

¹⁶ Your eyes beheld my unformed
substance.
In your book were written
all the days that were formed
for me,
when none of them as yet
existed.
¹⁷ How weighty to me are your
thoughts, O God!
how vast is the sum of them!

Psalm 139:16–17



Abington Presbyterian Church

January 17, 2021

10:00 a.m. Celebration Worship

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

ORDER OF WORSHIP
2nd Sunday after Epiphany January 17, 2021

GATHERING

The people gather wherever they may in response to God's call, offering praise in words of scripture, prayer, and song. The people acknowledge their sinfulness and receive the good news of God's forgiveness.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

A time for quiet preparation before worship

God of wonders, we stand in awe of your might and majesty. We stand in need of your grace and mercy. Be near to us. Help us to see Jesus in all we meet, and equip us to follow in his footsteps. Meet us where we are, O God our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen.

PRELUDE

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

Dan Locklair

LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

We gather to worship God:

Who creates us and loves us;

Who gifts us with diversity and makes us for community;

Who gives Jesus Christ to show us how to live;

Who inspires children, youth, young adults, and people of all ages

to seek justice, share power, and live together in love and equality;

Who invites us to join the struggle for wholeness and wellbeing for all;

And whose presence, grace, and love sustain us in our living.

We gather to worship God.

To God be all glory, honor, and praise!

*** HYMN 23**

God You Spin the Whirling Planets

PLEADING SAVIOR

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Most holy and merciful God, we have condemned racial injustice with our words, yet we cling to privileges derived from social inequities. We have been complicit in maintaining systems of oppression and in demurring the freedoms and dreams of the oppressed. Give us the courage to name our sin and give us the strength to claim responsibility for our actions and inaction. Give us the grace to do what it will take to change our behavior. Through Jesus Christ we pray.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, only Christ stands in judgment over us and yet he chooses not to condemn us but to love and restore us.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

* RESPONSE

Glory Be To the Father

Hymn 581

**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.**

* THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Greet one another with the sign of peace.

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

WORD

God's Word is read and its message is proclaimed in scripture, music and interpretation.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

* HYMN 28

You Are Before Me, Lord

SCRIPTURE READING

John 1:43-51

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Face to Face

The Rev. Aaron Twitchell

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from the Belhar Confession

We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end;

We believe that unity in Christ must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted;

We reject any ideology which would legitimate forms of injustice and any doctrine which is unwilling to resist such an ideology in the name of the gospel.

We believe that, in obedience to Jesus Christ, its only head, the church is called to confess and to do all these things, even though the authorities and human laws might forbid them and punishment and suffering be the consequence. Jesus is Lord. To the one and only God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory for ever and ever.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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

THANKSGIVING & SENDING

After the proclamation of God's Word, we respond with gratitude prepared to go into the world where we are called to live according to God's will.

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

* HYMN 740

Lead Me, Guide Me

LEAD ME, GUIDE ME

* BENEDICTION & CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE

* POSTLUDE

Jubilo

Dan Locklair

[service hymns and some announcements follow]

Worship Leaders:

Preacher: The Rev. Aaron Twitchell

Liturgist: The Rev. Dr. Jade King Bass

Choir: Zene Colt

Organist: Erik Meyer

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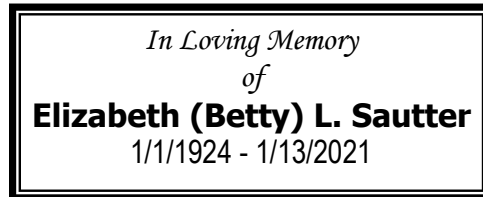
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In need of special prayers this week: Len Browna, Michael Kemp, Laura Lockhart, Sylvia Weed (mother of Kathryn Jablokow), Barbara LaNore (sister of Lynda Smyth), Sylvia Jolly, MM Harris, Herb Harris, Gary Lynch (son of Doug Lynch), Chris Popescu (aunt of Joanne Bates), Marty Bell (cousin of Alice Price), Elizabeth Cole (granddaughter of Nancy Webb Cole), Doris Boerner, Helen Porter (mother of Joe Porter), Janet Wells (mother of Gwen Bihn), Suzy Paravla (daughter of Susan Davis), Linda Maisenhelder, Christine Kim (wife of Stephen Kim), Will Pompilli (son of Teresa Pompilli), Phyllis Frazier, Nick Cupo, Sr., Joanne Hawkins (mother of Nick Cupo), Wayne Gibbons, Jr., John & Carolyn Burrell (parents of Janet Gildner), Susan Arnhold (friend of Joanne and Jeff Bates),

Kris and Erik Reidenbach (friends of Sally Adams).


For Pastoral Care: To notify the church of an illness, hospitalization, death, or to request prayer, contact a minister or call your Deacon or the Church Office at (215) 887-4530.

Sympathy and prayers for the family of Elizabeth (Betty) L. Sautter, as they mourn her recent death. Also, for Ed Wikoff in the death of his mother, and Judy Meissner in the death of her son.




God, You Spin the Whirling Planets 23

Capo 1: (D) (G) (D) (G) (A) (D) (G)
 E^b A^b E^b A^b B^b E^b A^b




1 God, you spin the whirl-ing plan - ets, fill the seas and
 2 You have called us to be faith - ful in our life and
 3 God, your word is still cre - at - ing, call - ing us to

(D) (A) (D) (Bm) (G) (D) (G) (A) (D)
 E^b B^b E^b C^m A^b E^b A^b B^b E^b



spread the plain, mold the moun-tains, fash-ion blos-soms, call forth
 min - is - try. We re - spond in grate-ful wor-ship joined in
 life made new. Now re - veal to us fresh vis - tas where there's

(G) (D) (A) (D) (G) (D) (A)
 A^b E^b B^b E^b A^b E^b B^b




sun - shine, wind, and rain. We, cre - at - ed in your im - age,
 one com - mu - ni - ty. When we blur your gra - cious im - age,
 work to dare and do. Keep us clear of all dis - tor-tion.

(D) (Bm) (F#m) (G) (A) (D) (G)
 E^b C^m G^m A^b B^b E^b A^b



would a true re - flec - tion be of your jus - tice,
 fo - cus us and make us whole. Healed and strength - ened
 Pol - ish us with lov - ing care. Thus, new crea - tures

(D) (G) (A) (D) (G) (Em) (D) (A) (D)
 E^b A^b B^b E^b A^b F^m E^b B^b E^b



grace, and mer - cy and the truth that makes us free.
 as your peo - ple, we move on - ward toward your goal.
 in your im - age, we'll pro - claim Christ ev - ery - where.

This text was written for the 1979 National Meeting of United Presbyterian Women, whose theme, "In the Image of God," is variously considered here as reflection, focus, distortion, and polishing for clarity. The words are well set to an anonymous 19th-century American tune.

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Lead Me, Guide Me

Capo 1: (D)
 Refrain E^b (A7) B^b7 (Em) Fm

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way, for if you

lead me, I can - not stray. Lord, let me walk each

day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

I am weak and I need your strength and power to help me

o - ver my weak - est hour. Help me through the dark-ness your

face to see. Lead me, O Lord, lead me. *to Refrain*

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This African American gospel hymn can well be understood as an updated adaptation of Psalm 5:8, with the "enemies" of the psalm treated as the pressures and temptations of daily life. As with the psalms, the "I" here is understood to express a shared communal experience.