

# Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 12, 2023



Happy are those whose way is blameless,  
who walk in the law of the LORD.

Happy are those who keep his decrees,  
who seek him with their whole heart.

Psalm 119:1-2

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**Sunday, February 12, 2023**  
The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany  
Transformation Sunday

Tolling of the Bell

Prelude

Call to Worship

Opening Hymn *For the Beauty of the Earth*

Welcome and Announcements

Responsive Prayer of Invocation

One: God, what word do you have for us today? What instruction do you offer?

**All: "This commandment I give you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. It is not in heaven, neither is it beyond the sea. No, the word is very near to you; it is in your heart for you to observe."**

One: God, set before us today life and prosperity, death and adversity.

**All: "Obey my commandments. Loving the Lord your God, follow the path I lead you on and abide by my instruction, and I will bless you and you shall prosper."**

One: God, what if we fail or become distracted?

**All: "If your heart turns away and you are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish. Like a vine without water, you will bear bitter fruit; like bread without yeast, you will not rise."**

One: God, with heaven and earth as witness,  
you set before us life and death, blessings and curses.

**All: "We choose life so that we and all our descendants may live, loving the Lord our God, and holding fast to life, for the length of our days."**

*Deuteronomy 30:11-20*

Passing of the Peace

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Blessing

Choir Anthem

Children's Time

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Sermon

Hymn

*Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove*

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.*

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

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Doxology

*Each week, we sing and sign an inclusive Doxology (ASL).*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.*

*Praise God all creatures here below.*

*Praise God for all that Love has done.*

*Creator, Christ, & Spirit one. Amen.*

Closing Hymn

*What a Covenant*

Benediction

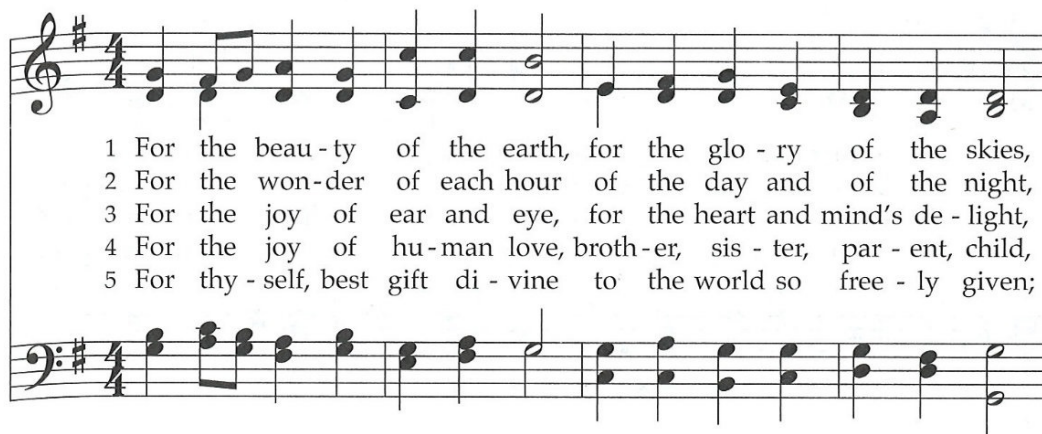
Postlude

*Following the Benediction, the congregation is encouraged to enjoy the entire Postlude.*

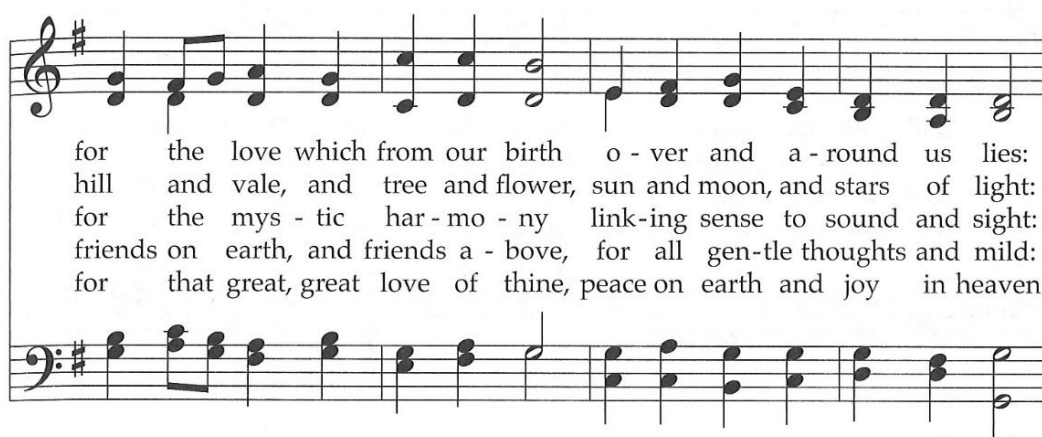
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# For the Beauty of the Earth

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1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,  
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,  
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,  
5 For thy - self, best gift di - vine to the world so free - ly given;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:  
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:  
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:  
friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:  
for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:

## Refrain



Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

In the course of many revisions, the original eucharistic emphasis of this text has shifted to a hymn of thanksgiving for a wide range of human experience, with a Christological summation. It is set here to the tune that is customary in North America, though not elsewhere.

TEXT: Follitt Sandford Pierpoint, 1864, alt.

MUSIC: Conrad Kocher, 1838; abr. William Henry Monk, 1861; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

DIX

7.7.7.7.7

# Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove

Isaac Watts, 1707; alt.

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John 1:32

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems. The first system has a treble clef and a bass clef, both with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: 1 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, heaven-ly Dove, with all your quick-ening powers; 2 In vain we tune our for - mal songs, in vain we strive to rise; 3 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, heaven-ly Dove, with all your quick-ening powers; The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are: Kin - dle a flame of sa - cred love in these cold hearts of ours. Ho - san-nas lan - guish on our tongues, and our de - vo - tion dies. Come, shed on us the Sav - ior's love, that it may kin - dle ours.

*This text from an early collection of Watts' Hymns and Spiritual Songs (1707) has seen many modifications through the years, including some made by John Wesley on theological grounds.*

Tune: ST. AGNES C.M.  
John B. Dykes, 1866

*Deut. 33:27**Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887; alt.*

1 What a \*cov - e - nant, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -  
 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -  
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -

last - ing arms. What a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine, lean - ing  
 last - ing arms. Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean - ing  
 last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Sav - ior near, lean - ing

*Refrain*

on the ev - er - last - ing arms.  
 on the ev - er - last - ing arms. Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from  
 on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

all a - larms; lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

\*Or, "fellowship"

*In a letter to two grieving friends, A. J. Showalter quoted Deuteronomy 33:27, "... underneath are the everlasting arms." Showalter then wrote this music and the refrain and sent them to E. A. Hoffman to provide the stanzas.*

Tune: LEANING 5.5.9.D. with refrain  
 Anthony J. Showalter, 1887

# Bulletin Reminders for February 12, 2023

## **KINDNESS IN ACTION CAMPAIGN**

Please join the Social Action Committee, after worship, *TODAY*, for the inauguration of the *Kindness in Action* campaign! We will be hosting Coffee Hour, complete with all your favorite heart-shaped treats and goodies. Paper hearts will be distributed to all those interested in participating in this fun and meaningful event to spread kindness in the world. We will provide you with all the information you need to get started.

## **EASTER CASCARONES**

We need your help! Save your egg shells, so we can make cascarones for Easter Sunday. Watch this short video on how to crack your eggs. Rinse them and place them back into the carton and drop off at church before Sunday, **March 12**. Have access to a photocopier with a hole punch? Empty out the collection receptacle and give us your hole punches for the confetti.

## **SPECIAL CHURCH CONFERENCE**

Transformation Team is encouraging you to sign up for a special church Conference, taking place on **March 3-4**. *Level Up* is presented by Faith Community Church and is designed to equip you for leadership in church and in life. Please let Greg know if you're interested. Deadline to Register as a team is **February 10**. Cost is \$30 (and assistance is available). *Check your Wednesday Email for full details.*

## **LGBT ASYLUM TASK FORCE NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

The LGBT Asylum Task Force, a Worcester-based group that supports gay foreigners seeking asylum in the US, and a beneficiary of our Social Action Committee, suffered severe structural damage from last week's severe cold snap. Power and heat were lost, displacing all of the asylum seekers who were residing there. *See Wednesday Email for how to help.*

## **PILGRIM LODGE**

Pilgrim Lodge is owned and operated by the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ. It is an incredible opportunity to connect with church friends over the summer and make new church friends outside Plymouth Church. We want to help kids get to Pilgrim Lodge, so Plymouth Church offers Camperships to help meet the cost of camp. To apply for a campership, please see your *Wednesday Email* for links, and complete the form by Sunday, **February 12**. Registration is open. Please check out [www.pilgrimlodge.org](http://www.pilgrimlodge.org) to select your favorite camp week and to apply. If/when you register, please let Greg know. If getting a scholarship from Plymouth Church is the difference between going and not going, please let us know ASAP.

## **ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE**

February 22, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

## **FEBRUARY COFFEE KLATCH UNDER WAY!**



A small, but mighty subset of February's Coffee Klatch provided coffee and goodies at Coffee Hour on February 5.

*(Left-to-right) Kelly Johnson, Mary Whittemore, Kathy Copson, Cathy Allen*

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# The Plymouth Church in Framingham

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