

Sunday, March 7th

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements



Call to Worship

Leader: From water to wilderness:

People: God's covenant continues; God's kingdom comes near.

Leader: On stone and in hearts:

People: God's covenant continues; God's kingdom comes near.

Leader: From the ancestor of nations to the Son lifted up:

People: God's covenant continues; God's kingdom comes near.

Leader: We follow Jesus on the Lenten path,

People: for where he is, we would be also.

Hymn # 5 – God the Sculptor of the Mountains

God the sculptor of the mountains, God the miller of the sand, God the jeweler of the heavens, God the potter of the land: you are womb of all creation; we are formless; shape us now.

God the nuisance of the Pharaoh, God the cleaver of the sea, God the pillar in the darkness, God the beacon of the free: you are fount of all deliverance; we are aimless; lead us now.

God the dresser of the vineyard, God the planter of the wheat, God the reaper of the harvest, God the source of all we eat: you are host at every table; we are hungry; feed us now.

God the unexpected infant, God the calm, determined youth, God the table-turning prophet, God the resurrected truth: you are present every moment; we are searching; meet us now

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, how fickle we are; we sin against you without even knowing it. Clear us, we pray, of any unknown sin, and save us from willfully ignoring your way. Let your commandments rule and guide us.

Forgive us for worshiping anyone or anything except you; keep us faithful.

Forgive us for failing to honor all our relationships— with those closest to us and those who are distant neighbors. Help us to speak words of blessing and kindness, rather than words that belittle or destroy. Turn us away from violence, falsehood, and selfishness.

Forgive us for thinking everything depends on our efforts and power, for you are the God who made us, led us out slavery, and has brought us into the community of faith. Help us to depend on you alone and to rest in your peace. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Passing of the Peace

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

People: And also with you.

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Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: John 2:13-22

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Access to God

Affirmation of Faith: The 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.

Special Music

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

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.

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Hymn # 157 – I Danced in the Morning

I danced in the morning when the world was begun, and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth. At Bethlehem I had my birth. Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he, And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee, but they would not dance and they would not follow me. I danced for the fishermen, for James and John. They came with me and the dance went on. Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he, And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame. The holy people said it was a shame. They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high, and left me there on a cross to die. Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he, And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black. It's hard to dance with the devil on your back. They buried my body and they thought I'd gone, but I am the dance and I still go on. Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he, And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

They cut me down and I leapt up high. I am the life that will never, never die. I'll live in you if you'll live in me, I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he, And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

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

God the Sculptor of the Mountains 5

D Bm Em A7 D

1 God the sculp - tor of the moun - tains, God the
 2 God the nui - sance of the Pha - raoh, God the
 3 God the dress - er of the vine - yard, God the
 4 God the un - ex - pect - ed in - fant, God the

Bm Em7 A F Dm

mill - er of the sand, God the jewel - er of the
 cleav - er of the sea, God the pil - lar in the
 plant - er of the wheat, God the reap - er of the
 calm, de - ter - mined youth, God the ta - ble - turn - ing

Gm7 C F E7 A A7

heav - ens, God the pot - ter of the land:
 dark - ness, God the bea - con of the free:
 har - vest, God the source of all we eat:
 proph - et, God the res - ur - rect - ed truth:

D F#m G F#m Bm

you are womb of all cre - a - tion;
 you are fount of all de - liv - erance;
 you are host at ev - ery ta - ble;
 you are pres - ent ev - ery mo - ment;

Em D Em D

we are form - less; shape us now.
 we are aim - less; lead us now.
 we are hun - gry; feed us now.
 we are search - ing; meet us now.

Despite the great sweep of these stanzas, each one ends by describing how our human condition needs God's help: formless, aimless, hungry, searching. Each of these adjectives is followed by a related three-syllable petition: shape us now, lead us now, feed us now, meet us now.

JESUS CHRIST: LIFE

157 I Danced in the Morning

Capo 3: (D) (Bm) (F#m) (Bm)
F Dm Am Dm

1 I danced in the morn-ing when the world was be-gun, and I
2 I danced for the scribe and the Phar - i - see, but
3 I danced on the Sab-bath and I cured the lame. The
4 I danced on a Fri - day when the sky turned black. It's
5 They cut me down and I leapt up high. †

(Em) (A)
Gm C

danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I
they would not dance and they would not foll - ow me. I
ho - ly peo - ple said it was a shame. They
hard to dance with the dev - il on your back. They
I am the life that will nev - er, nev - er die. I'll

(D) (Bm) (F#m) (Bm)
F Dm Am Dm

came down from heav - en and I danced on the earth. At
danced for the fish - er - men, for James and John. They
whipped and they stripped and they hung me high, and
bur - ied my bod - y and they thought I'd gone, but
live in you if you'll live in me, †


(Em) (A7) (G) (D)
Gm C7 Bb F

Beth - le - hem I had my birth.
came with me and the dance went on.
left me there on a cross to die.
I am the dance and I still go on.
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

This 20th-century ballad-like retelling of the life of Christ, though written for this Shaker tune, has many similarities with the pre-Reformation carol "Tomorrow shall be my dancing day." Such narrative carols were common both at Christmas and as part of medieval mystery plays.


Refrain

(F#m) (Bm) (F#m) (Bm) (D) (Bm)
Am Dm Am Dm F Dm




Dance, then, wher-ev - er you may be; I am the Lord of the

(Em) (A) (D) (Bm) (D) (A7) (D)
Gm C F Dm F C7 F



Dance, said he, and I'll lead you all, wher-ev - er you may be,

(Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D)
Gm C7 F B^b F



and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.