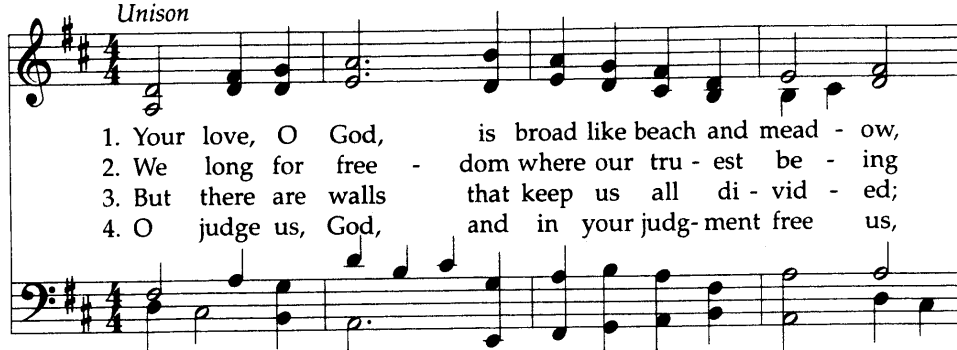
POSTLUDE *Prelude in E Minor (The Cathedral)*

J. S. Bach

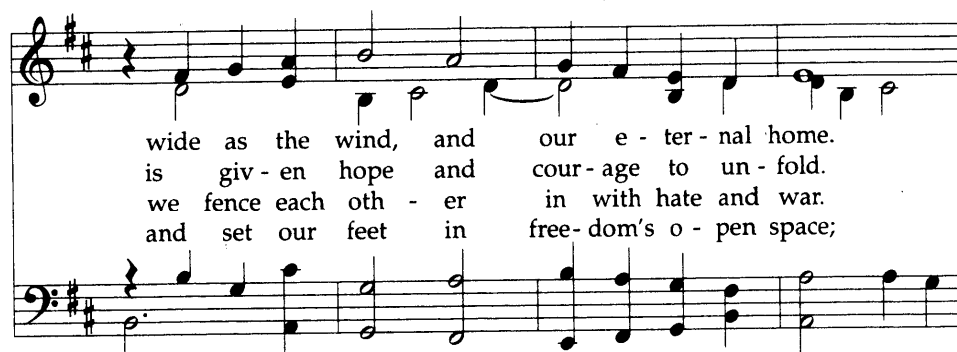
This is the third in a series of Preludes by J. S. Bach. It was nicknamed “The Cathedral” because of its massive chords and soaring keyboard figurations that suggest the majesty of a large cathedral.

Your Love, O God

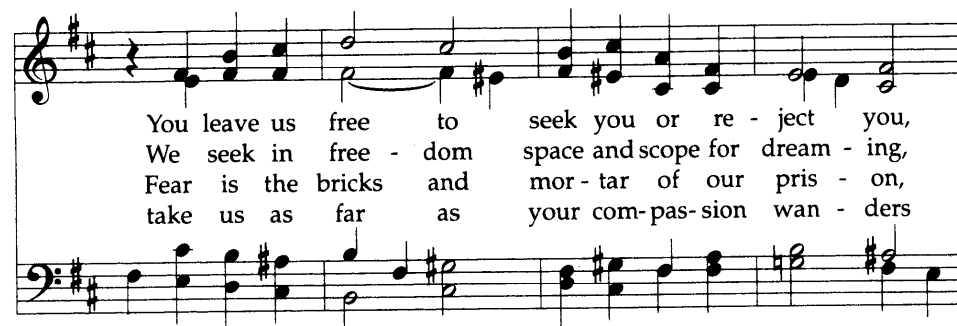
Unison



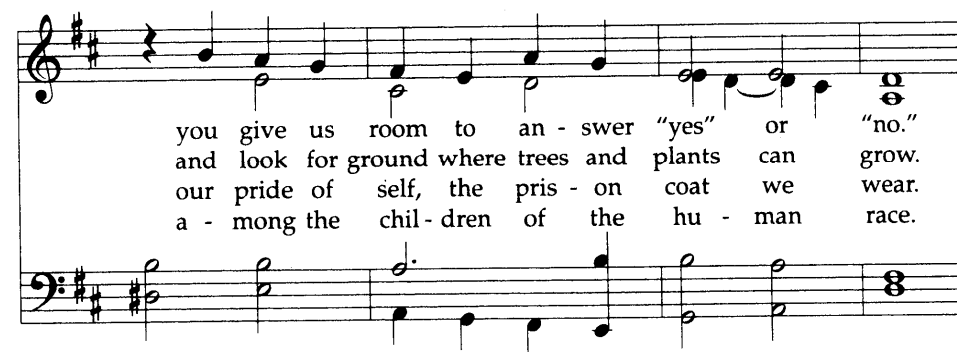
1. Your love, O God, is broad like beach and mead - ow,
2. We long for free - dom where our tru - est be - ing
3. But there are walls that keep us all di - vid - ed;
4. O judge us, God, and in your judg - ment free us,



wide as the wind, and our e - ter - nal home.
is giv - en hope and cour - age to un - fold.
we fence each oth - er in with hate and war.
and set our feet in free - dom's o - pen space;



You leave us free to seek you or re - ject you,
We seek in free - dom space and scope for dream - ing,
Fear is the bricks and mor - tar of our pris - on,
take us as far as your com - pas - sion wan - ders



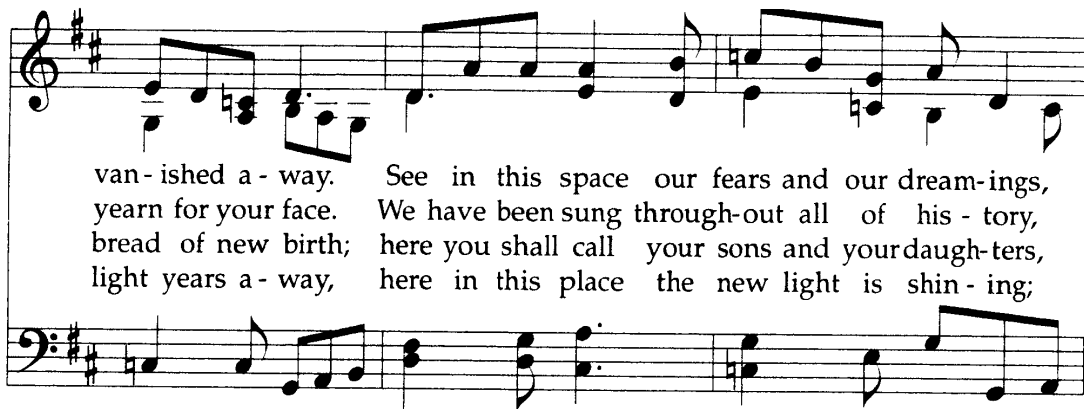
you give us room to an - swer "yes" or "no."
and look for ground where trees and plants can grow.
our pride of self, the pris - on coat we wear.
a - mong the chil - dren of the hu - man race.

Gather Us In

Unison



1. Here in this place, the new light is stream-ing, sha-dows of doubt are
2. We are the young—our lives are a mys-tery; we are the old, who
3. Here we re-ceive new life in the wa-ters; here we re-ceive the
4. Not just in build-ings, small and con-fin-ing, not in some heav - en,



van-ished a - way. See in this space our fears and our dream-ings,
yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his - tory,
bread of new birth; here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
light years a - way, here in this place the new light is shin - ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
now is God pres-ent, and now is the day.

Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en; gath-er us in; our
 Gath-er us in— the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in— the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pass-ion, give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er; gath-er us in and

spir - its in-flame. Call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so low - ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,

we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me

1. Gra - cious Spir - it, dwell with me: I my - self would
 2. Truth - ful Spir - it, dwell with me: I my - self would
 3. Si - lent Spir - it, dwell with me: I my - self would
 4. Might - y Spir - it, dwell with me: I my - self would
 5. Ho - ly Spir - it, dwell with me: I my - self would

1. gra - cious be, and, with words that help and heal,
 2. truth - ful be, and, with wis - dom kind and clear,
 3. si - lent be, qui - et as the grow - ing blade,
 4. might - y be, might - y so as to pre - vail
 5. ho - ly be, break from sin and choose the good,

1. would thy life in mine re - veal, and, with ac - tions
 2. let thy life in mine ap - pear, and, with ac - tions
 3. which through earth its way has made, si - lent - ly, like
 4. where un - aid - ed I would fail, ev - er, by a
 5. cher - ish what my Sav - ior would, and what - ev - er

1. bold and meek, would for Christ my Sav - ior speak.
 2. lov - ing - ly, mir - ror Christ's sin - cer - i - ty.
 3. morn - ing light, put - ting mists and chills to flight.
 4. might - y hope, press - ing on and bear - ing up.
 5. I can be, give to God who gave me thee.