

First Presbyterian Church of Martinsville



October 10, 2021


Worship 10:00 am

www.fpcmartinsville.org



The Worship of God

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost



Gathering

The Call of the Carillon

May the carillon bells call us to gather in the sanctuary, entering into a time of silent preparation to encounter the Living God.

Prelude

A Quiet Voluntary

Preparing to Hear the Word

Welcome

Rev. John Erickson

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship

Susie Russell

O God, you summon the day to dawn,
you teach the morning to waken the earth.

**For you the valleys shall sing for joy,
the trees of the field shall clap their hands.**

For you the kings of the earth shall bow,
the poor and the persecuted shall shout for joy.

**Your love and mercy shall last forever,
fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise.**

Great is your name.

Great is your love. Let us worship God.

♦ Hymn of Praise

When the Morning Stars Together

486

Call to Confession

When we gather to praise God,
we remember that we are people who have preferred our wills to his.
Accepting his power to become new persons in Christ,
let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

There are many times we think we love you well, O God.
But upon hearing your call to love you with all our heart,
and all our mind, and all our strength,
we confess that our love for you is a diluted love,
made insipid and flat by lesser loyalties and a divided heart.
Our love seems pure only for brief moments; soon our affections are drawn away.
How easily our devotion dies.
Forgive us; in deep mercy spare us, despite our lost first love for you;
in grace rekindle our love for you in seeing anew Jesus' love for us.

Amen.

Silent Prayer

Kyrie

Lord_ have mer - cy, Christ have mer - cy, Lord have mer - cy on us.

WORDS: Kyrie eleison
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1982

DOMINE DEUS

Assurance of Pardon

Christ is our peace; those who are divided he has made one.
He has broken down the barriers of separation by his death
and has built us up into one body, with God.
To all who repent and believe he has promised reconciliation.
So live as people reconciled.

Amen.

♦ *Gloria Patri*

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.

Passing of the Peace

The Word

Prayer for Illumination

Susie Russell

First Scripture Reading

Psalm 8

Pew Bible: OT p. 466

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Special Music

Hallelujah

Children's Message

Lynette Liberge

Second Scripture Reading

Job 1: 1-4, 2: 1-10

Pew Bible: OT p. 429, 430

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. John Erickson

Responding to the Word

♦ **Affirmation of Faith ~ The Apostles' Creed (Ecumenical)**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
And he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**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. Amen.**

Call for the Offering

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Sending

Benediction

Benediction Response

Lead Me Lord

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy right-eous-ness, make Thy way plain be - fore my face.

For it is Thou, Lord, Thou, Lord, On - ly that mak - est me dwell in safe - ty.

WORDS: Psalms 5:8, 4:8
MUSIC: Samuel S. Wesley, 1861

LEAD ME, LORD

Postlude

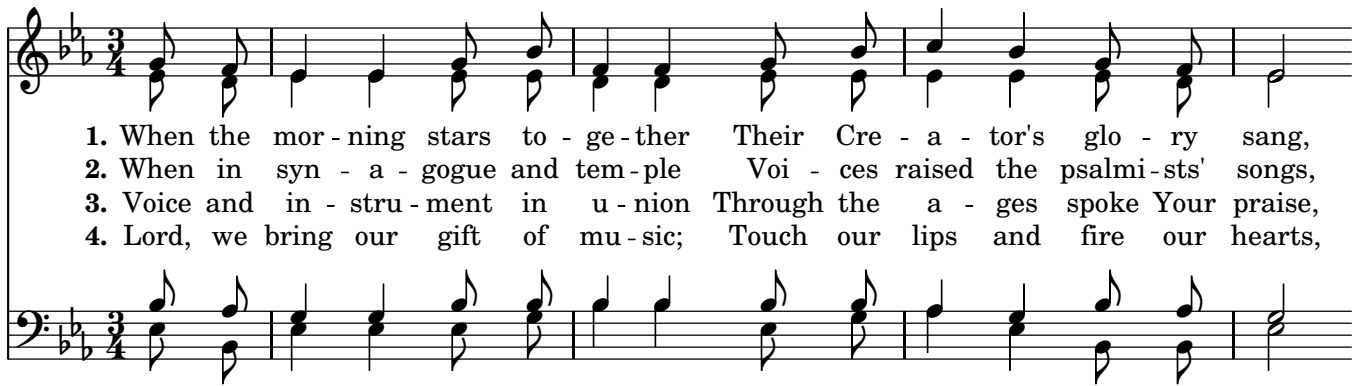
Aus Tiefer Not (Out of the Depths)

(During the postlude, you are invited to remain seated or to quietly make your way to Assembly Hall, allowing others to continue their worship.)

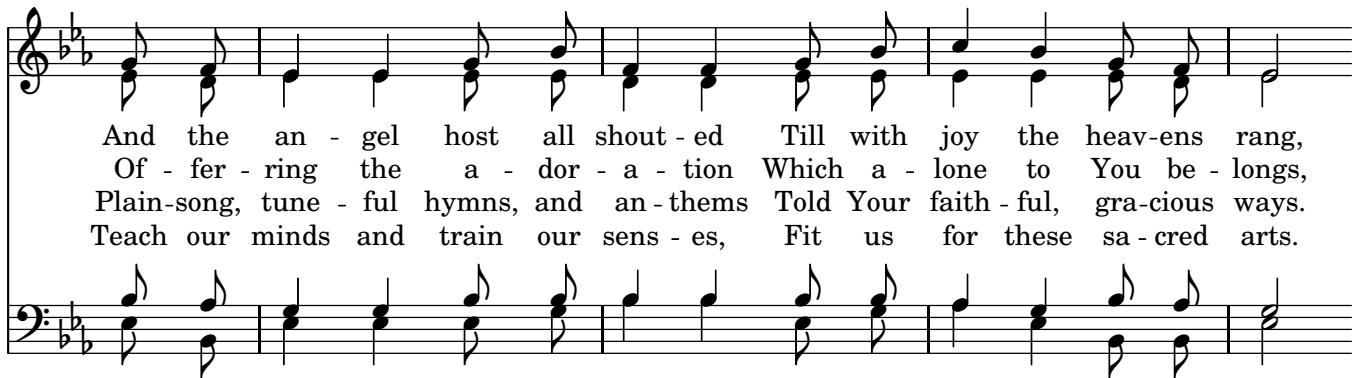
♦ *All who are able, please stand*



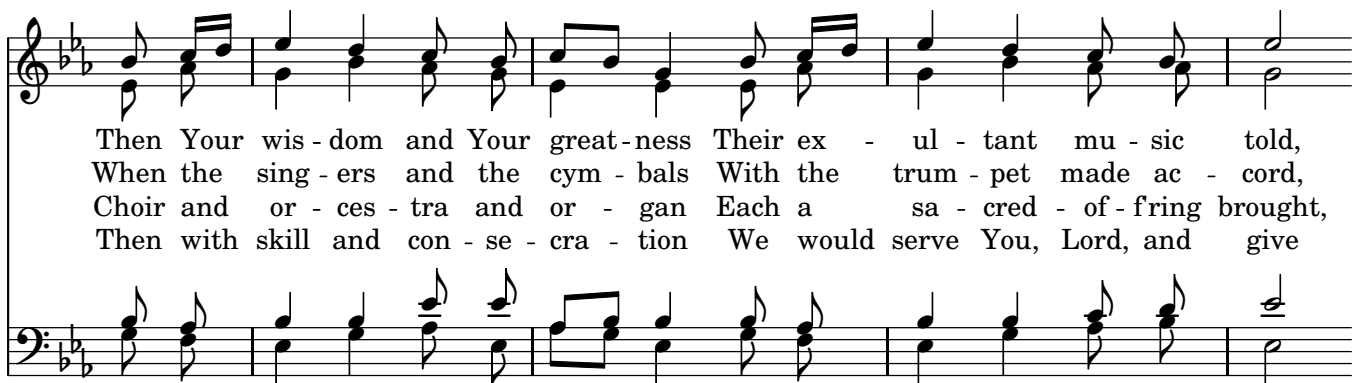
When the Morning Stars Together



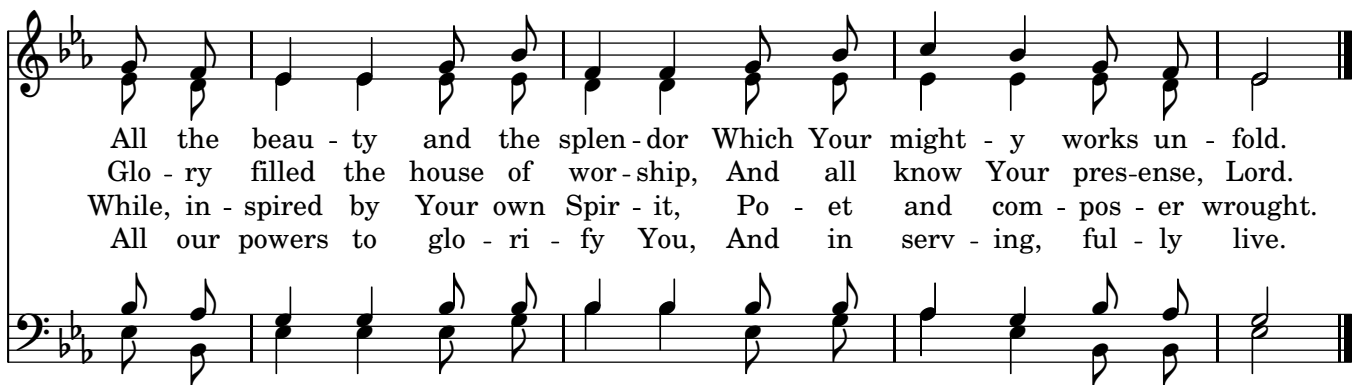
1. When the mor - ning stars to - ge - ther Their Cre - a - tor's glo - ry sang,
2. When in syn - a - gogue and tem - ple Voi - ces raised the psalmi - sts' songs,
3. Voice and in - stru - ment in u - nion Through the a - ges spoke Your praise,
4. Lord, we bring our gift of mu - sic; Touch our lips and fire our hearts,



And the an - gel host all shout - ed Till with joy the heav - ens rang,
Of - fer - ring the a - dor - a - tion Which a - lone to You be - longs,
Plain - song, tune - ful hymns, and an - thems Told Your faith - ful, gra - cious ways.
Teach our minds and train our sens - es, Fit us for these sa - cred arts.



Then Your wis - dom and Your great - ness Their ex - ul - tant mu - sic told,
When the sing - ers and the cym - bals With the trum - pet made ac - cord,
Choir and or - ces - tra and or - gan Each a sa - cred - of - fring brought,
Then with skill and con - se - cra - tion We would serve You, Lord, and give



All the beau - ty and the splen - dor Which Your might - y works un - fold.
Glo - ry filled the house of wor - ship, And all know Your pres - ence, Lord.
While, in - spired by Your own Spir - it, Po - et and com - pos - er wrought.
All our powers to glo - ri - fy You, And in serv - ing, ful - ly live.

Presbyterian Hymnal

TEXT Albert F. Bayly, 1969 alt.

TUNE (NETTLETON 8787 D): Wyeth's *Repository* of Sacred Music, 1813

MUSIC NOTES

OCTOBER 10, 2021

Psalm 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord;
Lord, hear my voice.
Let your ears be attentive
to my cry for mercy.
If you, Lord, kept a record of sins,
Lord, who could stand?
But with you there is forgiveness,
so that we can, with reverence, serve you
I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits,
and in his word I put my hope.
I wait for the Lord
more than watchmen wait for the morning,
more than watchmen wait for the morning.
Israel, put your hope in the Lord,
for with the Lord is unfailing love
and with him is full redemption.
He himself will redeem Israel
from all their sins.

Martin Luther paraphrased many of the psalms into hymns and chorales for the Lutheran Church. This particular psalm was paraphrased into *Aus tiefer Not*, or “Out of the depths.” It is actually one of my personal favorite psalms; I love the comfort, the peace, the unfailing forgiveness of God that is depicted here. Truly, if God kept tabs on each and every time we said or thought something that wasn’t guided, we wouldn’t stand a chance. But God is loving, and forgiving, and when we turn for forgiveness it is unconditionally granted. I thought pairing various musical settings of this chorale was fitting for a discussion about Job!

“And even though it all went wrong, I’ll stand before the Lord of Song with nothing on my tongue but Hallelujah.”

Every culture, every faith tradition, has its own story of the Creation of the world. However, hands down, I have always found the most beautiful and most inspiring creation myth to be the one penned by J. R. R. Tolkien for Middle-Earth, in the Lord of the Rings universe. It is found in the *Silmarilion*, which details the creation, history, and legends of Middle-Earth. Tolkien drew on both Nordic and Greek mythology as well as Christian legends for many of the aspects of this universe. In this universe, the world was sung into existence by the Valar, the immortal creating spirits who wove all creation out of beautiful, pure harmonies and melodies. However, one spirit, Melkor, wanted more than his share of power, and introduced discord – a conflicting harmony that pitted the unified forces of good against the chaos of evil. It is easy to see the figure of Lucifer in Melkor, as the one who consistently sows the seeds of temptation and discord in the Bible. More than that, though, I have always loved the idea that the world was sung into existence. One of our hymns, *When Morning Stars Together*, is all about

worshiping God through music, and how that has been a powerful part of faith throughout history.

Just like the discord Melkor introduced and the resulting chaos, music has also always been a major source of contention and separation in the Christian church. There has always been division between the “traditional” and “modern,” between what is viewed as truly “sacred” and what is more “secular.” We might not think of this as being the case back in the 1500’s, but remember, what to us now is ancient music was once the hip tunes of the day! We are fortunate to worship in a denomination where there is no formal prescription for what is “acceptable” music and what is not. Other churches have much more rigid rules for what is performed each week.

I wanted to have Mike and John sing *Hallelujah* again not only because it is an amazing song, and one that seemed to fit with the readings of Job, but most particularly because of that last line, copied out above. I love the image of Jesus as the “Lord of Song,” and hope that when I get to stand up there in heaven someday there will be nothing else I can say, but hallelujah!