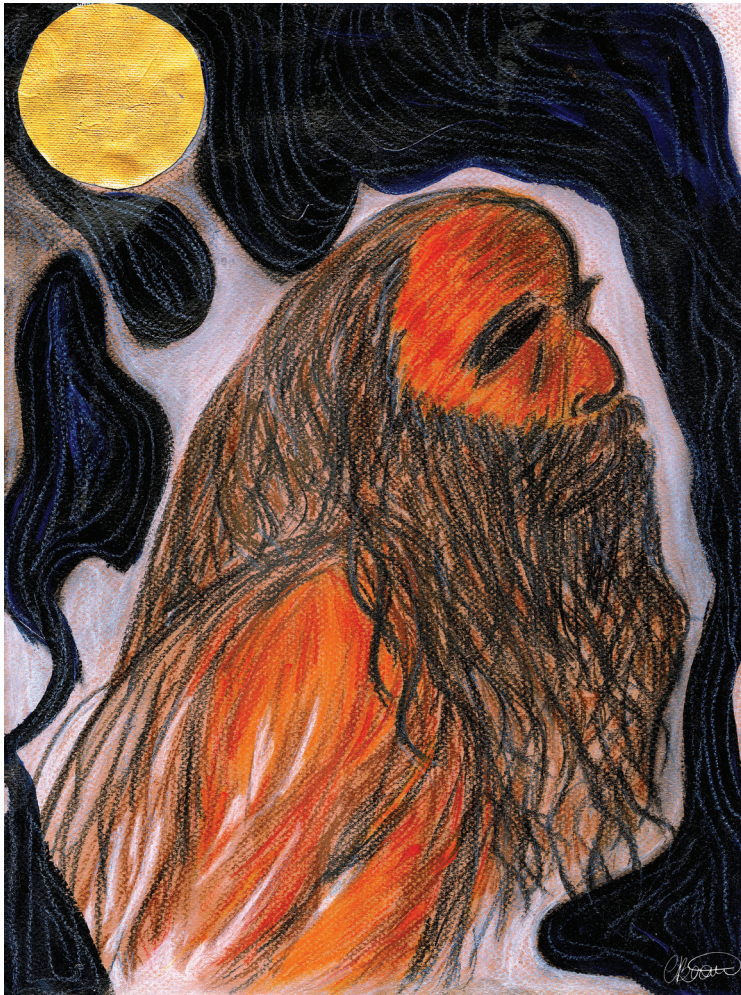


Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

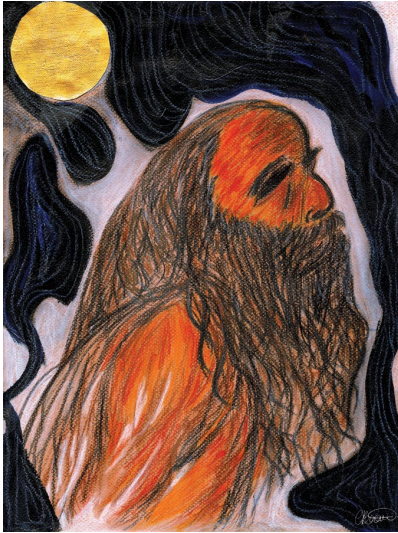


March 5, 2023

Welcome to worship this morning!

Bulletin Cues: **Bold** indicates congregational response, * indicates please stand, if able.
Bathrooms are located down the hall, around the corner to the left. A family bathroom is located in the hallway on the right hand side (next to the Kidz Klub).

seeking: How do we begin again?



RENACIMIENTO

by Carmelle Beaugelin

Inspired by John 3:1-17

Conté crayon, charcoal, acrylic, gold gild on paper

I was raised in a Spanish-speaking Pentecostal church in Miami called "Renacimiento." A simple translation of *renacimiento* to English means "rebirth" or "renaissance." For my small Pentecostal church, *renacimiento* meant far more than the symbolism of being "born-again" Christians. It was a perpetual reminder that each time the saints gather to encounter Jesus, the Spirit calls us to continuous transformation, calling dead things into new life and Holy Spirit-filled revival.

It is no wonder that Nicodemus seeks Jesus in the cover and darkness of night. It is in the quiet of night that our deepest fears startle us awake, that our anxieties of the day keep us from sound rest, and that the fear of the death of our dreams and bodies looms. As rapper Nas

wrote in his debut album, *Illmatic*, "sleep is the cousin of death."³

Yet Jesus challenges Nicodemus' seeking in the night with a call to be born again, to *renacimiento*. Not just improvement, but transformation. Not simply resuscitation of what is and was, but a complete resurrection of what could and will be.

In this image, a metaphorically disrobed, aging, and vulnerable Nicodemus, surrounded by the milky gray swirls of water and spirit, wonders: *How can this be? Haven't I reached past my benchmarks? How is it that you are calling me to begin again?*

We may see ourselves in Nicodemus today, holding the same questions in the sleeplessness of our darkest nights. Yet, what if we chose to hold fast to the faith that responds to our seeking? Jesus promises us that the winds and waters of the Spirit will lead us toward our own new beginning. Each of us will experience *renacimiento* if we dare to seek it.

—Carmelle Beaugelin

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With many thanks and used with permission:

Words for Worship "Seeking." Adapted from prayers by Rev. Sarah A. Speed |

A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Paraphrased Lord's Prayer by Steve Garnaas-Holmes, *Unfolding Light*.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

What is it like to begin again?

It is like flowers in the spring that push through frozen ground.

It is like babies learning to walk, one clumsy step at a time.

It is like Nicodemus in the night, asking Jesus for guidance.

It is like a Sunday morning, starting our week anew.

May we find God in our seeking.

May we learn as we go.

May we be brave enough to begin again.

Let us worship the God of new beginnings.

Query: What new beginnings did God open to you this week?

*OPENING HYMN GTG 649

Amazing Grace

vs. 1-3

**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.**

**‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved.**

**How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come.**

**‘Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Confession offers a new beginning. We speak honestly with God about who we are and who we long to be. And in response, God wraps us in grace and lets us begin again.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of new life, you call us into unknown places,
and speak of new life in the Spirit,
and we tell ourselves we've missed our chance.
Over and over and over again, you invite us closer to you.
Show us the way. Forgive our mistakes.
Give us the courage to begin again with you. Amen.**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Family of faith, hear and believe this good news:

There is a grace to God's love that is bigger than we can imagine.

No matter what we did or didn't do yesterday, we have been forgiven.

We belong to God. We are held in God's love. We are made new. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE

The Lone Wild Bird

tune: Prospect, GTG 807

**The lone, wild bird in lofty flight
Is still with thee, nor leaves thy sight.
And I am thine, I rest in thee.
Great Spirit, come and rest in me.**

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Holy God, we come to you today with our biggest questions:

Who are we called to be? What do you need from us? Where are you in our midst? How can we follow you more clearly? May we find what we are seeking in these ancient stories.

With gratitude and open hearts we pray, **amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 12:1-4a

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 121

(Regular print, piano side; **bold print, screen side**)

I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come?

My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

**The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

Be Still, My Soul

CPC Choir

By Jean Sibelius

GOSPEL READING

John 3:1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

*HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 286

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

vs. 1-3



1 Breathe on me, Breath of God; fill me with life a - new,
 2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
 3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am whol - ly thine,

that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
 un - til with thee I will one will, to do and to en - dure.
 un - til this earth - ly part of me glows with thy fire di - vine.

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JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, our Savior,
hear our prayer.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE AND GREAT THANKSGIVING

God is with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the Holy One, our God.

It is good and beautiful to give God our praise.

Holy Mystery, we give you our thanks and praise.

In the swirling darkness you created light.

You create us as children of light.

You called Sarai and Abram and they followed you.

In the unknown you accompany us and lead us to new life.

in the deep night of oppression and injustice you set us free.

From the chains of our sin you set us free.

You call us to be born again in your love.

**Moment by moment, breath by breath, again and again,
you birth us in love—new people, a new Creation.
Therefore with all Creation we sing your praise.**

SANCTUS GTG 572

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and cup,
that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ.

**Pour out your Spirit on us, that we may be for the world the Body of Christ,
born anew in your love, shining with the light of your love,
serving others in the strength of your love.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION/BREAKING OF THE BREAD

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Mother and Father in heaven, holy be your name.

Impose your reign that we may do your will, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today this one day's bread.

Forgive our wrongs as we forgive those who do wrong against us.

Save us from our temptations and keep us from doing evil,

For the Realm, the power, and the glory are yours,

Now and forever. Amen.

THE BREAD AND CUP ARE SHARED

For communion, gluten free bread and grape juice are served for all who partake.

Please take and eat the bread as it is served, and then as a sign of unity, hold the cup until all are served so that we might partake together.

HYMN DURING DISTRIBUTION GTG 288

Spirit of the Living God

repeat

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

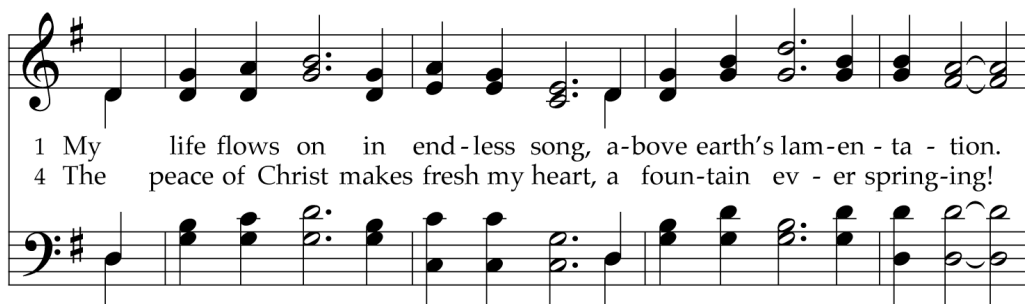
Gracious God, we thank you for this mystery in which you have given yourself to us. You have received us in love, so that we might die and rise in you. Born anew by your grace, we go into the world to love and serve in the name and spirit of Christ. **Amen.**

SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

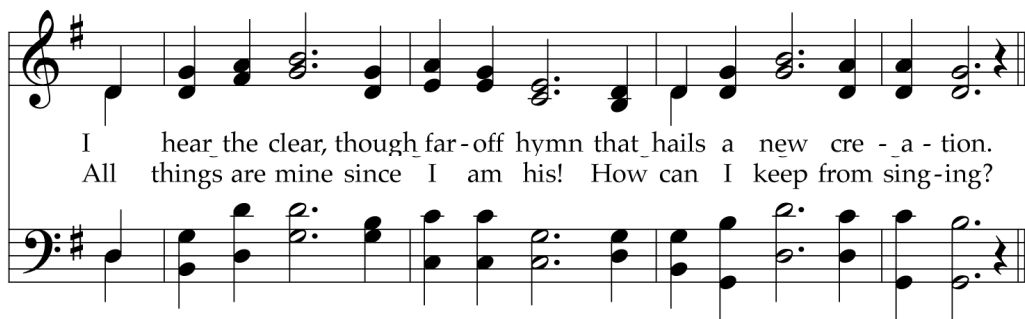
*CLOSING HYMN GTG 821

My Life Flows On

vs. 1 and 4

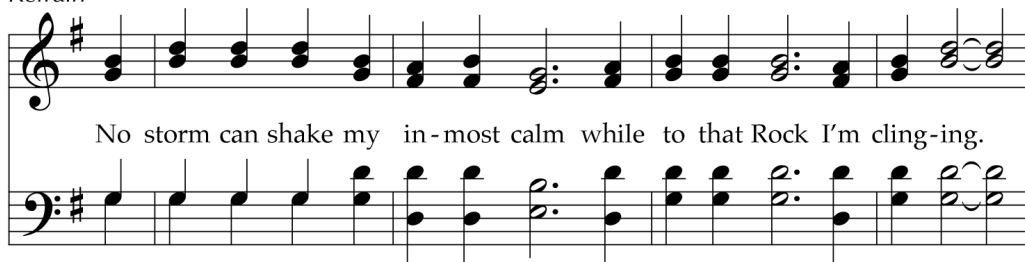


1 My life flows on in end-less song, a-bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion.
4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing!



I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

BLESSING AND CHARGE

As you leave this place,
may God bless you with seeking.
Seek out the hungry. Seek the weary.
Seek the good in every person you pass.
Seek out the hopeful. Seek the faithful.
Seek God in each of us.
As you seek and as you wonder,
may you find what you are looking for.
In the name of our loving God, who is always seeking us,
go now in peace. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Church Staff		Serving in Worship Today	
Pastor	Rev. Jan Wiersma	Liturgist	Peggy McCarty
Choir Director	Meg Cain	Special Music	CPC Choir
Handbell Director	Judy Kereakos	IT Support	Louis Bouchard
Pianist	Glenna Muir		
Custodian	Nancy Sanford		
Office Manager	Stephanie Pasch		

Syria-Turkey Earthquake



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) urges your support in the aftermath of the 7.8- magnitude earthquake and its aftershocks in Syria and Turkey. Thousands are reported dead and injured, numbers that will rise as search and rescue continues. Buildings have been reduced to rubble, and roads and bridges have been severely damaged, resulting in dangerous conditions for first responders. In some places, such as Aleppo, this destruction is compounding the damage of the now 11-year war in Syria.

PDA is providing emergency relief and short-term recovery in the impacted areas. PDA will remain active throughout the recovery process, accompanying our partners as they determine long-term program needs and providing financial support for building and resilience.

Years of recovery lie ahead, and your commitment will help PDA extend the hands of Christ. Will you stand in the "GAP" for the people affected by this catastrophic earthquake?

GIVE: PDA's emergency response and specialization in long-term recovery is fueled by your generous gifts. Gifts can be made online at pcusa.org/give-STearthquake, by phone at (800) 872-3283, or by check made payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with "DR999999-ST earthquake" written on the memo line and mailed to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700



PRAY: *God of mercy, we join in prayer for our siblings in Syria and Turkey, and all other regions affected. In the face of the terrible images that come to us, we ask that your Spirit, O God, once again move in the midst of chaos and destruction. May you provide protection, energy and strength through your presence.*

☐ \$500 ☐ \$125 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other \$ _____

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Congregation/PIN _____

Please detach the reply form and return it with your gift to your church; or enclose it in an envelope with your check and mail it to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**
OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Mission

TSE23-BI

Donations will be
matched by the
CPC Mission Fund-
up to \$500!

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

Sunday, March 5

9:30 am **Worship with Communion**
Onsite and Online

2:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

Monday, March 6

6:00 pm Building Usage: Med City Tai Chi

Tuesday, March 7

10:00 am PW Bible Study

12:00 pm Bulletin Information Due

6:30 pm Christian Education Committee

7:00 pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network

Wednesday, March 8

6:30 am Prayer Group at Church of Christ

12:00 pm Conference Call *

6:00 pm Confirmation

6:45 pm Jubellation Handbell Choir

7:30 pm CPC Choir

Thursday, March 9

5:30 pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios

Sunday, March 10

9:30 am **Worship- Onsite and Online**

2:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

Online Worship:

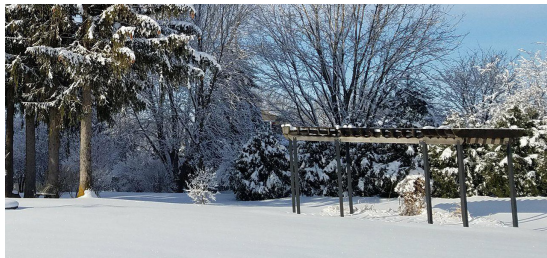
Sundays 9:30 – 10:30am

<https://meet.google.com/vao-wjef-cbe>

+1 575-305-4527 PIN: 652 821 468 #

* **Wednesday's Conference Call**

+1 413-889-2244 PIN: 433 818 991#



Judy Leal
Jane and Ed Burgstaler family,
especially daughter Jenny
Connie Holst
Vera Atkinson's daughter, Teresa
Shannon Cisewski
Judy Robb and her family as they
mourn the death of her brother, Dan
Ron Murray
Dick and Nancy Massaro
Nellie Brovold's grandma, Hilda
Lyal Powell's family, on the death of
his Uncle Larry

***To be added to the prayer list,
please contact Pastor Jan at
pastor@cpcrochester.org.***

***For emergency pastoral care,
call Pastor Jan at 763-219-2927.***