

Leaning on God - Through Prayer



DATE: MARCH 21, 2010

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



Sunday, March 21, 2010
“Leaning on God - Through Prayer”
Fifth 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

Reflections on the Passion Chorale

Desmond Ratcliffe

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**

Sweet Hour of Prayer

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* **INVOCATION**

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God whose Word called the worlds into being,
who speaks through the voices of prophets and apostles,
and whose Word became flesh in Jesus Christ,
we confess that the call of your voice
is often muted in our lives.

Our ears are filled with sounds of other voices:
the shouts of many people demanding our time and attention,
the empty promises of our culture of materialism
the seductive whispers of our own longings.

We confess that become so busy
and so preoccupied with our own frantic activities
that we don't take the time to listen
for your still speaking voice.

(Continued on page 4)

Forgive us God.
Quiet our lives.
Send us out to the deserted places
where there is nothing to distract us
and the sound of your voice
calls us back to you, back to community,
and back to ministry.
Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *from Isaiah 55:6-8*

Seek the LORD while God may be found,
call upon the Lord while God is near;
 let the wicked forsake their way,
 and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that God may have mercy on them,
and to our God, who will abundantly pardon.
 For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
 nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Hallelujah*



HEARING GOD'S WORD

TIME WITH CHILDREN

* **HYMN OF PREPARATION** *Have Thine Own Way, Lord!*

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* **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 Mark 1:32-39

N.T. Page 35

ANTHEM *On the Mount of Olives*

Anton Bruckner

Sorrowful there on the mount of olives,
Christ our Lord prayed to the Father,
Father, if possible, let this cup pass from me:
Let Thy will be done.

SERMON *Leaning on God - Through Prayer*

Rev. Tom Ott

RESPONDING TO GOD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *from Psalm 61*

Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer.

From the end of the earth I call to you, when my heart is faint.

Lead me to the rock that is higher than I;

for you are my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy.

Let me abide in your tent forever, find refuge under the shelter of your wings.

For you, O God, have heard my vows;

you have given me the heritage of those who fear your name.

So I will always sing praises to your name,

as I pay my vows day after day.

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.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

COMMISSIONING OF THE COMMUNITY

* RECESSIONAL HYMN *Take My Life and Let It Be*

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* BENEDICTION

* CLOSING SONG *God Be With You* Ralph Vaughan Williams

God be with you till we meet a - gain;

3
by his coun - sels guide, up - hold you, with his arms se -

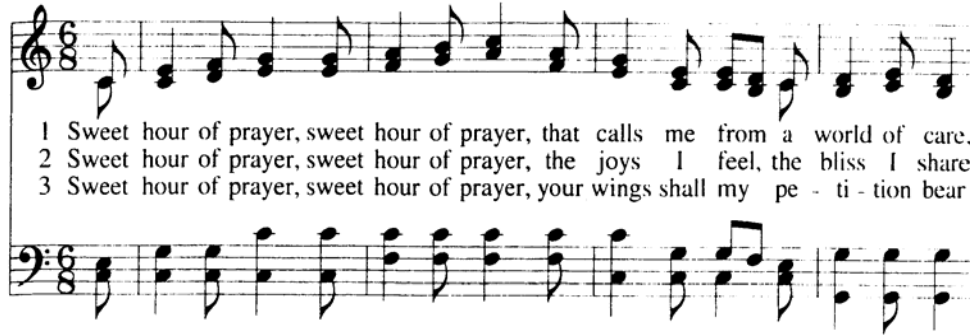
6
cure - ly ___ hold you; God be with you till we meet a - gain.

POSTLUDE *Toccata in F Major*

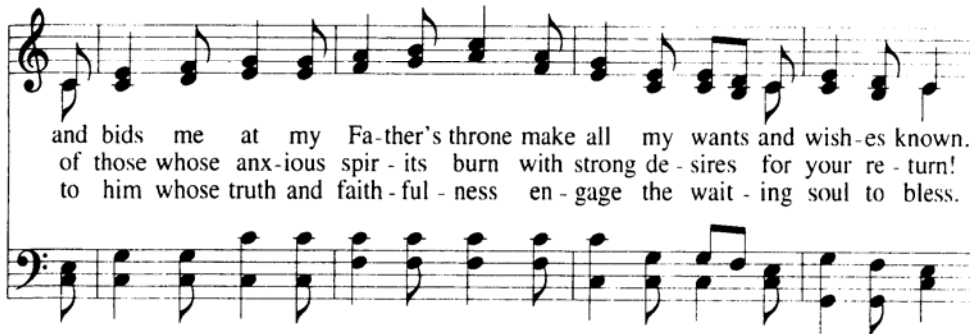
J. S. Bach

This is the fourth in a Lenten series of preludes by Bach. It is a long, monumental work that is usually only played at organ recitals, no doubt because of its technical demands during the two canons and pedal passages that begin the piece as well as for its massive structure.

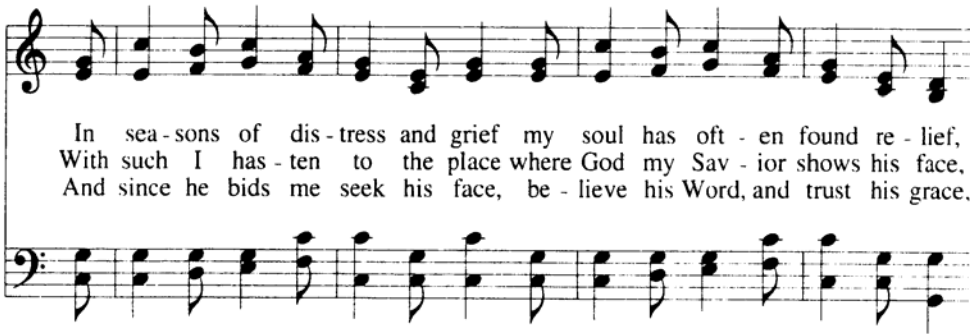
Sweet Hour of Prayer



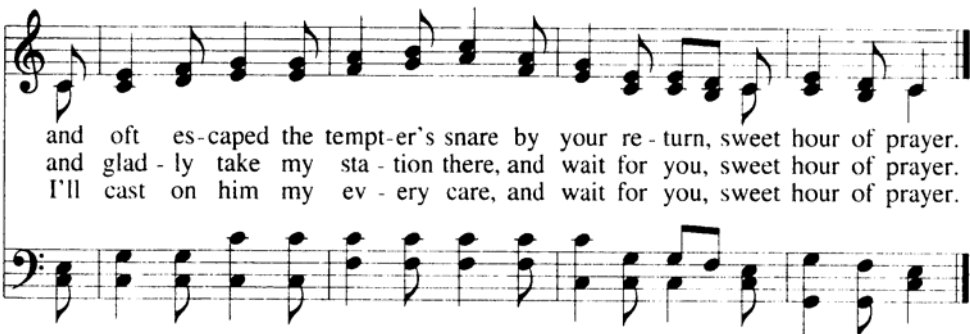
1 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, that calls me from a world of care.
2 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, the joys I feel, the bliss I share
3 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, your wings shall my pe - ti - tion bear



and bids me at my Fa-ther's throne make all my wants and wish-es known.
of those whose anx-ious spir - its burn with strong de - sires for your re - turn!
to him whose truth and faith - ful - ness en - gage the wait - ing soul to bless.



In sea - sons of dis - tress and grief my soul has oft - en found re - lief,
With such I has - ten to the place where God my Sav - ior shows his face,
And since he bids me seek his face, be - lieve his Word, and trust his grace.



and oft es - caped the tempt - er's snare by your re - turn, sweet hour of prayer.
and glad - ly take my sta - tion there, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer.
I'll cast on him my ev - ery care, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer.

Have Thine Own Way, Lord!

1 Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! Thou art the
 2 Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! Search me and
 3 Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! Wound-ed and
 4 Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! Hold o'er my

Pot - ter, I am the clay. Mold me and make me aft - er thy
 try me, Mas - ter, to - day! Whit - er than snow, Lord, wash me just
 wea - ry, help me, I pray! Pow - er— all pow - er— sure - ly is
 be - ing ab - so - lute sway! Fill with thy Spir - it till all shall

will, while I am wait - ing yield - ed and still.
 now, as in thy pres - ence hum - bly I bow.
 thine! Touch me and heal me, Sav - ior di - vine!
 see Christ on - ly, al - ways, liv - ing in me!

Take My Life and Let It Be

1 Take my life and let it be con - se - crat - ed,
 2 Take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti -
 3 Take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sa -
 4 Take my love, my God, I pour at thy feet its

Lord, to thee; take my hands and let them move
 ful for thee; take my voice and let me sing
 ges for thee; take my sil - ver and my gold,
 treas - ure store; take my - self and I will be

at the im - pulse of thy love, at the im - pulse of thy love.
 al - ways, on - ly, for my King, al - ways, on - ly, for my King.
 not a mite would I with - hold, not a mite would I with - hold.
 ev - er, on - ly, all for thee, ev - er, on - ly, all for thee.

