

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
come to the place for which our fathers sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
we have come, treading our path thru the blood of the slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

*Praise Songs

Osee Praise

Halleluyah, Halleluyah, Praise the almighty God!
He is worthy of our praise! Oh...
He is worthy of our praise! Oh Praise God...
He is worthy of our praise! Halleluyah!

Osee Yee Praise Him Halleluyah!...
He is worthy of our praise! Oh...
He is worthy of our praise! Oh Praise God...

Praise, O Praise, My God and King

Praise, O praise, my God and King.
Hymns of adoration, sing;
For his mercies, shall endure; Ever faithful, ever sure ...

Alleluia, Alleluia!
King of Kings and Lord of Lords!
For his mercies, shall endure; Ever faithful ever sure...

Litany of Commitment

One: In defiance of corruption and falsehood,

**Many: We commit to truth and integrity
and we pray for honesty and uprightness
to increase in our world.**

One: In defiance of apathy and hatred,

**Many: We choose to be proactive in love
and we pray for understanding and peace**

to increase in our world.

One: In defiance of skepticism and cynicism,

**Many: We embrace the mystery of faith
and we pray for humility and wonder
to increase in our world.**

One: In defiance of self-interest and human arrogance,

**Many: We celebrate God's salvation
and we pray for compassion and faith
to increase in our world.**

One: In defiance of all that would oppose God's purpose among us,

**Many: We choose again to follow Christ,
and we continue to pray,
not just now, but at all times. Amen.**

Children's Conversation

Holy Baptism

Makayla Campbell Pappoe, Stella Amerley Pappoe,
Makaria Amorkor Pappoe, Enam Kekeli Anim-Ayeko

PROFESSION of FAITH

...

The pastor addresses the congregation, and the congregation responds:

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

We do.

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include these persons now before you in your care?

With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in their service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Bible.

Do you believe in God the Creator?

I believe in God Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

BAPTISM WITH LAYING ON OF HANDS

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

Members of the household of God, I commend Makayla, Stella, Makaria, and Enam to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

The congregation responds:

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace.

Amen.

Announcement

Prayers of the People, & the Lord's Prayer

"Spirit of the Living God"

UMH 393

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

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, forever. Amen.

The Offering

Offertory

Suo Mo Muo (Hold on to me)

Emmanuel K. B. Attah

Hold on to me, Father, hold on to me always

Hold on to me, my Lord, hold on to me always

When I am with you, I am victorious. I owe my success to you.

So, give me patience, blessings and love. Hold on to me.

My Lord, hold on to me always.

*Doxology

UMH 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

*Passing of Peace

“Shalom”

Mensah Essilfie

God’s peace be unto you,
We wish you Shalom!
The peace of God which transcends all
understanding be with you forevermore.

Epistle Reading

Philippians 4:4, 11-13

*Gospel Reading

Luke 14:25-27, 33

Anthem

Sunshine in my Soul

John Sweney 1837-1899

There is sunshine in my soul today, it’s a glow so warm and bright,
Brighter far than shines in earthly skies, a pure and heav’nly kind of light.
Oh, there is sunshine, beautiful sunshine; and the peaceful happy moments roll;
As I look with love into my brother’s face, there is sunshine in my soul.

There is music in my soul today, it’s a song that I must sing,
For a song of peace is in my heart, oh, let the joyful tidings ring.
Oh, there is sunshine, beautiful sunshine; and the peaceful happy moments roll;
As I look with love into my sister’s face, there is sunshine in my soul.

Oh, there is sunshine in my soul, oh, there is music, oh, there is springtime in my soul.
There is springtime in my soul today, and my skies are blue above,
For I know there dawns a better day, a wondrous age of peace and love.
Oh, there is sunshine, beautiful sunshine, and the peaceful happy moments roll;
As I look with love into my brother’s face, there is sunshine in my soul.

Message

*Hymn

“It Is Well with My Soul”

UMH 377

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.
It is well with my soul, 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 hath shed his own blood for my soul.
It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

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!
It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

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.
It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

*Benediction

Postlude

Marche Joyeuse

Unknown

Worship Leaders: Desmond Cheetham, David Dagle, Ronna Davis, Chris Kerns, Byungmoo Lee, Debbie O'Driscoll, David Potts, Jennifer Quansah, Gary Robinson, Chancel Choir, Ghanaian Choir, Worship Tech Team

Opening Litany – *The United Methodist Book of Worship*, 423.
Litany of Commitment – *Worship & Song: Worship Resources*, Abingdon Press, 2011, 77.
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