

## CARMICHAEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**August 15, 2021**

**Livestream**

**10:00 a.m.**

PRELUDE

**“March”**

Grieg, arr. Wilson

Randy Benfield, organ

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Ivan N. Herman

Click [HERE](#) to register your attendance

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 110)

Leader: Praise God!

**People: We will give thanks to the Lord with our whole heart,**

Leader: in this congregation we will seek wisdom.

**People: Great are the works of God**

Leader: studied by all who delight in them.

**People: God’s deeds are amazing and to be remembered;**

Leader: God is gracious and merciful.

**People: The awe of God is the beginning of wisdom;**

Leader: All those who practice it have a good understanding.

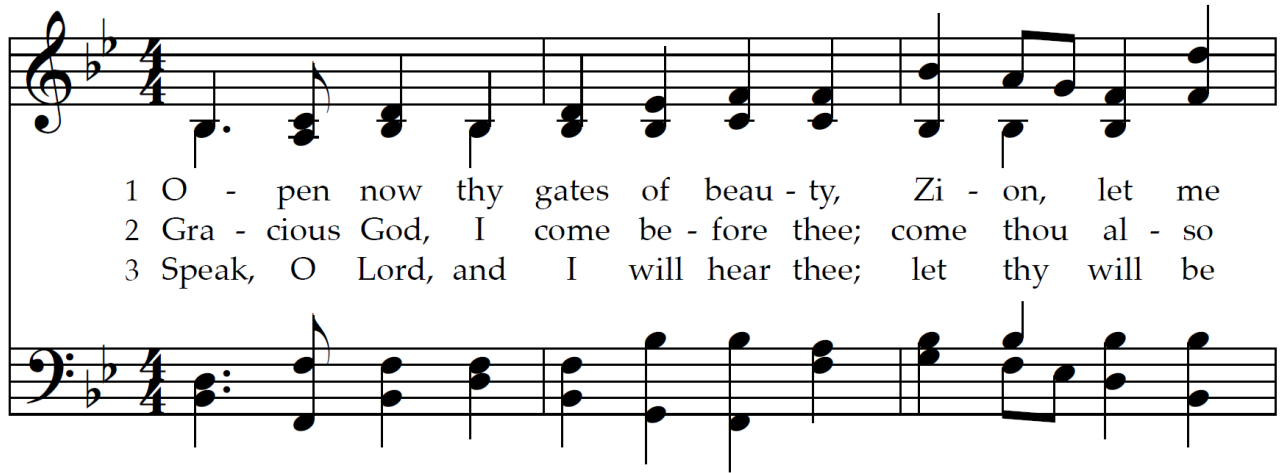
**People: May God be praised forever.**

HYMN

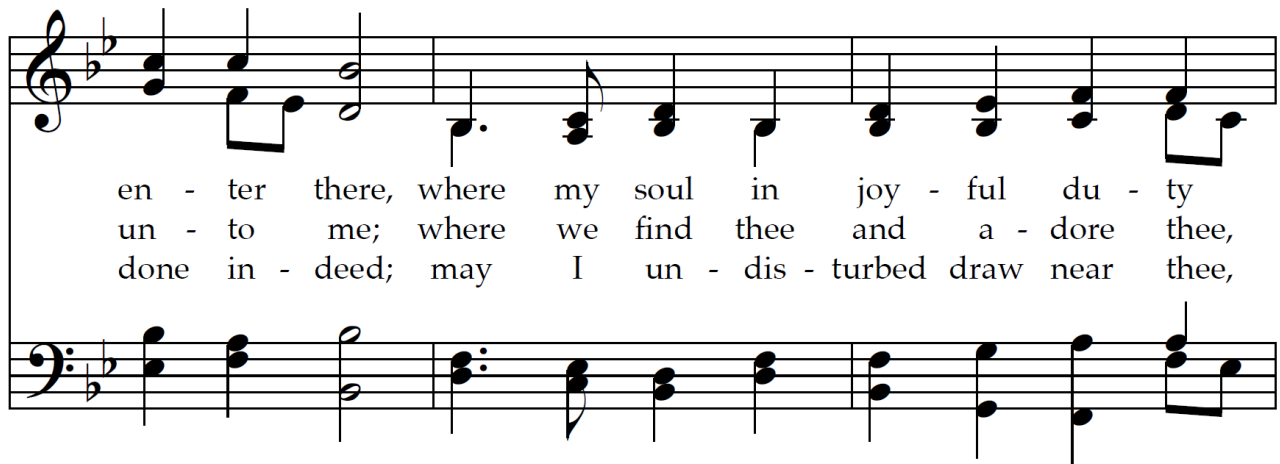
**“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”**

No. 489

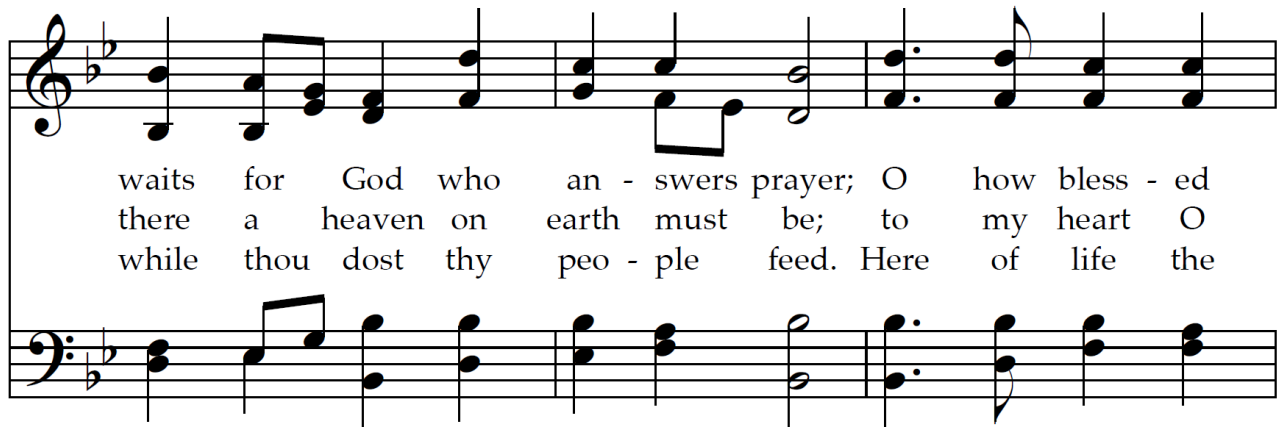
# Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me  
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so  
3 Speak, O Lord, and I will hear thee; let thy will be



en - ter there, where my soul in joy - ful du - ty  
un - to me; where we find thee and a - dore thee,  
done in - deed; may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee,



waits for God who an - swers prayer; O how bless - ed  
there a heaven on earth must be; to my heart O  
while thou dost thy peo - ple feed. Here of life the



is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace.  
en - ter thou; let it be thy tem - ple now.  
foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: There is a sort of wisdom that comes in admitting our limitations, and asking God for help. When we ask, God listens; and when God listens, we change for the better. Let us ask God for help, together.

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God, we may not be the leaders of states, the sovereigns of this world, but we do have power. We confess the ways we hoard our power, or exert it over others in vain efforts to establish ourselves. Forgive us for trying to make a name for ourselves at the expense of others. Forgive us for forgetting our own belovedness. Show us the path of wisdom once more, and give us the courage to walk in it, together. Amen.**

## SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Take a deep breath. Release all you've held too tightly. Feel how deeply held you are in the love of God. Believe that God is enough, that you are enough, that we are enough. Live in the grounding knowledge that God's forgiveness goes ahead of us, and behind us, and within us.

### RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

#### **"The Gloria Patri"**

Traditional

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.

### TIME FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

### SPECIAL MUSIC

#### **Our God is a Rock"**

K. Davis

Sanctuary Choir

(as recorded September 27, 2015)

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ephesians 5:15-20

<sup>15</sup>Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, <sup>16</sup>making the most of the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup>So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. <sup>18</sup>Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup>as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, <sup>20</sup>giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### SERMON

#### **A Grateful Heart**

Pastor Keith L. DeVries

### SONG

#### **"We Are Called"**

Haas

Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord  
We are called to be light for the kingdom  
To live in the freedom of the city of God!

We are called to act with justice; We are called to love tenderly  
We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God

Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear  
We are called to be hope for the hopeless  
So hatred and blindness will be no more!

Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one  
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other  
As sisters and brothers united in love

## OFFERING

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: God, who weaves the world together in wisdom: give us even the tiniest taste of your wisdom. Our lives are flooded with words: with news stories of bigotry, hatred, violence and suffering. With tweets and posts that dice our days into tiny bites that turn to sawdust in our mouths, leaving us ravenous. With the emotional whiplash of announcements, policies and press conferences, reigniting the anxiety and the anger.

So many words swirl around us, and overwhelm us. And we do what feels safest to us, which is to form action plans and mission statements, as if our words will make this flood of our time obey us. As if our words will calm the flood waters of grief within us. Underneath all of these words, these efforts of ordering what can't be ordered and explaining what can't be explained, of performing our lives for the consumption of others rather than living them there is a common word: fear.

We are afraid of our own mortality. We are afraid we are meaningless. We are afraid we will revert into our smaller, sadder selves of six or twelve months ago.

And so when we ask for your wisdom to come amidst all this noise and all this fear, we must also ask that you come in a way we do not expect. In a way we cannot plan, organize, schedule or commodify. You will have to surprise us. You who came not as a mighty monarch to establish your reign over all lesser people, but as a curious child.

You will have to weave your wisdom into the spaces between all the words, the chaos of our days. And maybe – if you are as good as you say you are, if you are as good as we say you are you will even bring your wisdom through joy. Joy that sends the fear away empty and fills up every crack of these fractured lives of ours to the brim and overflows with a deep knowledge – a wisdom - of your goodness toward us, and our capacity to be good to each other. May it be so.

Hear us as now we pray with one voice as you have taught, saying

**Unison: 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 CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

### THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

The Lord whom we love, whom we worship and adore,  
We will serve throughout this coming week. He it is who binds us together,  
And He it is who sends us apart, to be God's people, be God's people. Amen.

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Liturgy by Whitney Wilkinson Arreche © *Presbyterian Outlook*, 2021

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Audio/Video: Bruce MacLean and Mike Aretsky

Contemporary Worship Leader: Jenny DeVries

Vocals: Tara Calderon and Laura Leek

Piano: Gabe Bisho      Guitar: Paul Zeman

Bass: Jay Leek      Drums: Will Condrey