

ASH WEDNESDAY

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Wednesday, February 26, 8 a.m., Egglectic Cafe, 145 N. Hale St., Wheaton

Gather with other men for breakfast and to reflect on Lenten practices. Breakfast bills will be paid individually. RSVP to the Church Office.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Wednesday, February 26, 7 p.m. in the Gary Sanctuary

Begin the season of Lent with this worship service that includes the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.

Childcare will be available for children ages 5 and under.

LENTEN STUDIES

TRANSFORMED: A SERIES ON PETER

Sundays, March 1–April 5, 10 a.m. in the Chapel

Who was Simon Peter? How did this simple fisherman become a favored disciple of Jesus and the rock upon which Christ's church was built? Join clergy and scholars for this six-week Lenten study that explores Peter's transformation and how it reveals the transforming spirit of the gospel available to us all.

PASTOR'S LENTEN STUDY

THE PASSION PLAY: LIVING THE STORY OF CHRIST'S LAST DAYS

Wednesdays, March 4–April 8, 10 a.m. in the Anderson Room

This study explores Jesus' story from his visit to Jerusalem to the cross, and how it has been experienced against the backdrop of the Oberammergau Passion Play. Join Pastor Chris to gain a sense of connection to the play while recognizing our own place in the story of Jesus.

2020 Lenten E-Devotional begins Wednesday, February 26

These daily devotionals, written by members of the congregation, will be sent to all who currently receive the weekly enews. To add other addresses for your household, request not to receive the devotional at a certain email address, or to reserve a hard copy, contact the Church Office.

THIS IS MY Story THIS IS MY Song



A HYMN AND STORY FESTIVAL

February 23, 2020



Gary Church in Mission

Feb. Mission Focus: People’s Resource Center. PRC offers clothing, mentoring, and food, as well as classes on literacy, art, computer, and citizenship. Learn about volunteer opportunities at peoplesrc.org. Direct monetary donations to the Church Office.

Prescription for Life: Pick up a pill bottle on Sun., March 1 and fill it with spare change, cash, and/or checks. Donations will be used to provide services for older adults that are supported by Outreach Community Center. Return filled bottles to Gary by Sun., Mar. 22. Contact Barbara Holmes through the Church Office if you have any questions.

CROP Walk volunteer meeting: Sun., March 15, 10 a.m. in the Anderson Room. Gary Church will be hosting this walk on Sun., May 3 to raise funds and awareness for the fight against hunger locally and around the world. Come learn about the variety of ways to help with this event. Contact Judy Selby through the Church Office if you have questions.

Upcoming Opportunities

Next Week’s Lectionary Readings: We invite you to include these readings in your devotion times. Readings for next week are Genesis 2:15–17, 3:1–7, Psalm 32, Romans 5:12–19, and Matthew 4:1–11.

Altar Flowers: If you would like to provide flowers for the altar on Sunday mornings, call or email the Church Office.

In the Footsteps of Paul Greece Tour Meeting: Mon., Feb. 24, 7 p.m. in the Anderson Room. On this trip, planned for Thurs.–Fri., Sept. 24–Oct. 2, you will walk in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul and stand where the New Testament church began.

Lunchtime Literary Group: Tues., Feb. 25, 12 p.m. Pack a lunch and join us in the Anderson Room to discuss *Work Song* by Ivan Doig.

Game Night: Sat., Feb. 29, 6:30 p.m. in the Commons. Note *change in date*. Join adults of all ages for an evening of bridge, dominoes, Scrabble, friends, and fellowship.

Grief Support Group begins a new session: Wednesdays, March 4–May 6, 10 a.m. in Commons A. If you or someone you know has lost a loved one, you are welcome to be part of this group. Contact the Church Office to let us know you’ll be coming.

Camerata Chicago Chamber Music Concert: Sat., March 7, 3 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Tickets are available online at cameratachicago.org. Use coupon code GUMC for a 30% discount. Cost: \$35 adults, \$28 seniors, \$7 students over 16. Concertgoers age 16 and under are free with a paying adult.

Women’s Retreat: Worry Less, Live More, with guest speaker Jane Rubietta, Fri.–Sat., March 13–14 at La Salle Manor Retreat Center, Plano. You will laugh and you might cry, but you will leave with an arsenal of unusual helps to worry less. Cost: \$160. Register at garychurch.org.

Gary Kids and Gary Youth

High School Sunday Nights: Tonight, 6–7:30 p.m. at the Austin’s home to share a meal.

Gary Youth Midweek will not meet this week. Students and families are encouraged to attend the Ash Wednesday Service on Feb. 26, 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Middle schoolers are invited to join us on Wed., Mar. 4, 7–8:30 p.m. in the Activity Center.

SuperStart: Fri.–Sat., March 20–21. Fourth and fifth graders, mark your calendar for one of our favorite weekends of the year. Participation details and registration are at garychurch.org. Cost: \$85.

Registration is open for Gary Youth summer camps. See the Gary Youth page at garychurch.org.

Honorary Junior Organ Scholar for students ages 9–18. You will meet the organist 15 minutes before one of the services for a brief introduction to the organ. Then during the prelude assist, according to your ability, by turning pages, changing stops, or pressing pistons. If you are interested, contact Kevin Lange at klange@garychurch.org.

Vacation Bible School | Blast Camp registration opens Sun., March 1. Join us Mon.–Fri., June 15–19 at Gary. *Rocky Railway* VBS is for children entering Preschool 4’s–grade 4. Blast Camp is for students entering grades 5–8. Register at garychurch.org.

All-Church Special Event

Variety Show + Soup & Chili Cook-off + Auction: Sun., March 8, beginning at 4 p.m. at Gary Church

- **Variety Show Talent & Emcee “Try-outs”:** Today, 2 p.m. in the Activity Center. Come show us your acts for this joyful, intergenerational event. All ages welcome. **If you aren’t able to attend today**, but want to be part of the show, contact Sarah Cline through the Church Office. On Sat., March 7, 10:30 a.m. there will be a technical rehearsal for all acts.
- **Auction Items Needed:** We are so thankful for past auction items and are seeking new donations this year to help us raise funds for the Gary Youth Summer Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic. Sign up in the Commons to donate an item, or contact Jane Bilezikian through the Church Office.
- **Enter the Soup & Chili Cook-off** in the Commons following the Variety Show. Sign up in the Commons today to enter your best recipe in the cook-off for the opportunity to win bragging rights and the prestigious *Golden Ladle*. Tickets are available for \$7 per person or \$20 per family.

Burning Bush—An Outreach of Gary Church

Now Showing through today: *Learning Frida*. This exhibit features the works of several local art students exploring their inner Frida.

Welcome Guests!

We are delighted you have joined us for worship. We invite you to complete the Welcome Card in the pew pocket and stop by the Welcome Desk on the main level outside the west Sanctuary entrance to receive a gift and more information about our ministries.

Hearing aid devices are available (including the neck loop for telecoil programs). Large print song sheets are also available. Please see an usher for assistance.

Today at Gary Church

Adults

Sharing Our Stories

10 a.m. in the Commons

We hope the Festival Choir and Orchestra’s presentation of “This is My Story, This Is My Song” will inspire you to share your own stories. To help spark conversations, story starters will be on the tables.

Styrofoam Recycling

8:45–9 a.m. and 10–11:15 a.m. in the south driveway.

Drop off food containers and solid packing materials in separate bags.

Gary Kids & Gary Youth

10 a.m. Sunday School

Preschool 3’s–Kindergarten meet in the Preschool Rooms

Grades 1–5 meet in Gamon Hall

Grades 6–7 meet in the Heritage Room

Confirmation (Grade 8) meets in the Jr. High Room

Grades 9–12 meet in the Sr. High Room

Congregational Care

Please remember these individuals and families in your prayers this week.

Jan Adair, Verne Bintz, Jim & Carol Eaton, Dixie Hawthorne, Pat Hill, Barb Hronec, Pat Kuiper, Diane Landreth, Don Leo, Dan Meeks, Doug Tremper, Jim Trieschmann, William Watkins, Jack & Shirley Williamson, Joan Zarembski

Our sympathy to

Len, Marta & Grant Witte, Daniel, Emily, Laura & Leo Kurowski on the death of Len’s mother, Louise Witte, on Feb. 6

Debbie Bolt on the death of her mother and Gary member, Helen Bolt, on Feb. 14

Paul, Kara, Sam & Audrey Calderwood on the death of Kara’s mother, Loretta McMahan, on Feb. 15

Paul, Jill & Tom Stoffels on the death of Jill’s father, Marvin Van Metre, on Feb. 15

Bob & Virginia Isgren on the death of Bob’s brother-in-law, Jim Bock, on Feb. 17

Sally Hill on the death of her husband and Gary member, Cliff Hill, on Feb. 19

Serving Today

9 a.m. Service

Greeters Jeff, Christy, Brenden, Caden & Zoey Bohmer, James, Katie, Kristin, Jonathan & Matthew Morris, Cindy Sennese
Welcome Desk Donna Trieschmann, Penny Gllen, Marjorie Merriman
Acolytes Sam Calderwood, Faith Gaul
Ushers Chuck Miller, Paul Calderwood, Sam Calderwood, Joe Davisson, David Plate, Dick Raber, Lisa Rozwat

11 a.m. Service

Greeters Kim Austin, Rusty Haney
Welcome Desk Don & Shelley Kenyon
Acolytes Zoey Bohmer, Glenna Bottom
Ushers Bob Hawkins, Bill Austin, Michael Graves, Doug & Tammy Halenza, George King

Sound Technicians: John Brunner, Phil Johnson, Josh Keske, Marty Keske, Alyn Mann, Dave Mann, Ellie Phillips, Ethan Phillips, David Rush, Tony Venezia

Staff Ministry Team: Rev. Dr. Chris Pierson, Rev. Brian Felker Jones, Rev. Bruce Anderson, Jennifer Whiting, Kevin Lange, Carey Williams Bebar, Kim Austin, Becky Lemna, Pam Keller, Raven Larkin, Deb Evans, Deb Hafner, Mike & Donna Capra

Gary United Methodist Church

This Is My Story, This Is My Song

Transfiguration Sunday

February 23, 2020 9 & 11 a.m.

*Please stand as you are able.

Congregation reads bold print.

Congregational song book is the hard cover Hymnal found in the pew racks.

Prelude Gospel Prelude on “What a Friend We Have in Jesus!” William Bolcom (b. 1938)
Tune CONVERSE by Charles C. Converse (1868)
Author: Joseph Medlicott Scriven (1855)

What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!

During the prelude, we invite you to prepare your hearts and minds in an attitude of prayer.

Please move to the center of the pew to make room for additional guests. Thank you!

Children are invited to worship with their families today. Children’s bulletins and activity bags are available from the ushers.

Childcare is available for newborn–2 yrs. from 8:45 a.m. to 12 p.m. on the lower level.

Mission and Ministry at Gary Church

Introit **This Is My Story, This Is My Song / Jesus Loves Me**
arr. J. Whiting

Blessed Assurance – author: Fanny J. Crosby (1820–1915); composer: Phoebe Knapp (1839–1908)
Jesus Loves Me – author: Anna B. Warner (1827–1915); composer: William Bradbury (1816–1868)

Aimee Stuart Flunker, soprano, with
Friendship Singers; Beth Graves, director

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong. They are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.



Throughout the service, we ask the congregation to refrain from applause
in a spirit of reverent worship as we direct our praise to God alone.

*The Call to Worship

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

Know that the Lord is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Psalm 100, New International Version



*Hymn **Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee** *Hymnal* 89

Stanza 1 – Women sing
Stanza 2 – Men sing
Stanzas 3 and 4 – All sing

Ludwig van Beethoven is the most frequently performed classical composer in the world. This year marks the 250th anniversary of his birth, for which the exact date is unknown. His baptism was recorded on December 17, 1770, in Bonn, Germany.

Beethoven’s final complete symphony, the Ninth, is called the *Choral Symphony* because it is the first example of a major symphonic work using a chorus and soloists. The fourth movement includes the poem “An die Freude” (Ode to Joy) by Friedrich Schiller, but Beethoven’s joyous melody appears in our hymnals with a different text.

We sing “The Hymn of Joy” or “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee,” authored in 1907 by the American preacher and poet Henry van Dyke, who wrote it specifically for Beethoven’s famous tune.

Van Dyke wrote, “These verses are simple expressions of common Christian feelings and desires in this present time—hymns of today that may be sung together by people who know the thought of the age, and are not afraid that any truth of science will destroy religion, or any revolution on earth overthrow the kingdom of heaven. Therefore this is a hymn of trust and joy and hope.”



Prayer

**Glorious God, source of joy and righteousness,
enable us as redeemed and forgiven children
evermore to rejoice in singing your praises.
Grant that what we sing with our lips
we may believe in our hearts,
and what we believe in our hearts
we may practice in our lives;
so that being doers of the Word and not hearers only,
we may receive everlasting life
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Fred D. Gealy, USA, 20th cent.; alt. by Laurence Hull Stookey, 1987 (Ja. 1:22). Alt. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House.

HYMN REFLECTIONS FROM OUR CONGREGATION

My hymn is “**Take My Life and Let it Be**” (text by Frances Havergal and music by Louis Hérold). This hymn is based on Romans 12:1 (“I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship”). I like the message of the song because it’s about a Christian who wants to offer his life to God so God can alter it to reflect her image. I think this message is important because God is perfect and omniscient, and so she knows the best way for us to live our lives. When we live in God’s image, we honor God.

~ Ben Bebar, 10 years old

My mother was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer two days before 9–11. Even by then she had lost her ability to speak coherently, and by early December, she was virtually unresponsive. On Christmas Eve morning, the hospice nurse came to her room, throwing open curtains to the pale winter sunlight and singing carols. When she got to “**Silent Night**,” Mom stirred and began to sing along. Even with her eyes still closed, all the words came out from deep inside. It was the last time I ever heard her voice. Such a beautiful gift from God.

~ Holly Trueblood

“**This Is My Song**” (by Lloyd Stone and Georgia Harkness, with music by Jean Silbeius) is one of my all-time favorite hymns. I love the way it simultaneously imparts the message of national pride and world peace. It makes us remember that while America is certainly a great nation, we are not the only nation, and we are not the only people to swell with pride about our nation. It reminds us that we need to appreciate all persons in the world, and to focus on peace, not war.

~ Jennifer Ruth

“There’s a church in the valley by the wildwood, no lovelier place in the dale.” These are lyrics from one of my favorite hymns, “**The Church in the Wildwood**” (by William S. Pitts), which I sang as a child all through Sunday school. I spent many summers in Iowa, the state that is home to this “little brown church,” and the story it tells always reminds me of the Methodist church I attended while visiting my grandparents. This hymn as well as other old favorites—“**Old Rugged Cross**,” “**In the Garden**,” and “**Onward Christian Soldiers**”—were all sung growing up here and in Iowa, all being so familiar and bringing back happy memories.

~ Laurie Warfel

I first remember hearing the tune *FINLANDIA* by Jean Sibelius at an outdoor concert by the Cincinnati Pops orchestra. I was really moved by the melody. Later I discovered that the hymn “**This Is My Song**” by Lloyd Stone and Georgia Harkness is set to that tune in the *United Methodist Hymnal*. Working at the Habitat site in Nepal really brought meaning to verse two: “My country’s skies are bluer than the ocean, and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine; but other lands have sunlight too, and clover, and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.”

~ Greg Perisho

HYMN REFLECTIONS FROM OUR CONGREGATION

“Ode to Joy” by Beethoven is a very well-known melody from his last symphony, No. 9. I have fond memories of this melody from the time our daughter was in middle school and we listened to her learning to play the clarinet. I am also reminded of my own more recent attempts to play it when learning to play the piano. It is a lovely composition. The text “**Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee**” by Henry Van Dyke is considered to be one of the most joyous expressions of hymn lyrics in the English language, and to me it is glorious and uplifting.

~ Bob Martin

A hymn that is close to my heart is “**Old Rugged Cross**” (words and music by George Bennard). This hymn was my Grandpa Mooney’s very favorite! It was his hope that his descendants would also take the words of his favorite hymn to be part of their lives as well.

~ Cindy Sennese

My grandfather knew two songs, “Over There” and “**Old Rugged Cross**.” My first baby was a nighttime crier, and I often sung the latter as a lullaby, as it had been sung so often to me. Coincidentally, at her baptism, that was the hymn we sang that morning. A fussy baby slept straight through the whole ceremony. I guess she figured that if that many people wanted to sing her to sleep, she’d better cooperate! I still see her sweet sleeping face whenever I hear it.

~ Holly Trueblood

In seventh grade, I joined my first church choir in the small town of Orangeville, Illinois. I believe the church was Evangelical United Brethren at that time. The pastor’s wife was our choir director, and the first song I sang with the choir was “**Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us**” (text inspired by John 10, written by Dorothy Thrupp; music by William Bradbury). This is still my favorite hymn, and I hope it will be sung at a memorial service for me when that time comes.

The EUB choir was the beginning of a lot of singing for me: four years in the Elmhurst College Polyhymnia, directed by Viola Repp; 18 years with the Community Renewal Chorus of Chicago, directed by Harriet Ziegenhals and Gerome Bell. Throughout my adult life, I have sung with three church choirs, presently here at Gary Church under the direction of our lovely Jennifer Whiting.

~ Judy Grote

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

arr. Dan Forrest

Author: Thomas Obadiah Chisholm (1866–1960)

Composer: William M. Runyan (1870–1957)

The congregation is invited to sing the final refrain.

Thomas Obadiah Chisholm based his poem on James 1:17, “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow cast by turning.”

Chisholm wrote in a letter dated 1941, “My income has not been large at any time due to impaired health in the earlier years, which has followed me until now. Although I must not fail to record here the unfailing faithfulness of a covenant-keeping God and that He has given me many wonderful displays of His providing care, for which I am filled with astonishing gratefulness.”

In 1923, Mr. Chisholm sent several poems to Rev. William M. Runyan, a musician at Moody Bible Institute and editor with Hope Publishing Company. Runyan wrote, “This particular poem held such an appeal that I prayed more earnestly that my tune might carry over its message in a worthy way; and the subsequent history of its use indicates that God answered prayer.”

Choir:

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Congregation:

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Choir:

Lord, unto me; Lord, unto me! Amen.



It Is Well with My Soul

arr. Mack Wilberg
Author: Horatio G. Spafford (1828–1888)
Composer: Philip P. Bliss (1838–1876)

The congregation is invited to sing the refrains.

Horatio G. Spafford was a successful lawyer and businessman living in Chicago with his wife Anna and five children. On November 21, 1873, Mrs. Spafford and four daughters set off to Europe on the French ocean liner Ville du Havre. Mr. Spafford had to stay in Chicago due to unexpected business, and planned to join them a few days later.

About four days into the voyage, the Ville du Havre collided with an iron-hulled Scottish ship, the Loch Earn. Anna hurriedly brought her children to the deck where they knelt and prayed. Within minutes, the ship sank beneath the dark waters, carrying with it 226 of the passengers including the Spafford children.

A sailor spotted Anna, still alive, floating on a piece of the wreckage. He pulled her into the rowboat, and another large vessel delivered them to Cardiff, Wales. Anna sent Horatio a telegram, which began, “Saved alone, what shall I do?”

Mr. Spafford booked passage on the next available ship. About four days out, the captain called him to his cabin and told him they were over the place where his children went down. Spafford wrote the poem “It Is Well with My Soul” while on this sad journey.

Choir:

*When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

*Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And has shed His own blood for my soul.*

Congregation:

**It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul),
It is well, it is well with my soul.**

Choir:

*My sin—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!—
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!*

Congregation:

**It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul),
It is well, it is well with my soul.**

Choir:

*And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul.*

Congregation:

**It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul),
It is well, it is well with my soul.
It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul),
It is well, it is well with my soul,**

Choir:

With my soul, with my soul.

HYMN REFLECTIONS FROM OUR CONGREGATION

I love to sing hymns, going back to my childhood church-going with my grandma. With no bulletins, the hymn numbers were posted on the chancel wall every Sunday. We must have sung a small group of hymns repeatedly, because I can still sing some of these oldies by heart. One of my favorites is “**In the Garden**” (by C. Austin Miles), #314 in our *United Methodist Hymnal*. I like it because it’s easy to sing and brings a visual, peaceful image of feeling loved and walking beside Jesus.

~ Elaine McCluskey

As a young child I visited my grandparents often. I have a clear memory of lifting the lid of the old piano bench in their parlor to retrieve the well-worn Evangelical United Brethren hymnal. I would thumb through the pages to find the hymn that had, and still has, special meaning for me: “**In the Garden**.” I would sit on the piano bench and sing that sweet song based on John 20, where Mary Magdalene mistakes the risen Jesus as a gardener. This revered hymn was written by C. Austin Miles in 1912 as he was inspired by the Holy Spirit. To me, this hymn reminds me that God continues to walk with me through the gardens of my life. Thank you, Lord, for walking with me!

~ Suzy Wible

My earliest memories of worship are from Brethren assemblies that were rich in fervor yet simple in format. Instruments were eschewed, a *cappella* singing was embraced, and songs were announced spontaneously. The hymn “**Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness**” was a favorite of mine as my family sang together in worship. The imagery was astonishing: rising from the dust of death, standing admist flaming worlds, being clothed in glorious beauty, and seeing sin, fear, guilt, and shame all utterly destroyed.

I remember especially my father’s strong bass voice, which I tried unsuccessfully to match with my pre-adolescent instrument. Much later, I realized how well written was the tune GERMANY (arranged by William Gardiner) with its strong and chromatic bass line that so attracted me. The impact of the hymn continued into my adulthood as I learned of the evangelistic ministry of the hymn’s author Count Zinzendorf, his close work with John Wesley who translated this hymn to English, and the earnestness and sweetness that characterizes the best hymns from the Moravian brethren.

~ Kevin Lange



HYMN REFLECTIONS FROM OUR CONGREGATION

The hymn “**Be Still My Soul**” has been personal to me ever since my husband Dave died ten years ago. I found great comfort in the lyrics, “The Lord is on your side... Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.” I relied on this hymn again a few years later while undergoing surgery and radiation for cancer. “In every change, He faithful will remain... Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake!”

This hymn was inspired by God’s promise in Psalm 46:10, “Be still and know that I am God.” When I meditate, I use this verse to quiet my thoughts. But I often find myself silently singing the first line of the hymn instead, “Be still my soul.”

~ Virginia Blackwell

Some know it as “Beautiful Savior,” the signature piece arranged by F. Melius Christiansen for the St. Olaf College choirs. Others of Moravian heritage may recognize it as CRUSADERS’ HYMN. But when I was ten years old, I learned it as “**Fairest Lord Jesus**,” carefully rehearsed by our junior choir for Easter Sunday. My mother and her friend dyed our hand-me-down white robes a fresh shade of yellow, resplendently enhanced with new lavender satin stoles. Preparations for Christmas had been joyful and exciting, but now attention was upon Easter. Jesus, the Ruler of All Nature, was and is the Ruler of my heart!

~ Mavis Sanders

“**Great Is Thy Faithfulness**” has been a word of hope, gratitude and promise for me. After our Nate passed in August 2014, the sight of a late-blooming flower or a stunning sunrise would call to mind “morning by morning new mercies I see”—a reminder of God’s presence always with us, God’s unfailing love for us, and the breathtaking beauty around us even as we may reel within from storms and sadness. It is, to me, almost a follow-up to a line from another favorite, “**O Holy Night**”: “A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.”

~ Christine LaFave Grace

“**Great Is Thy Faithfulness**” has been a family favorite all of my life. My mom, Mary Louise Lewis, always requested the visiting hospice chaplain to sing it for her during her last year of life. On her final day, she was visited by Pastor JP, and our own Pastor Chris and Pastor Brian. Before they left that morning, they sang this amazing hymn to her in booming magnificence. That was the last hymn she heard. At her wake at Gary Church, the congregation sang it together in her memory. “Great is Thy Faithfulness” will always reach my soul.

~ Mary Ellen Kolbe

Unclouded Day

No. 1 from *Heavenly Home: Three American Songs*

arr. Shawn Kirchner

Author and composer: Josiah K. Alwood (1828–1909)

A circuit-riding preacher for the United Brethren of Christ, Josiah Alwood, wrote this gospel song. Through the years it has been transmitted under several titles, including “Uncloudy Day.” Alwood explained its origin in an article titled “A Rainbow at Midnight and a Song with Morning”:

It was a balmy night in August 1879, when returning from a debate in Spring Hill, Ohio, to my home in Morenci, Michigan, about one o’clock a.m. I saw a beautiful rainbow north by northwest against a dense black nimbus cloud. The sky was all perfect clear except this dark cloud which covered about forty degrees of the horizon and extended about halfway to the zenith. The phenomenon was entirely new to me and very lovely. ...To awake [the next day] and look abroad and remember the night was to be filled with sweet melody. A while at the organ brought forth a piece of music now known as “The Unclouded Day.”

O they tell me of a home far beyond the skies,
They tell me of a home far away;
And they tell me of a home where no storm clouds rise,
O they tell me of an unclouded day.

O the land of cloudless days,
O the land of an unclouded sky,
O they tell me of a home where no storm clouds rise:
O they tell me of an unclouded day.

O they tell me of a home where my friends have gone,
They tell me of a land far away,
Where the tree of life in eternal bloom
Sheds its fragrance through the unclouded day.

O the land of cloudless days,
O the land of an unclouded sky,
O they tell me of a home where no storm clouds rise:
O they tell me of an unclouded day.

O they tell me of a King in His beauty there,
They tell me that mine eyes shall behold
Where He sits on a throne that is bright as the sun,
In the city that is made of gold.

O the land of cloudless days,
O the land of an unclouded sky,
O they tell me of a home where no storm clouds rise:
O they tell me of an unclouded day.

Jubilate Deo, Mvt. I

Dan Forrest
Festival Choir and Orchestra

Jubilate Deo, omnis terra;
servite Domino in laetitia.
Introite in conspectu ejus in exultatione.
Scitote quoniam Dominus ipse est Deus;
ipse fecit nos, et non ipsi nos:
populus ejus, et oves pascuae ejus.
Introite portas ejus in confessione;
atria ejus in hymnis: confitemini illi.
Laudate nomen ejus,
quoniam suavis est Dominus:
in aeternum misericordia ejus,
et usque in generationem
et generationem veritas ejus.

O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands:
serve the Lord with gladness.
Come before his presence with a song.
Know ye that the Lord he is God;
it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves:
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter into his gates with thanksgiving,
and into his courts with praise; be thankful unto him,
and speak good of his name,
for the Lord is gracious,
his mercy is everlasting;
**and from generation
to generation his truth endureth.**

~ Psalm 100, Latin Vulgate (translated)

*One generation commends your works to another;
they tell of your mighty acts.*

Psalm 145:4 (NIV)



Pastoral Prayer

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 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, and the power, and the glory, for ever.
Amen.**

With Gratitude...

We offer our warmest thanks to all who supported the ministry of the Festival Choir and Orchestra this year. Your prayers, encouragement, and financial gifts enable us to lead our congregation's worship of God with our finest efforts and artistry. The musical and the spiritual are of one fabric when we bring our voices and our hearts into God's mighty gift of music. It is my great joy to lead a choir and orchestra that do precisely this. We hope that you had a "foretaste of glory divine" today, and we thank you from our hearts for your prayers and gifts that support the ministry of music all through the year!

We are grateful to all who contributed time and talents behind the scenes. Each one is a valued member of the team required to bring today's experience to our congregation.

*"The whole body, fitted and held together... grows and builds itself up in love
through the work of each individual part."*
Ephesians 4:16

Mike and Donna Capra – Equipment setup
Deb Hafner, Deb Evans, and Barb Holmes – Administrative support
Becky Lemna – Graphic design
Kim Austin and Pam Keller – Publicity and communications
Ushers and Sound Team – Weekly help and support
Wheaton Municipal Band – The use of their concert bass drum

With gratitude, offering our music today for the glory of Christ and for the joy of the church,

Jennifer Whiting, for the Festival Choir and Orchestra of Gary Church

Sharing Our Story...

We hope this morning's experience inspires you to share your own stories. To help spark conversations, we invite you to consider these story starters—either during Special Blend (the prompts will also be on the tables) in the Commons at 10 a.m., or later today with family and friends.

"I enjoyed reading the hymn's background stories. The one that resonated the most with me was _____, because _____."

"Of all the hymns we heard and sang today, the one I would claim as 'my song' is _____, because _____."

"Gary has so many great story tellers! The hymn reflection that I really connected with was _____, because _____."

"I have a hymn story of my own to share. Whenever I hear _____, it takes me back to _____."

Mission Statement

Grow in faith, knowledge, and understanding of Christ as Lord and Savior
Serve our community and the world by sharing time, gifts, talents
Nurture one another through worship, fellowship, love
Demonstrate our discipleship to Christ
Proclaim God's grace and Good News

Amazing Grace

Tom VanKanegan, saxophone

arr. Mack Wilberg
Author: John Newton (1725–1807)
Composer: William Walker (1809–1875)

The congregation is invited to stand and sing the final stanza.

Englishman John Newton was a slave trader who encountered the grace of God. A difficult childhood and the death of his mother had led him to despair. In adulthood, as a member of the Royal Navy, he was abandoned in West Africa and forced to become a servant to a slave trader.

He was eventually rescued, and on the voyage home the ship encountered a violent storm. He cried out to God, and he was saved from the storm. In spite of this event, Newton became a slave ship master, bringing captives from Africa to England. He sometimes treated the enslaved victims cruelly.

After becoming violently ill on a sea voyage in 1754, Newton finally abandoned the slave trade and wholeheartedly devoted his life to serving God. In later years, he labored alongside William Wilberforce for the abolition of slavery in the British Empire.

He was ordained as an Anglican priest and authored hundreds of hymns, including “Amazing Grace.” It first appeared in the *Olney Hymns*, printed in 1779 by Newton and Cowper. In 1835, William Walker published *The Southern Harmony*, in which he set Newton’s poem to a different tune, NEW BRITAIN, which we sing today.

In Harriet Beecher Stowe’s *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, Tom sings “Amazing Grace,” including an extra stanza whose author is unknown. We now traditionally sing it as the final stanza: “When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun....”

Choir:
*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.*

*The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.*

*Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease;
I shall possess within the veil
a life of joy and peace.*

***Congregation stands and sings:**
**When we’ve been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun;
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise
Than when we first begun.
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise
Than when we first begun.**

Choir:
Begun, begun, begun...

*Benediction

**Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long!
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long!**

Tom VanKanegan, saxophone

Postlude

Hymn Prelude on “Ton-Y-Botel” (Tune in a Bottle) Healey Willan
Welsh tune: T.J. Williams (1869)
Author: Samuel Trevor Francis

*O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free.*

Kevin Lange, organist

Guest Artists...

Aimee Stuart Flunker, soprano, a native of San Diego, California, received a Master of Music in Vocal Performance and Literature at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2019 where she studied with Yvonne Redman. She received a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from Wheaton College in 2017 where she studied with Dr. Sarah Holman. Her past opera roles include Mimi in *La Bohème*, Gretel in *Hansel and Gretel*, First Lady in *The Magic Flute*, and Mrs. Jaffett in Britten’s *Noye’s Fludde*. A recipient of numerous awards in Chicago NATS competitions, she was also awarded the Stotler Fellowship at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Currently, Aimee is teaching voice and piano in Elmhurst while performing in the Chicago area.

Antonio Quaranta, baritone, has been a member of Gary’s Chancel Choir for the past four years. He can often be heard leading hymns at the lectern on communion Sunday. As a professional choral artist, he sings with the Chicago Symphony Chorus, St. Charles Singers, and Chicago Choral Artists, among other groups. As a soloist, he has performed such works as Handel’s *Messiah*, Fauré’s *Requiem*, and Bach’s solo cantata for bass, *Ich habe genug*. Musical theatre credits include Charlemagne in *Pippin* and Caleb in *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*.

Tom VanKanegan, saxophonist and flutist, has been active in the Chicago music scene for over 40 years. Tom received his Bachelor of Music degree from Northern Illinois University and since then has performed in countless shows, musical theater productions, recording sessions, touring bands, and in many clubs in and around the city. He conducts and manages the TVK Orchestra, which he founded 30 years ago as his own special-event band for weddings, fundraisers, and private parties.