

Sunday, March 5th

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements



*Call to Worship

Leader: As God set Abram, Sarai, and Lot on a journey,
God calls us to follow in trust.

**People: God is able to make us more than we have been
and bless us on the way.**

Leader: As Jesus invited Nicodemus to be born again,
Christ invites us to become a new creation.

**People: Christ call us out of darkness into his marvelous light,
and we are saved through him.**

*Hymn # 39 – Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Teacher, you call us to go, following the plan that you have set out for us. You promise us blessings and purpose, but we do not trust your words. We cling to what we already know, we trust in what we can see and touch, we make excuses for our failure to trust in you. Call to us again, that we may be born again through your Spirit. Help us to believe and give us the abundant life that comes from following your will. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

*Passing of the Peace

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Time with Children

After the Time with Children, we invite children to return to their seats and participate in the service. Activity bags may be found on the welcome table.

Choral Anthem

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-4

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Chosen to be a Blessing

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***Affirmation of Faith:** The Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God,

whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

In sovereign love God created the world good

and makes everyone equally in God's image

male and female, of every race and people,

to live as one community.

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.

Ignoring God's commandments,

we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,

accept lies as truth,

exploit neighbor and nature,

and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.

We deserve God's condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

In everlasting love,

the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people

to bless all families of the earth.

Hearing their cry,

God delivered the children of Israel

from the house of bondage.

Loving us still,

God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,

like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,

God is faithful still. Amen.

***Hymn # 525 – Let Us Break Bread Together**

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your heart.

People: We lift them up to the Lord!

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Prayers of the People

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.

The Sharing of the Meal

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Prayer After Communion

**Thank you, gracious God,
for giving us bread for the journey
of these forty days.**

**As we travel on through the wilderness,
help us to share your grace with others
and draw us ever closer to you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

Prayer of Thanksgiving

***Hymn # 340 – This Is My Song**

***Charge and Benediction**

***Congregational Response: Hymn # 205 – Live in Charity (x2)**

*Live in charity and steadfast love.
Live in charity; God will dwell with you.*

Postlude

CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

39 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

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!

**Or "Great is thy faithfulness, O God, Creator."*

Written as a meditation on Lamentations 3:22–23, this text is one of the few hymns among the 1200 poems by this Methodist writer and pastor that has gained much currency. The tune that appears here was composed especially for these words, and the pairing has proved enduring.

Refrain

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!
오 신 실 하 신 주 오 신 실 하 신 주

Morn - ing by morn - ing, new mer - cies I see.
날 마 다 자 비 를 배 푸 시 며

All I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed.
일 용 할 모 든 것 내 러 주 시 니

Great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!
오 신 실 하 신 주 나 의 구 주

Let Us Break Bread Together 525

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees)
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees)
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees)

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees. (on our knees)
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees. (on our knees)
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees. (on our knees)

Refrain

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,

O Lord, have mer - cy on me. (on me)

This African American spiritual quite possibly reflects the circumstances of slaves attending early morning communion services in colonial Anglican churches, but its combination of hope (“rising sun”) and supplication (“Lord, have mercy”) speaks to many worshipers’ experience.

THE LIFE OF THE NATIONS

340 This Is My Song

1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions,
2 My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,
3 This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's king - doms:

a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.
and sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine.
thy king - dom come; on earth thy will be done.

This is my home, the coun - try where my heart is;
But oth - er lands have sun - light too, and clo - ver,
Let Christ be lift - ed up till all shall serve him,

here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;
and skies are ev - ery - where as blue as mine.
and hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one.

The first two stanzas of this hymn were written between the 20th century's two world wars and focus on the theme of international peace. The third stanza, by another author and added later, uses the language of the Lord's Prayer to voice a distinctly Christian perspective.

TEXT: Stanzas 1-2, Lloyd Stone; stanza 3, Georgia Harkness, alt.

MUSIC: Jean Sibelius, 1899; arr. *The Hymnal*, 1933, alt.

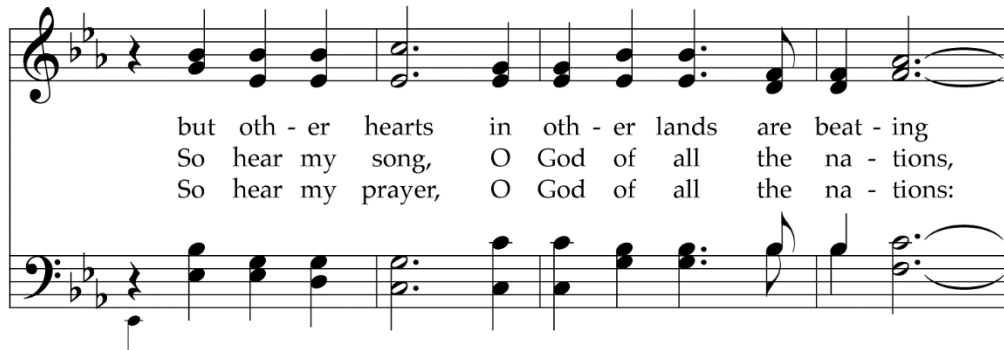
Text St. 1-2 © 1934, ren. 1962 The Lorenz Corp.; St. 3 © 1964 The Lorenz Corp.

Music Arr. © 1933, ren. 1961 The Presbyterian Board of Christian Education (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

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THE LIFE OF THE NATIONS



but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing
So hear my song, O God of all the na - tions,
So hear my prayer, O God of all the na - tions:



with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
a song of peace for their land and for mine.
my - self I give thee; let thy will be done.