

LYRICS AND PRAYERS

MAY 21, 2023 – RALPH CONNOR in BANFF

Opening Hymn: More Voices #145
“Draw the Circle Wide”

~Gordon Light~

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*Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side,
draw the circle wide.*

1. God the still-point of the circle,
'round whom all creation turns;
nothing lost, but held forever,
in God's gracious arms.

*Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side,
draw the circle wide.*

2. Let our hearts touch far horizons,
so encompass great and small;
let our loving know no borders,
faithful to God's call.

*Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side,
draw the circle wide.*

3. Let the dreams we dream be larger
than we've ever dreamed before;
let the dream of Christ be in us,
open every door.

*Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side,
draw the circle wide.*

-end-

Opening Prayer *(responsive - by Rev. Albert Bogle, Church of Scotland)*

You have called us to set this sacred time apart,
O God, to rest in Your presence, and to give
thanks for all Your goodness and loving kindness.

**Come Spirit of God, hover over our lives.
Make us into Your church.
Make us impatient to embrace the vision
of peace, love and justice.**

Opening Prayer *(responsive, continued)*

Restore in us hope, as the morning opens out into a fuller day.

May the light of Your grace fill our hearts, enlighten our minds, and direct the works of our hands, in this place, and in the world. Amen.

Preparing to Hear the Word:

a time of quiet reflection

Chant: (seated) Voices United #356

“Seek Ye First”

(verses 1 & 2)

~Karen Lafferty, 1972~

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1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and God's righteousness,
and all these things
shall be added unto you.
Hallelu, hallelujah.

2. Ask and it shall be given unto you;
seek and you shall find;
knock and the door
shall be opened unto you.
Hallelu, hallelujah.

-end-

Hymn: Voices United #808

“On Eagle’s Wings”

Based on Psalm 91

~Michael Joncas~

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1. You who dwell in the shelter of our God, who abide in this shadow for life, say to the Lord, “My refuge, my Rock in whom I trust”...

“And I will raise you up on eagle’s wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of my hand.”

2. The snare of the fowler will never capture you, and famine will bring you no fear: under God's wings your refuge, God's faithfulness your shield.
“And I will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of my hand.”

3. You need not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day; though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come.

“And I will raise you up on eagle’s wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of my hand.”

4. For to God's angels is given a command to guard you in all of your ways; upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.

*“And I will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of my hand.”
And hold you, hold you in the palm of my*

-end-

Presentation of offering

Offertory Hymn: VU 325

**“Christ is Made the Sure Foundation”
(verse 1)**

~ words: Latin, 7th c. – tr. John Mason Neale ~

~ tune: Henry Purcell, 1682 ~

1. Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord, and precious,
binding all the church in one;
holy Zion's help for ever,
and its confidence alone. -end-

Offertory Prayer

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Beloved, in whom is 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 trespasses, as we forgive those
who trespass against us. And lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Heritage Hymn: Voices United #660

“How Firm a Foundation”

~John Rippon, 1787 – Welsh Folk Melody~

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1. How firm a foundation,
you servants of God,
is laid for your faith
in God's excellent word!
What more can be said
than to you has been said,
to you who for refuge
to Jesus have fled?

2. "Fear not, I am with you;
O be not dismayed!
For I am your God
and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen and help you,
and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous
omnipotent hand.

3. "When through the deep waters
I call you to go,
the rivers of sorrow
shall not overflow;
for I will be with you,
your troubles to bless,
and sanctify to you
your deepest distress.

4. "When through fiery trials
your pathway shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient,
shall be your supply:
the flame shall not hurt you,
I only design
your dross to consume,
and your gold to refine.

5. "The soul that on Jesus
has leaned for repose
I will not -- I will not desert to his foes;
that soul, though all hell
should endeavour to shake,
I'll never -- no, never -
no, never forsake!"

-end-

Commissioning and Benediction

(from Ephesians 3, responsive)

As we go forth, let us give thanks and glory to God.
Glory to God, whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more
than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the church, and in Christ Jesus,
forever and ever. Amen.

~In honour of Asian Heritage Month~
Choral Blessing: More Voices # 218
“May the Love of the Lord”

~Words: Maria Ling Poh Choo – Music: Swee Hong Lim~
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The choir will sing this through once – then the congregation is invited to join in...

May the love of our God rest upon your soul.

May God's love dwell in you, through every day.

May God's countenance shine upon you and be gracious to you.

May God's Spirit be upon you as you leave this place.

Followed by...Moment of Reflection & Postlude