

GOD

281

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7

William Williams, 1745

Stanza 1 trans. Peter Williams, 1771

Stanzas 2-3 trans. William Williams, 1772

John Hughes, 1907

1. Guide me, O Thou great Je - ho - vah, Pil - grim through this
2. O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, Whence the heal - ing
3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land; I am weak, but Thou art might - y; Hold me
stream doth flow; Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar Lead me
fears sub - side; Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, Land me

with Thy power - ful hand; Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
all my jour - ney through; Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
safe on Ca - naan's side; Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

Feed me till I want no more, Feed me till I want no more.
Be Thou still my strength and shield, Be Thou still my strength and shield.
I will ev - er give to Thee, I will ev - er give to Thee.

St. John's Presbyterian Church

21st Sunday After Pentecost

October 25, 2020

10:30 a.m.

Welcome

Prelude

Variations on *Cwm Rhondda*

Raymond Haan

Announcements

Congregational Introit

We Will Glorify

We will glorify the King of kings,

We will glorify the Lamb;

We will glorify the Lord of lords, who is the great I Am.

—Lift Up Your Hearts, No. 55, verse 1

Call to Worship

Leader: We are gathered in the presence of God, who asks us to choose between life and death, blessing and curse.

People: We are gathered like the people of Israel, who were challenged to choose the way of life.

Leader: Like them, we often follow the ways of death.

People: Yet, like them, we have the freedom each day to begin anew by the grace of God.

Leader: By our presence here, we are saying that we want to choose life one more time.

People: Let us praise the God of love and life who has called us to this place.

Hymn No. 281

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Call to Confession

Leader: If we are awake to it, we realize that we all know barrenness of some sort, places in our lives or in our world longing for new life, waiting for God's vivacious touch. Let us confess those places together now, praying for God to be at work. Let us pray...

Prayer of Confession

O God, you have shown yourself to us in many ways which speak of love. Yet we struggle to love others. Sometimes we are too proud, sometimes too selfish, sometimes too cold, sometimes too tired. Sometimes we are too hurt to love. Through your Spirit, teach us to love more fully so that others will experience your love through us. (Silent Prayer.) Amen.

Hymn No. 555

**O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world;
Have mercy on us, Lamb of God, and grant us your peace.**

—Glory to God, The Presbyterian Hymnal

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Our God is a God of love and mercy, who allows us always to begin again. By God's grace, we are forgiven to walk in newness of life. Thanks be to God. Amen.

The Passing of the Peace

Leader: Knowing the grace and mercy of the Lord, we share it with one another.
The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Hymn No. 577 *Glory Be to the Father*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

—The Presbyterian Hymnal

Prayer of Illumination

Holy God may the soil of our hearts be fertile ground in which your word may take root. Speak to us today the word we need to hear, whether it is a word of comfort or conviction, courage, or correction. Plant it deep within us, and bring it to fruition, for the sake of the Word Incarnate. Amen.

First Scripture Lesson Romans 5:1-8

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Second Scripture Lesson Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

⁹As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. ¹⁰And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. ¹¹When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹²But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

¹⁸While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." ¹⁹And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. ²⁰Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, ²¹for she said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well." ²²Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And instantly the woman was made well. ²³When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, ²⁴he said, "Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. ²⁵But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. ²⁶And the report of this spread throughout that district.

Sermon Suppose You're Worth More than You Think You Are
(It's Time You Calculated Your Worth)

Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison

Hymn No. 819

Be Still My Soul

See page 4
—Glory to God: the Presbyterian Hymnal

819

Be Still, My Soul

1 Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.
 2 Be still, my soul: thy God doth un-der-take
 3 Be still, my soul: the hour is has-tening on

Bear pa-tient-ly the cross of grief or pain.
 to guide the fu-ture sure-ly as the past.
 when we shall be for-ev-er with the Lord;

Leave to thy God to or-der and pro-vide,
 Thy hope, thy con-fi-dence let noth-ing shake;
 when dis-ap-point-ment, grief, and fear are gone,

who through all chang-es faith-ful will re-main.
 all now mys-te-rious shall be bright at last.
 sor-row for-got, love's pur-est joys re-stored.

This meditative text seems to be rooted in Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God," while also reaching forward to 1 Thessalonians 4:17b, "we will be with the Lord forever." Much of the appeal of this hymn comes from its tune, named for the tone poem on which it is based.

TEXT: Katharina von Schlegel, 1752; trans. Jane Laurie Borthwick, 1855, alt.
 MUSIC: Jean Sibelius, 1893; arr. *The Hymnal*, 1933, alt.
 Music Arr. © 1933, ren. 1961 Presbyterian Board of Christian Education (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

FINLANDIA
 10.10.10.10.10.10

LIVING AND DYING IN CHRIST

Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heaven-ly Friend
 Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
 Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past

through thorn-y ways leads to a joy-ful end.
 his voice who ruled them while he dwelt be-low.
 all safe and bless-ed we shall meet at last.

Minute for Mission

George Turner

Offertory Alone to God, in the Highest, Be Glory, BWV 711 (manualiter)

J.S. Bach

Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Affirmation of Faith

We believe God:

**Is creative and ever creating.
Made us to reflect the divine image.
Breathed life into us and sustains our lives moment by moment,
day by day.**

We believe God:

**Came to us as Incarnate Human,
moving into our neighborhoods and our lives.
Demonstrated the power of love and the depths of God's love for us
in Christ Jesus.
Rescued and redeemed humanity once and for all
through Christ's death and resurrection.**

We believe God:

**Is inaugurating the kingdom of heaven right now
by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Chooses subversive means of love, truth, compassion, and joy
to upend the kingdoms of this world.
Invites us to follow the ways of Jesus
and thereby become active participants in the kingdom's work.**

Hymn No. 332 *Live into Hope*

See page 6

Charge and Benediction

Congregational Response *A Closing Prayer*

**The time has come, O Lord, for us to leave this place;
Guide us and protect us and lead us in thy grace.
Wherever life may take us as we go our separate ways,
Help us share with others the things we've shared today.**

**May the peace of God the Father, and the love of Christ his Son
Guide us in the days ahead and strengthen us, each one.
May the blessings of the Spirit fill us from within;
God bless us and return us to this fellowship once again.**

Live Into Hope

332

TRURO LM

Thomas Williams, 1789

Harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

Jane Parker Huber, 1976

The musical score is written in 2/2 time and consists of three systems. Each system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment line in the bass clef. The lyrics are arranged in four stanzas, with the first three lines of each stanza corresponding to the vocal line and the fourth line corresponding to the piano accompaniment line.

1. Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed, Of sight re -
2. Live in - to hope the blind shall see With in - sight
3. Live in - to hope of lib - er - ty, The right to
4. Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed From chains of

gained, the end of greed. The op-pressed shall be the
and with clar - i - ty, Re - mov - ing shades of
speak, the right to be, The right to have one's
fear or want or greed. God now pro - claims our

first to see The year of God's own ju - bi - lee!
pride and fear — A vi - sion of our God brought near.
dai - ly bread, To hear God's word and thus be fed.
full re - lease To faith and hope and joy and peace.

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